

## Central Library dedication and open house set

**March 4, 1971**

San Diego city and county residents are invited to take part in the dedication of the new Central University Library at the University of California, San Diego Sunday, March 21.

An open house for the general public has been scheduled from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Sunday, with a general invitation being issued to all residents of the city and county to visit the campus and tour the new research library building. All visitors will be given layout maps of the building allowing them to wander through the library at their own pace. Library personnel and students will be on hand to assist visitors and answer questions.

The general open house is part of a three-day series of events dedicating the building. A preview opening will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, with a short ceremony scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on the main level of the building. Acting Chancellor Herbert York, architect William Pereira, former UCSD Chancellor John Galbraith, University Librarian Melvin Voigt, Academic Senate Chairman Gabriel Jackson, and Elliott Cushman, President of the Friends of the UCSD Library, are scheduled to take part.

The Giarratana String Chamber Orchestra, composed of professional and amateur musicians from the San Diego area, will perform during the evening. Special invitations for the Friday evening preview have been sent to members of the Friends of the UCSD Library, university officials, city and county administrators and civic leaders.

A special "educators" day open house, to be held from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 20, is designed to allow all faculty and staff of both public and private elementary and secondary schools in the city and county to become acquainted with the beautiful new building. No formal invitation is required for attendance and all school personnel are invited to bring their families for the opening. (more)

The library building, designed by William L. Pereira Associates of Los Angeles, has been described as "an enormous jewel of concrete and glass held aloft by a cradle of outstretched concrete fingers." It is located in what will eventually be the academic and administrative center of the UCSD campus; the highest point of ground on the campus providing an overall view of UCSD and, in the distance, Clairemont, downtown San Diego and the Laguna Mountains.

To reach the UCSD campus and the library from San Diego, visitors should take Interstate 5 north to Gilman Drive, follow Gilman past the School of Medicine (on the right) to the stop sign at Myers. Go left on Myers past the flag pole to the stop sign at Miramar. Parking is to the left on Miramar or across Miramar into the library parking lot.

Groundbreaking for the eight-story structure was held July 1, 1968, and partial occupancy by the University took place two years later. The first of some 750,000 volumes to eventually be housed in the library were moved into the building on June 29, 1970, and the building opened for student use at the start of the fall, 1970, quarter.

The 176,000-gross-square-foot building was built at a cost of \$4,400,000. Construction is of reinforced concrete and glass (38,000 square feet of plate glass) and overall finish is of exposed concrete in a horizontal pattern.

There currently are some 21 special collections in the Mandeville Department of Special Collections housed in the library. The largest of these, the main Rare Book Collection, includes nearly all of the library's books published prior to 1701 as well as other rare books, autographed copies, and limited or first editions. Its strength lies especially in the writings of Daniel Defoe, Samuel Johnson, and Niccolo Machiavelli.

The Allen Renaissance Collection contains books dating from 1500 to 1750 dealing, for the most part, with literature. The addition of this collection several years ago has made UCSD the center for Renaissance studies in the United States.

There is a fine selection of rare bibles and several author collections including the works of William Blake, D. H. Lawrence, Omar Khayyam, Aldous Huxley, Ernest Hemingway and Robert Southey. Local history collections include California and Baja California. Subject collections include San Diego authors, the archives and business papers of the San Diego and Arizona Railway Company, and the Iverson and Helen Harris Library and Archives of the Point Loma Theosophical Society.

(March 4, 1971)

ATTACHMENT: UCSD Fact Sheet on the Central University Library

FACT SHEET

ON THE

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

CONSTRUCTION: Groundbreaking was held July 1, 1968, and construction began shortly after.

OCCUPANCY: Complete occupancy took place in September, 1970. Partial occupancy began June, 1970, two years after construction began. The first books were moved into the building on June 29, 1970.

LOCATION: The division of John J. Hopkins Road and old Sorrento Valley Road, about 200 yards north of the Matthews Campus. This is about the highest point on the 1,200-acre UCSD main campus and, in this location, the building will be clearly visible to motorists traveling south from the Sorrento Valley area on Interstate 5.

HEIGHT: Eight levels rising 110 feet above the ground.

WIDTH: The building's widest point is 248 feet at ground level. The widest floor above the ground is the sixth level which is 210 feet.

SQUARE FEET: 176,000 gross square feet; 112,000 assignable square feet.

MATERIALS: Construction is reinforced concrete and glass. Overall finish is rough form board exposed concrete in a horizontal pattern with anodized aluminum window walls and plate glass.

LEVELS: One and two - Below ground; technical processing, acquisitions, card catalog, reference collection, data processing, reserve reading and document stacks.

Three - Forum level, slightly above the surrounding ground level and open except for building support columns and elevator shafts. This area may eventually become a sculpture garden.

Four - Music and fine arts.

Five, six and seven - 80 percent of the main research collection will be on these three levels. Students are no more than one flight up or down from the majority of books they will use through the "open stack" concept.

Eight - Special collections and University Archives.

CAPACITY: 750,000 volumes; 1,244 reader stations (primarily on the upper levels); 165 staff stations.

COST: Total project, including construction, architect, furniture and equipment, and administration - \$5,400,000. Construction cost alone - \$4,400,000.

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