

Melvin Voigt retirement and honoring symposium

September 2, 1976

A major day-long symposium honoring Melvin J. Voigt upon his retirement as University Librarian at the University of California, San Diego will be held at the UC San Diego campus Friday, September 17.

Voigt has served as University Librarian on the San Diego campus for the past 16 years, a period which saw the campus library resources grow from a limited oceanographic collection to a major undergraduate and graduate research collection of over one million volumes.

Topic for the symposium is "The Responsibility of the University Library Collection in Meeting the Needs of Its Campus and Local Community." Participants will include some of the leading collegiate and public librarians in this country and Canada. It is being sponsored by UC San Diego and The Friends of the UCSD Library, a support group made up of citizens who work in behalf of the campus libraries.

Pre-registration for the Voigt symposium, including lunch, is \$5; registration at the door, including lunch, is \$7.50. Reservations should be made through Ms. Alvina Robertson at 452-3061.

Roy Kidman, university librarian at the University of Southern California, will serve as chairman of the event and will present an introduction to the program. The morning session, beginning at 9:30 a.m. will cover those factors that determine what must be in a local university library collection and what can be effectively utilized in (or from) other libraries.

A working scholar's view will be presented by Dr. Andrew Wright, professor of English literature at UC San Diego, and a university librarian's view will be presented by Basi Stuart-Stubbs, university librarian at the University of British Columbia.

Reactions to the morning talks will be presented by Michael Buckland, dean of the School of Librarianship at UC Berkeley, and Morris Polan, director of libraries at California State University, Los Angeles.

The afternoon session, beginning at 2 p.m. will deal with "The Research Library and Cooperation with Other Institutions for Effective Access to Resources." Russell Shank, director of libraries at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., will discuss the most effective and workable locus for cooperation in collections sharing: local, regional or national. Robert Hayes, dean of the School of Library Service at UCLA, will talk on "Distributed Library Networks: Programs and Problems."

Clara Jones, director of the Detroit Public Library and president of the American Library Association will discuss local cooperative ventures as a valid means of resource sharing.

Reaction to the afternoon talks will be presented by Dr. Louis Kenney, director of libraries at San Diego State University, and Dr. Barbara Slanker, Director of the Office of Research of the American Library Association. Kidman will close the seminar with a summary of the proceedings.

A public reception and book presentation honoring Voigt will be held following the symposium at 5 p.m. in the Cluster Undergraduate Library in the Humanities-Library Building on the San Diego campus.

Voigt, born in Upland, California, received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Bluffton (Ohio) College in 1933. He served as librarian in the Bluffton High School and Public Library for two years before entering the University of Michigan where he received both a bachelor's and a master's degree in library science.

He worked in the library at Michigan until 1942 when he was named director of library and publications in the research department at General Mills, Inc. He served as librarian and professor of library science at Carnegie Institute of Technology for six years and as assistant librarian and lecturer at UC Berkeley for seven years before being named director of libraries and professor of library science at Kansas State University in 1959.

Voigt has served the American Library Association as a member of its council, as chairman of its research committee and as president of its library education division. He has also served internationally as a UNESCO consultant and, from 1961 to 1965, as secretary of UNESCO's committee on bibliography, documentation and terminology. He also served in various leadership capacities with the National Academy of Science, the National Science Foundation and the National Library of Medicine.

He has twice served as a Fulbright Research Scholar: first at the University of Copenhagen during 1958-59 and more recently at the Institut fur Dokumentation in Frankfurt, Germany during 1974-75.

Voigt has been in frequent demand by other universities to aid in program evaluation and further development of their libraries and library schools. Since 1970 he has edited "Advances in Librarianship," one of a series of annual assessments in selected fields published by the Academic Press.

He is considered one of the pioneers in the field of library data processing. The UC San Diego computerized serials record, installed in 1961 under his direction, is completely in machine form and has not missed a month in being updated. While most of the effort has gone into solving bibliographical problems, mechanization is gradually being extended to other library operations.

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