

**Oregon Health & Science University
Historical Collections & Archives**

**University of Oregon Medical School. Library
Accession No. 1998-015**

Guide

Organizational/Biographical Information:¹

The OHSU Library originated as a donation to the University of Oregon Medical Department in 1893 of the personal book collections of two deceased Portland physicians: Rodney Glisan and R. B. Wilson. From 1893 to 1919 it was known as the R. B. Wilson Library and was located in the University of Oregon Medical Department building at N.W. 23rd and Lovejoy, across the street from Good Samaritan Hospital. The original books are now located in the Library's History of Medicine Room, integrated with other historical books.

The Dental branch library also began in 1893 in the Tacoma College of Dental Surgery in Tacoma, Washington. It was moved to Portland in 1899, along with the college itself.

By 1919 the R. B. Wilson Library had grown to about 4,000 volumes. Bertha Hallam became the first librarian in January, 1919. Hallam moved the Library in the summer of 1919 from the 23rd and Lovejoy location to the second floor of the nearly completed Medical Science Building on Marquam Hill, now the east wing of Mackenzie Hall. In 1922 a larger wing was added to the building, oriented west-east, and the entire structure was renamed Mackenzie Hall. Hallam moved the Library that year up to the third floor of the new addition, into a room on the north side. Here it remained through the 1920's and 1930's.

In 1937 Dr. John Weeks, a new member of the Library Committee, announced a monetary gift for building a separate library building on campus. Funded by Dr. Weeks' gift and funds from the Rockefeller Foundation and the U.S. Public Works Administration, the new library building was completed in 1939. Hallam moved the Library from Mackenzie Hall to the new building in October that year and it was dedicated on June 7, 1940. The 1939 building is now called the Auditorium building and is used to house part of the Library collection and for School of Medicine activities.

In 1956 a new Dental School building was constructed on Marquam Hill, and the Dental Library moved to its current location on the sixth floor of that building. The Dental School Library was renovated in 1998.

Margaret Hughes became the second librarian when Hallam retired in 1965. During Hughes' ten

¹Source: Kniesner, Dan. *Narrative to accompany digitized photos of the library, 1893-1999*. Department of Library Administration. OHSU Library. 1999.

years as librarian, spaces for offices and book stacks expanded greatly. New technology, such as remote database searching and electronic interlibrary loan service was introduced. Library departments were formed as new staff were added. In 1974, a year before Hughes retired, the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center was formed by the consolidation of the School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, and School of Nursing. The Dental library became a branch of the Health Sciences Center Library. The CDRC Branch Library began to form probably in the 1950's. In 1971 with the completion of a new clinical building immediately east of the older Crippled Children's Division Building, the Library was given a room of its own. It is still located in this room on CDRC's third floor. It became an OHSU Library branch in 1990.

James Morgan became the third librarian in 1976, a position he still holds.

The Historical Book Room was renovated in 1977 which gave it the appearance it has today. The Room had earlier been furnished and dedicated as the Historical Book Room in 1964. It was renamed the History of Medicine Room in 1979. In 1981, a new History of Dentistry Room was completed in the Dental library to house an historical dental book collection that is the only one of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

In the late 1970's, the library entered an era of accelerated automation and computerization. The Oregon Health Information Network (OHIN) was begun by the Library in 1979 to develop hospital libraries and library services in Oregon. The Library also initiated electronic services to the campus in 1988, such as an early version e-mail and end-user searching of a locally-customized version of Medline. In 1989 the library converted to an integrated library system, which combined a public access catalog, circulation and serials management which integrated many library functions efficiently in one computer system.

The Library moved into the newly completed Biomedical Information Communication Center building in September 1991 and the building was dedicated on November 8, 1991. The BICC realizes a decade of planning for an integrated academic information management system (IAIMS) at OHSU,. It was funded by a federal appropriation arranged by U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield. The BICC consolidates and improves diverse functions such as library operations, computer training and support, photography, video and distance learning, medical informatics and outcomes research, and advanced computer, network, and telecommunications technology for OHSU and the people it serves.

The library became a member of the Portland Area Library System (PORTALS) a consortium of local libraries in 1992. PORTALS was formed for the purpose of increasing access to library catalogs and licensed databases while containing costs.

In the 1990's, the OHSU Library has been involved in several important projects. Library staff played pivotal roles in the development of OHSU's web presence, officially unveiled in 1996. The Consumer Health Research Center and it's Health Information By Mail service began in 1996, the Oral History Project in 1997, and the Center for Women's Health and Doernbecher Collections in 1998. In 1999, the Library began hosting an integrated library system for the National College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Scope, Content and Arrangement:

Boxes 1- 7 contain correspondence, from 1916-1940, arranged chronologically, then alphabetically by correspondent. Boxes 8 - 12 contain records of interlibrary loans, books borrowed and books loaned and are arranged by year, 1922-1931. Box 13 contains a range of financial reports for 1921-1964, arranged in chronological order within groups, including procedures and policies for operations within the library. Boxes 14 and 15 contain a 1997 addendum that includes subject files from the records of Bertha Hallam, the first librarian of the University of Oregon Medical School; no original order for these materials was found. A subject file containing publicity records for University of Oregon Medical School is arranged chronologically, 1895-1940. The subject file entitled UOMS Catalog Library Listings, gives information on U.S. medical school libraries, and are in alphabetical order for 1938-1939. Two folders contain miscellaneous correspondence, newspaper articles, cards and memos, speeches, programs and invitations and were found to have no discernible order. Box 14 also contains a graduation speech dated 1897 and a folder that contains Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE) Committee on Automation meeting minutes, including reports, correspondence and memorandum pertaining to the automation of the library, 1965-1967. Box 15 contains the records of the Library Committee: special reports and a bound volume of meeting minutes. They are arranged in chronological order, 1925-1969. Items that were loose in the bound volume were annotated and removed to folders during processing. Box 16 contains library acquisitions files arranged chronologically, 1940-1966.

Quantity:

16 boxes

Linear Feet:

6.66

Provenance

This collection was created and/or collected by Bertha Hallam during her tenure as librarian or by other and subsequent library staff. The records were transferred to the library special collections staff probably upon the retirement or death of Bertha Hallam. The materials were processed by OHSU Library Special Collections staff in the fall of 1999.