

TOUR

The benedictine tradition of scholarship brings to mind the laborious copying of manuscripts which were read in silence or aloud in community. Those communities have flourished for over 1500 years. During that time libraries have always been an integral part of Benedictine life and tradition. This new library conveys certain Benedictine characteristics.

It reflects Benedictine moderation

It is functional...in terms of the materials it is housing
...the people who use it and tis services offered

It is contemporary in design and authentic in relation
to the setting and the culture in which it is built

It conveys a sense of enclosure and has a contemplative atmosphere

It establishes a relationship with nature; though it is enclosed,
it looks out into the natural world

It values the old and traditional at the same time as it
responds to the new and the contemporary.

The Clemens Library

It is from these "givens" that the Clemens Library should be viewed. Its forms, the pitched roofs with windowed gables, arches and stone belt course relate to the older buildings of the Convent while in color and texture it reflects its immediate collegiate neighbors. The bell tower is derived from that of the Convent in Eichstatt. The plan, comprised of a series of rectangular forms, surrounds a small cloistered garden emulating the traditional monastic pattern and providing a series of study environments each with its own special resources and character..

Strategically placed at the heart of the campus. the library is immediately accessible to the students from both classrooms and dormitories. Its single-story plan, atypical of most college libraries, provides many advantages particluarly in the natural traffic flow between diverse

library functions. Its presence divides the former large field area into quadrangles- and in addition shortens the long cold walk in winter from Mary Commons to the Benedicts Arts Center. On entering through the arched portico on the East, one finds a crossing of intersecting ridges. Directly ahead, the fireplace lounge recalls to visiting alumnae the fondly remembered inglenook of the old library. Its windows look out on the courtyard beyond.

To the right and past the circulation desk is the computerized public catalog where computers replace the traditional card trays. Directly beyond is the reference area with its collection of reference works and indexes, and the reference desk. To the right is the computer and audio visual area with provisions for computers and printers, microform readers, video cassette players and more organized so as to serve both immediate and anticipated technological innovations. To the left of the public catalog is the periodicals area where current periodicals are displayed adjacent to carrels, tables and lounge seating. Copy machines are near at hand.

Passing through the periodicals room we enter the great stack/study room which houses the current collection and its expected growth over the next 10 years. When required, a second level can be added in stages to the stack ranges to accommodate future book collection growth. Along the perimeter are a series of carrels and lounge seating areas. Below the three skylights at the center of the ridge are three clusters of study tables surrounding raised planters. Adjoining the stack room is a lounge where talking is permitted and refreshments are available.

On leaving the stack room, one enters the south quiet reading room which included several reading alcoves, three group studies, two seminar rooms a faculty/staff study and the special collections room. Turning again to the left, we pass the Bibliographic Instruction classroom as we return to the entrance lobby.

FACTS

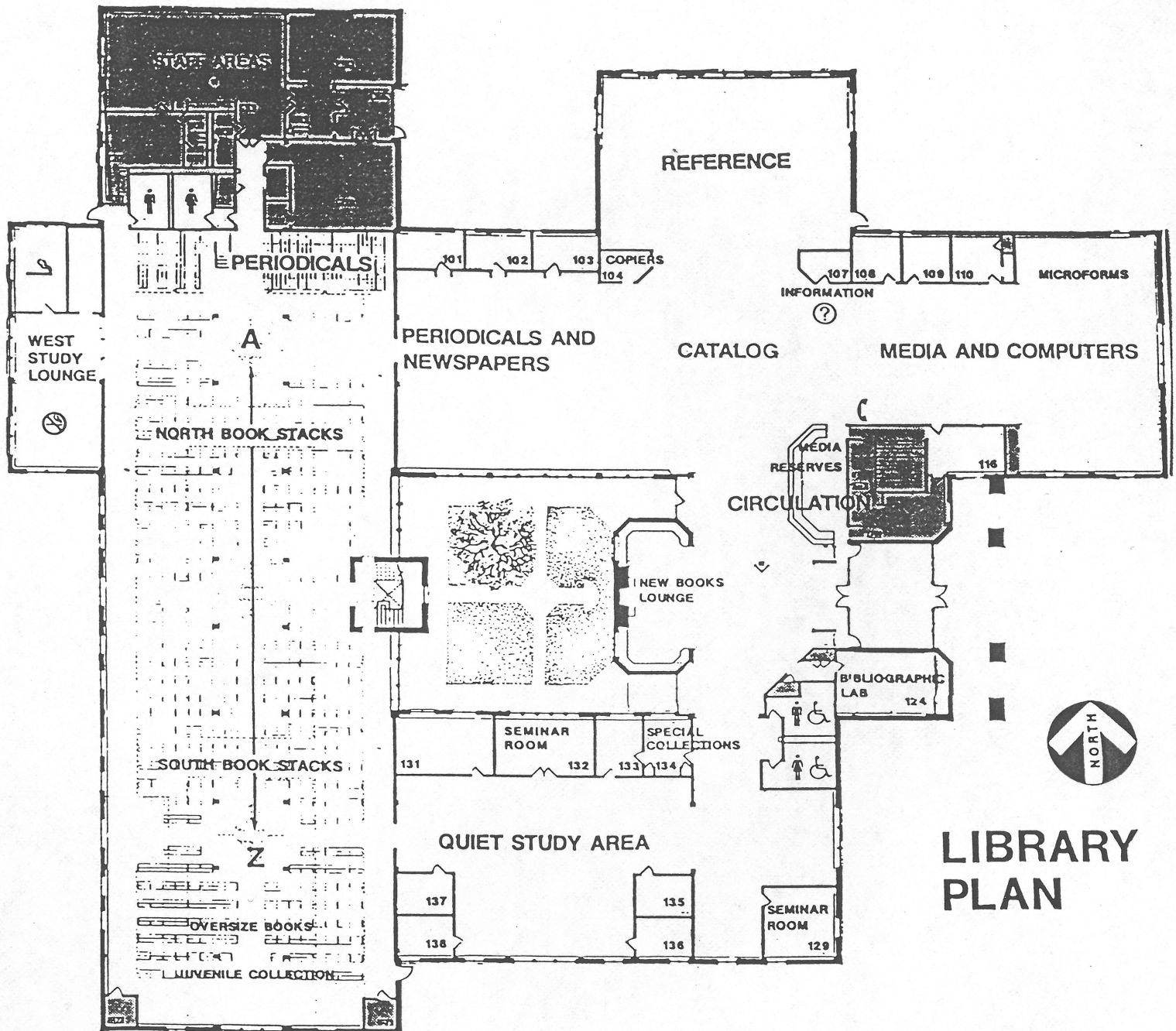
Size: 50,000 sq. ft. 5 miles shelves
Old library 15,000 sq. ft.

Seating: About 600

Completed: Summer 1986

Cost: Over 5,000,000

Holdings: 120,000 growth to 200,000
Over 755 subscriptions to periodicals
17 subscriptions to newspapers
53 subscriptions to indexes & abstracts



LIBRARY PLAN

College of Saint Benedict Library