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2002

The Rockefeller University Library, 2002

Library Staff

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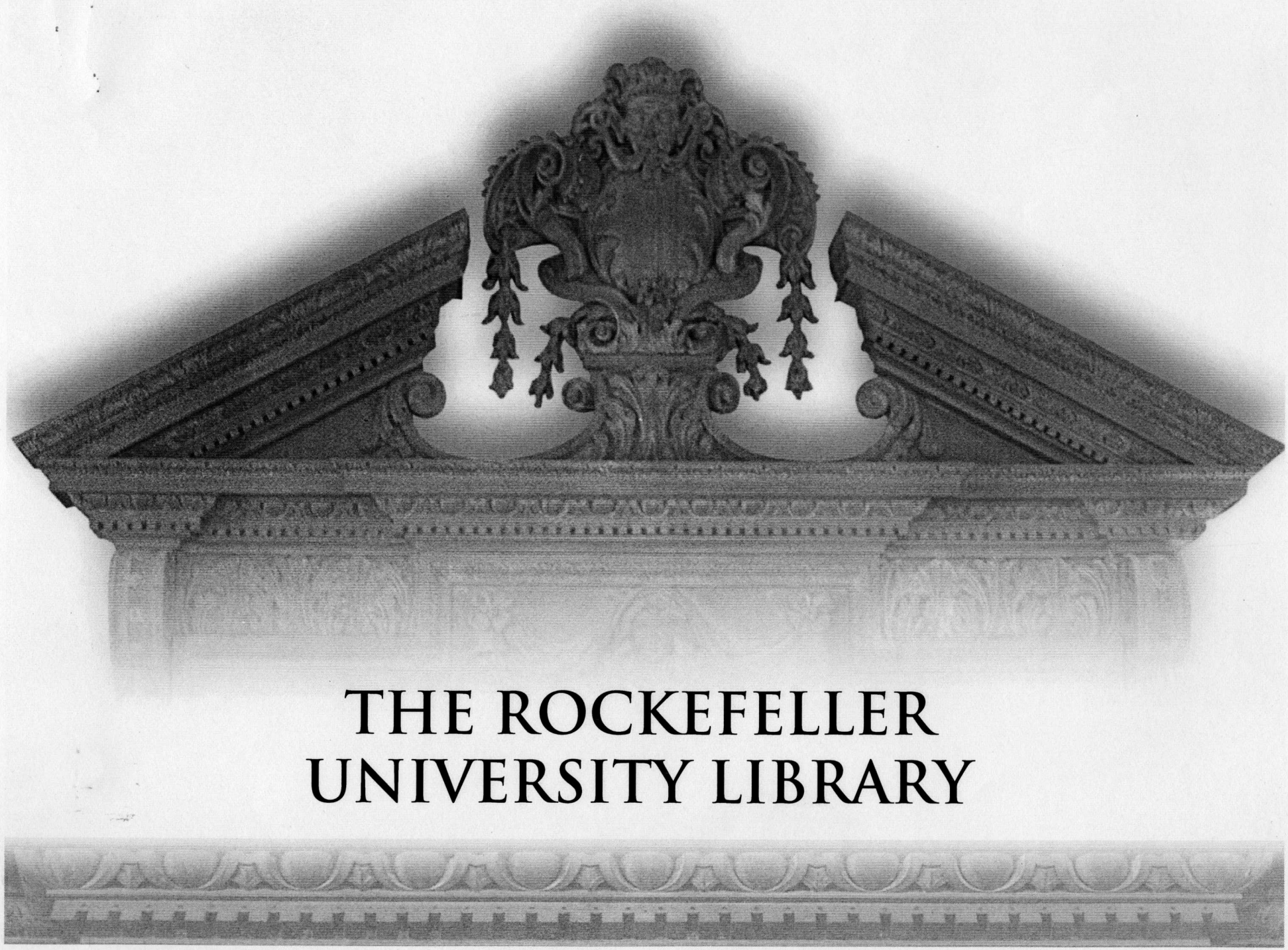


THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

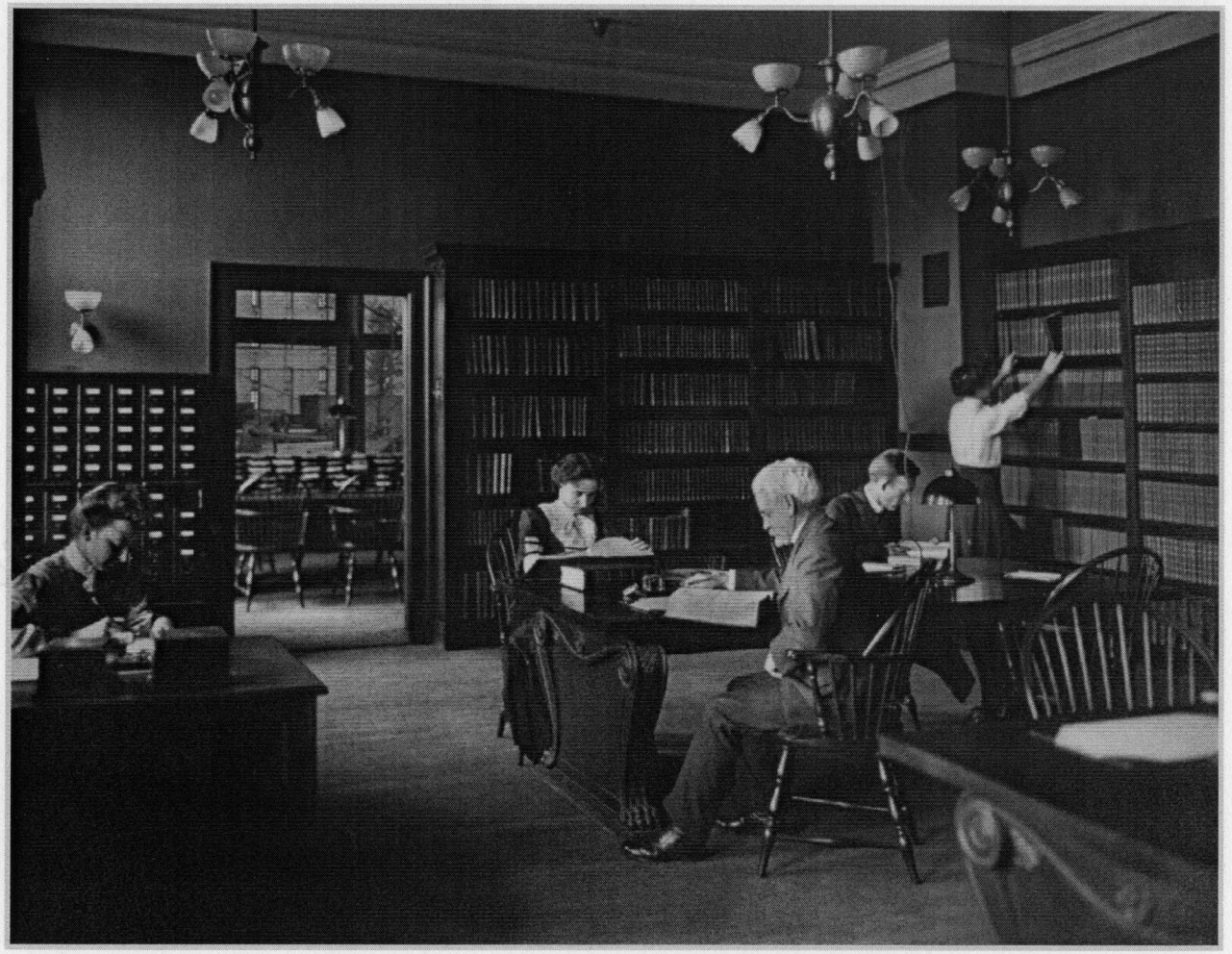
THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The library was located in Founder's Hall from 1908 to 1929 when it relocated to Welch Hall. Welch Hall, a six-story building, was dedicated on February 11, 1929 as a multi-purpose building to house the library on the two upper floors and the campus dining rooms on the lower levels. The dining rooms on the lower floors were renovated for library use in 1974.

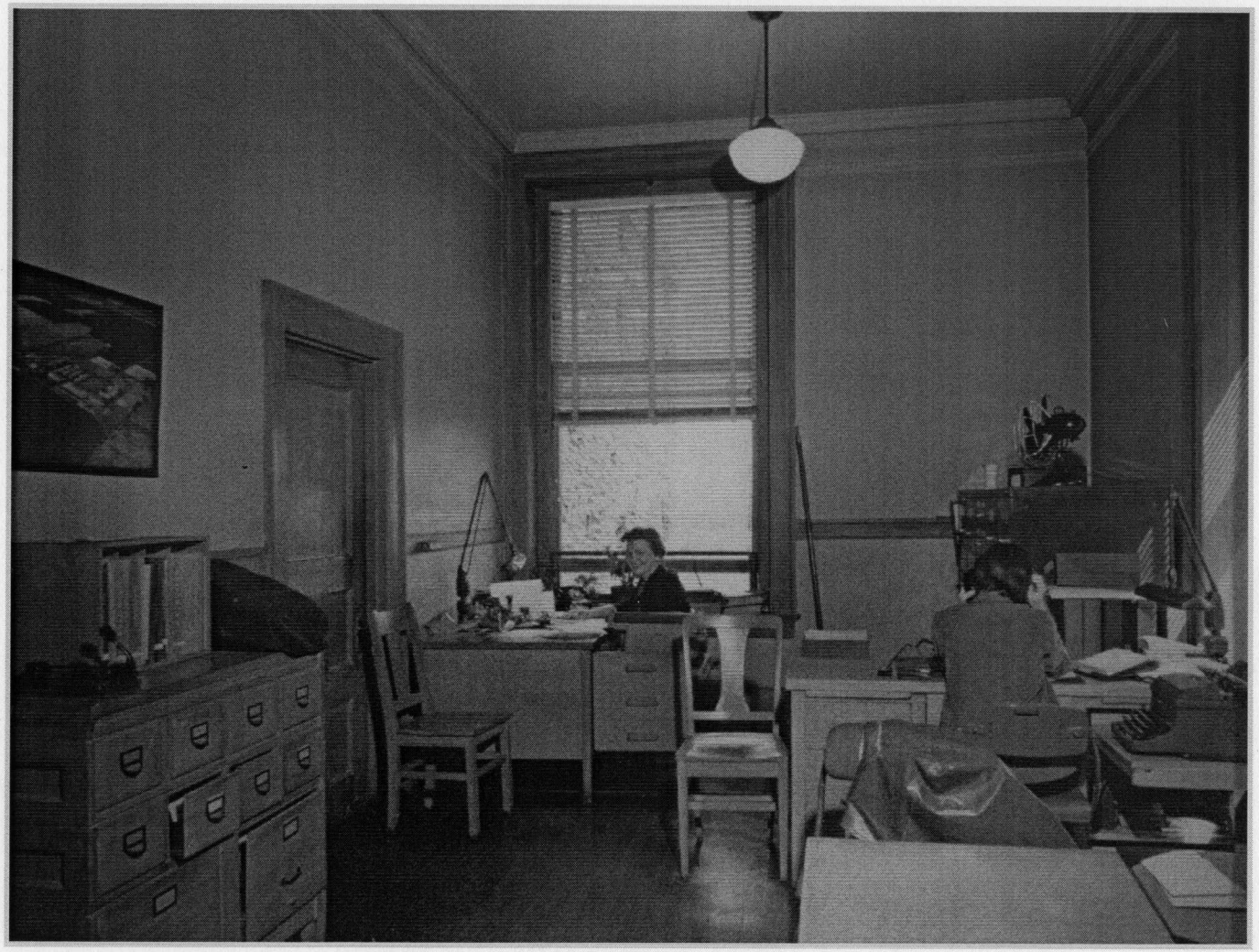
THE LIBRARY 1903-1929

- In 1903, a library committee was appointed with the authority to acquire books with the total purchase not to exceed $5,000.00.
- In 1910/11, the librarian reported that during that year it added to its collection 137 books, 32 reports, and 368 periodicals, bringing the total collection to 5,971. In 1911, the library received 102 titles by subscription and 148 titles by exchange according to archive records.
- The library moved from Founder's Hall to Welch Hall in February 1929.

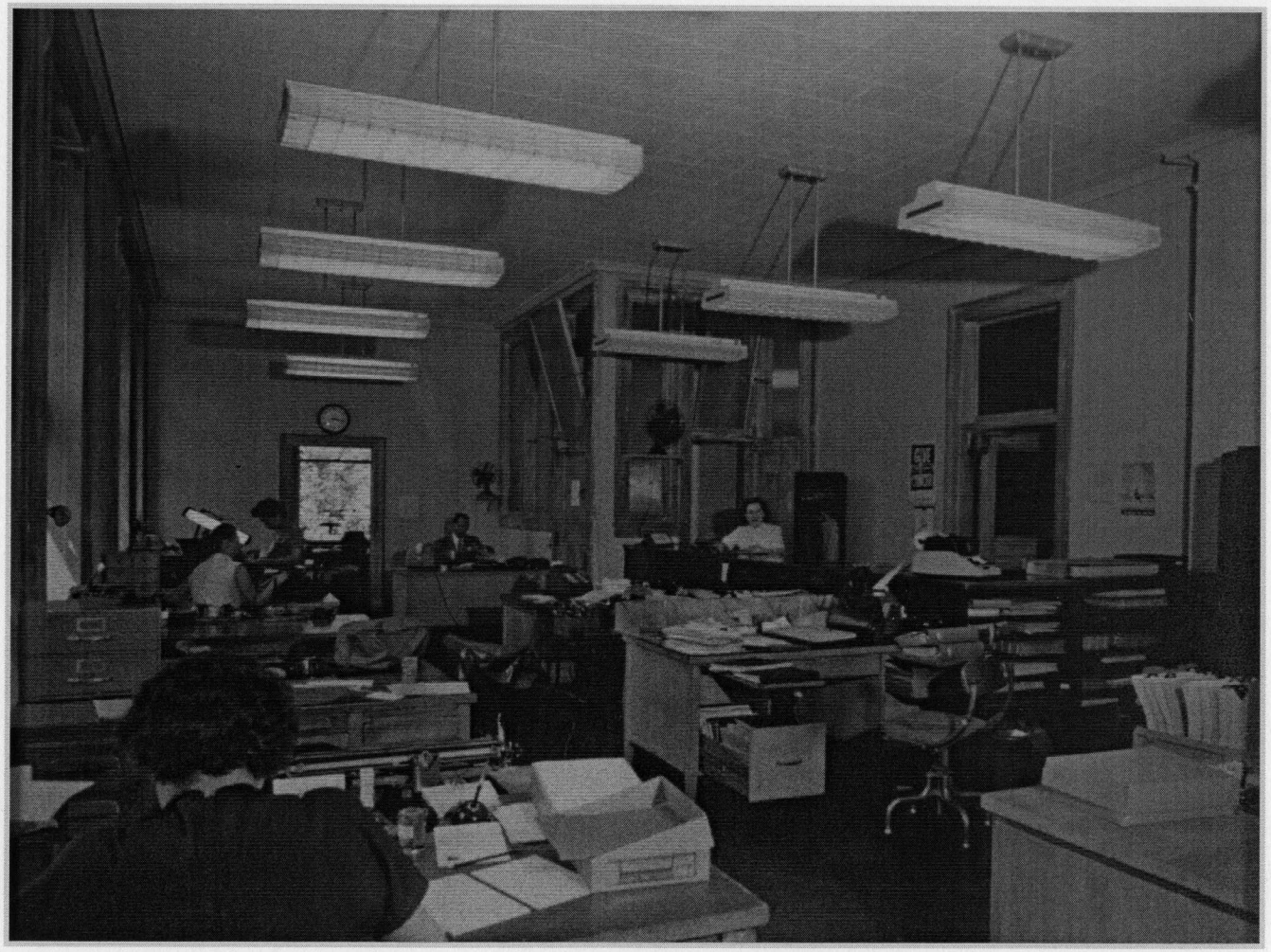
Founder's Hall (1908)



Founder's Hall



Founder's Hall



Founder's Hall

Welch Hall Dining Room

Welch Hall Dining Room

THE LIBRARY 1929-1980

RUL functioned as a traditional university library, in many respects, as characterized by the following:

- A physical collection housed in a single location
- Manual catalog with paper cards
- Staff predominately clerical or paraprofessional performing labor intensive tasks
- Library users required to visit the library to access the collection and use the services

THE LIBRARY 1929-1980

- Collection development was governed by a philosophy of acquiring a more traditional, broad-based liberal arts collection
- Participation in bibliographic utilities and consortium non-existent

Unique to Rockefeller, the library functioned as an independent, self-contained entity with no participation in bibliographic utilities and very limited consortium participation that was based on informal arrangements.

THE LIBRARY IN TRANSITION

In the early 1980s commercial vendors began to offer computerized systems that automated many library tasks. The reliability of these systems, at that time, was considered unreliable and costly.

In 1984, a task-oriented system was designed for RUL by the RU Computer Center. The system included an online public access catalog (OPAC), cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, and serial management control modules. The system streamlined some core library functions but it was not integrated, therefore, there was significant duplication of tasks.

STATE OF THE LIBRARY IN THE EARLY 1990S

Scenarios for Change

In 1992 a report on the state of the library revealed the following problems:

- Bibliographic records were not in standardized machine-readable format
- The electronic catalog was obsolete and could not be upgraded
- Lack of adequate space for the collection (185,772 journals and books)

STATE OF THE LIBRARY IN THE EARLY 1990S

- The collection lacked security and environmental protection
- Library functions were not fully automated or integrated
- Double digit increases in serial pricing (15-18% per year) with library budget increases of 7-9% produced budget shortfalls

FACULTY REVIEW OF THE LIBRARY

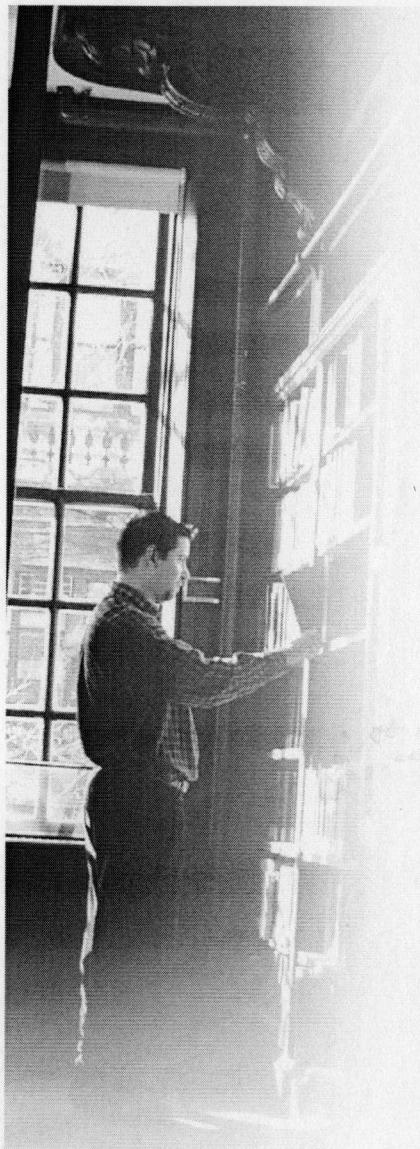
In 1993, a Faculty Advisory Committee on the Library reviewed the University Library, with special attention given to the statement of mission, collection, service philosophy, and organizational alignment of resources.

The committee submitted a report with the following recommendations:

- Cull the collection of all non-scientific materials
- Focus the collection on major biomedical and scientific research areas of the university

FACULTY REVIEW OF THE LIBRARY

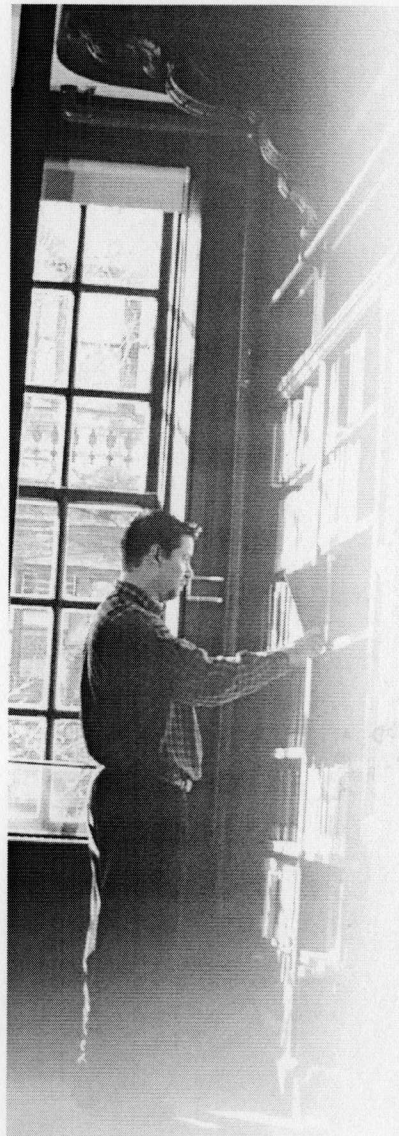
- Acquire an automated, integrated system for new core library functions
- Install a security system that offers library users a self-checkout option
- Take advantage of the emerging technologies as they become available and affordable
- Place an emphasis on electronic access to research materials



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE LIBRARY

In 1996, the library put together a strategic five-year plan to act upon the recommendations of the Faculty Advisory Committee. The administration made a significant investment in the library infrastructure that resulted in the following action:

- All non-scientific books and journals were donated to other libraries or sold to the RU community recapturing space to house the scientific materials
- All bibliographic records were converted to a standard format
- RUL became a member of OCLC (a bibliographic utility for shared cataloging which eliminated the need for original cataloging)
- RUL purchased a modern security system that provides item identification and loss protection and also offers patrons a self-checkout option



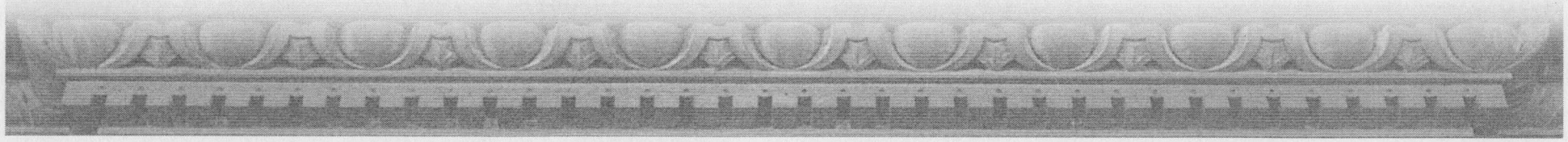
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE LIBRARY

- An agreement was signed between the libraries of the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Weill Cornell Medical College to share major scientific and medical databases
- RUL signed an agreement with the libraries of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medical College to acquire and jointly operate library automation software (Tri-Cat)
- An electronic interface was developed so that users could make requests for literature searches, interlibrary loans, and photocopies without leaving their laboratory bench
- A library brochure was created highlighting the library's resources and services

The library reached its goals and objectives for modernization with a "Go Live" on February 8, 1999

MISSION STATEMENT

- To support the research needs of the faculty, students and other university professionals.
- The activities of the library include selecting, collecting, organizing, preserving, and providing access to print and digital information resources in a networked environment.



THE LIBRARY TODAY

The Collection (as of December 31, 2002)

Journals:

Current Subscriptions

Print: 589

Online: 428

Total Journals Held: 56,700

Date of earliest print journal: 1886

Archival Journals Online:

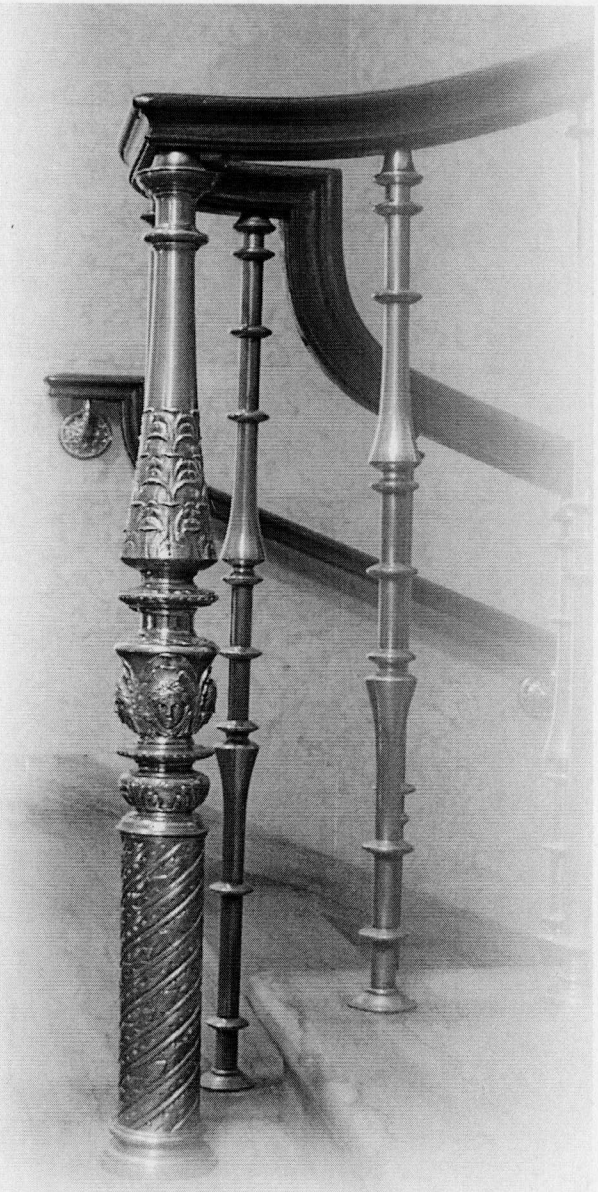
ACS Journal Archives

JSTOR (PNAS & Science back to vol. 1)

Books:

Print: 58,180

Online: 17



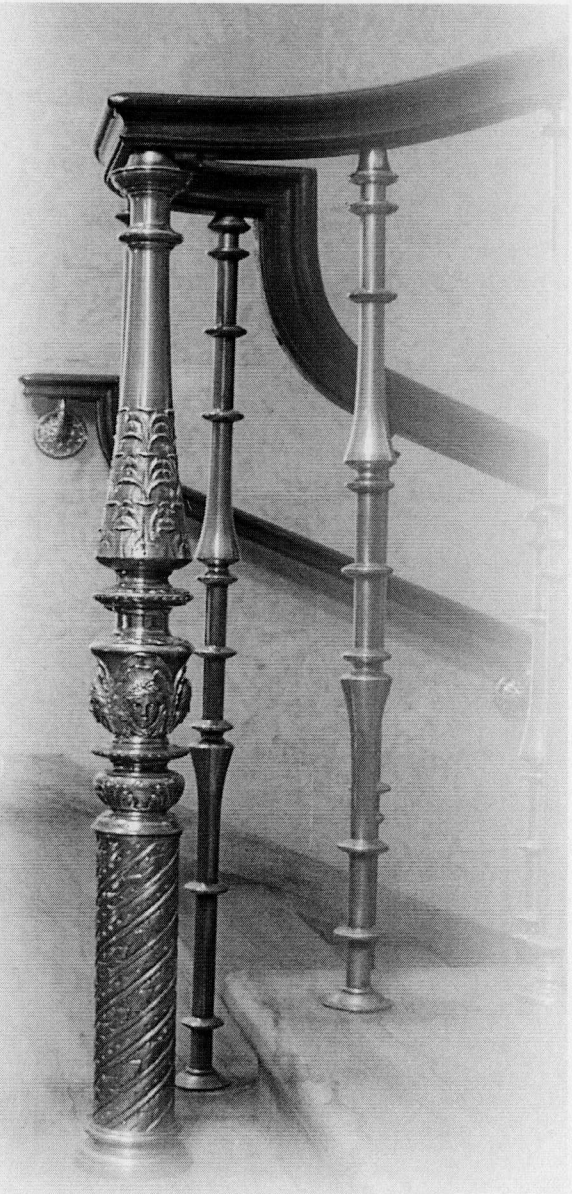
THE LIBRARY TODAY

Books (Special Collection):

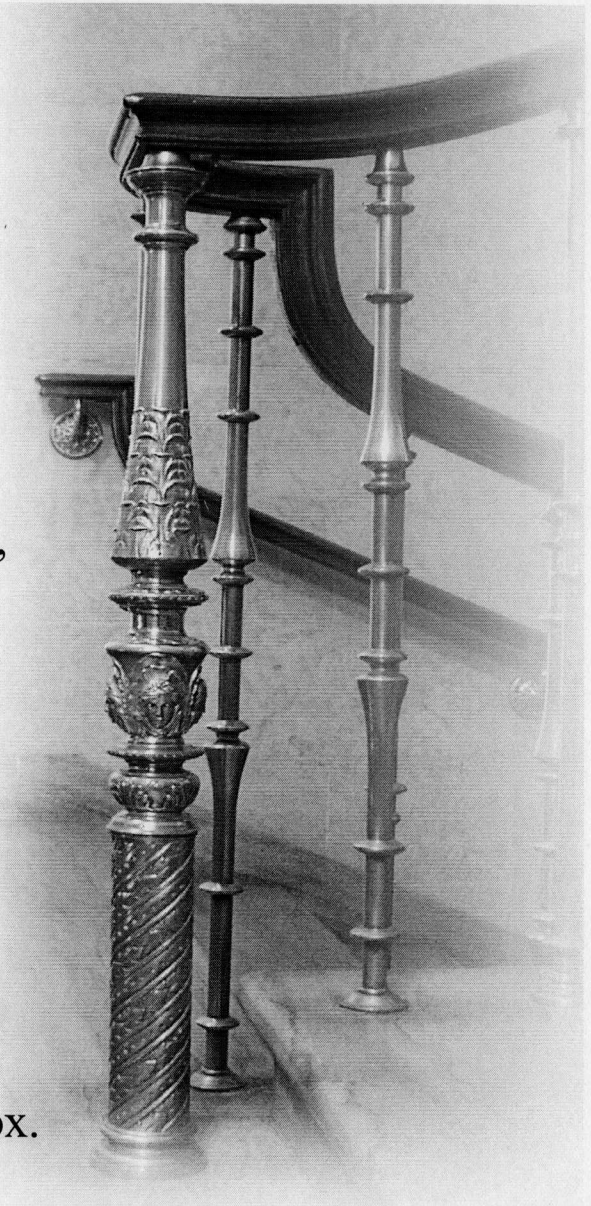
Date Range: 1780s – 1970s

Major Subjects:

- General Science (1855-1965)
- Botany (1862-1915)
- Zoology (1825-1955)
- Natural History (1877-1889)
- Pathology (1852-1924)
- Nervous System (1848-1947)
- Communicable Diseases (1823-1937)
- Microbiology and Immunology (1798-1948)
- History of Medicine (1787-1962)
- Physics (1792-1922)
- Philosophy (1820-1977)



THE LIBRARY TODAY



Books (Special Collection):
Earliest works:

Felice Fontana; translated by Joseph Skinner
Treatise on the venom of the the viper, on the American poisons, and on the cherry laurel, and some other vegetable poisons.
1787

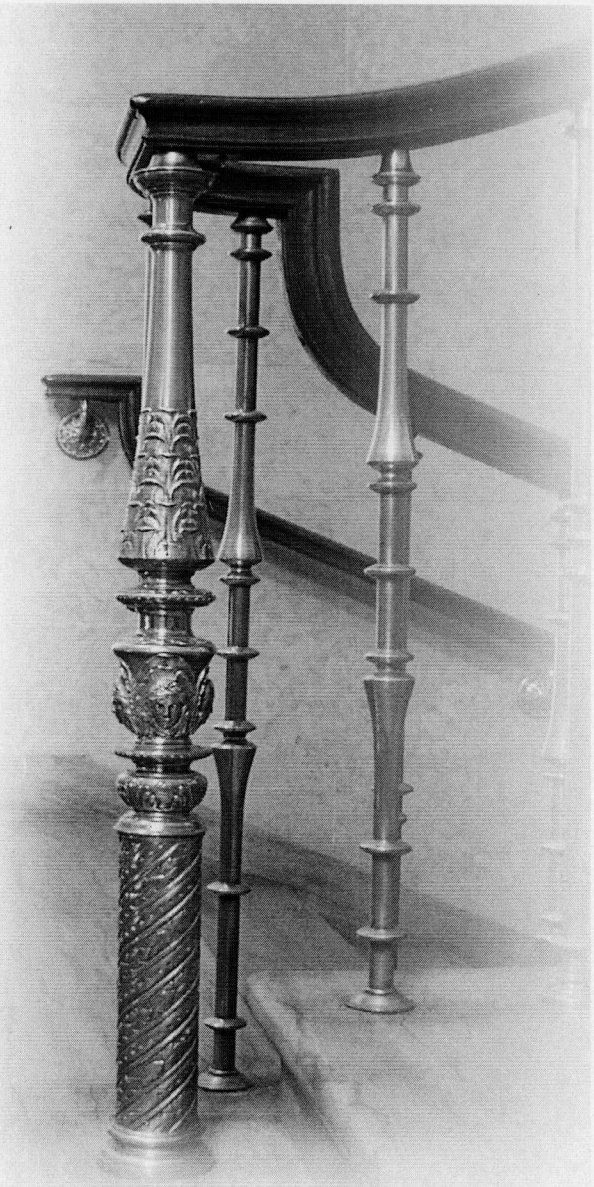
Luigi Galvani
De viribus electricitatis in moto musculari.
1792

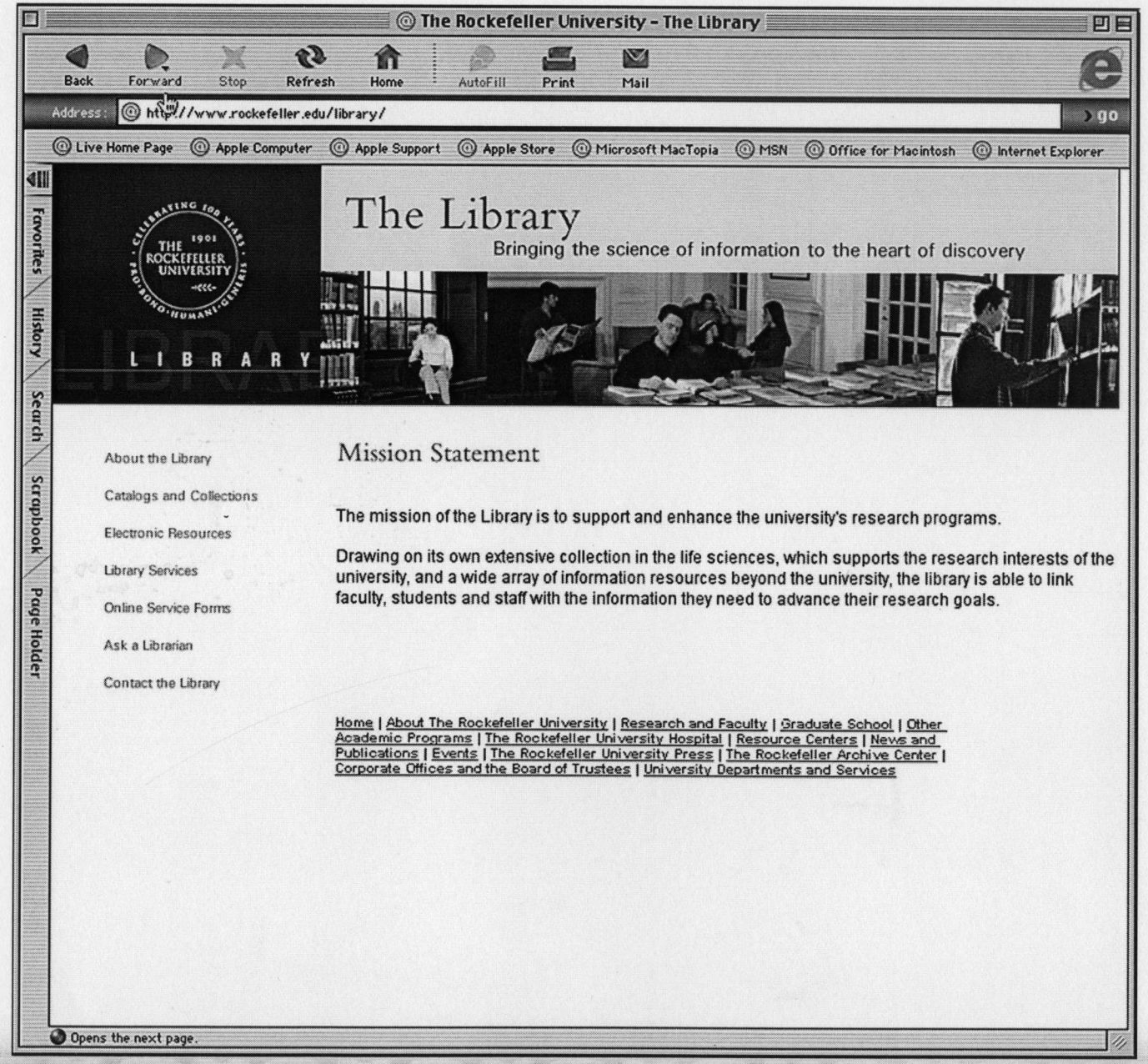
Edward Jenner
An inquiry into the causes and effects of the variolae vaccinae, a disease discovered in some of the western counties of England, particularly Glouchestershire, and known by the name of cow pox.
1798

THE LIBRARY TODAY

Databases: 14

Beilstein
BIOSIS Previews
Britannica Online
Chem Sources
Current Contents Connect
Evidence Based Medicine Reviews
Faculty of 1000
MathSciNet
MEDLINE
Micromedex
Mouse Knockout & Mutation Database
PsycInfo
SciFinder Scholar
Web of Science

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Bringing the science of information to the heart of discovery
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Mission Statement
The mission of the Library is to support and enhance the university's research programs.
Drawing on its own extensive collection in the life sciences, which supports the research interests of the university, and a wide array of information resources beyond the university, the library is able to link faculty, students and staff with the information they need to advance their research goals.
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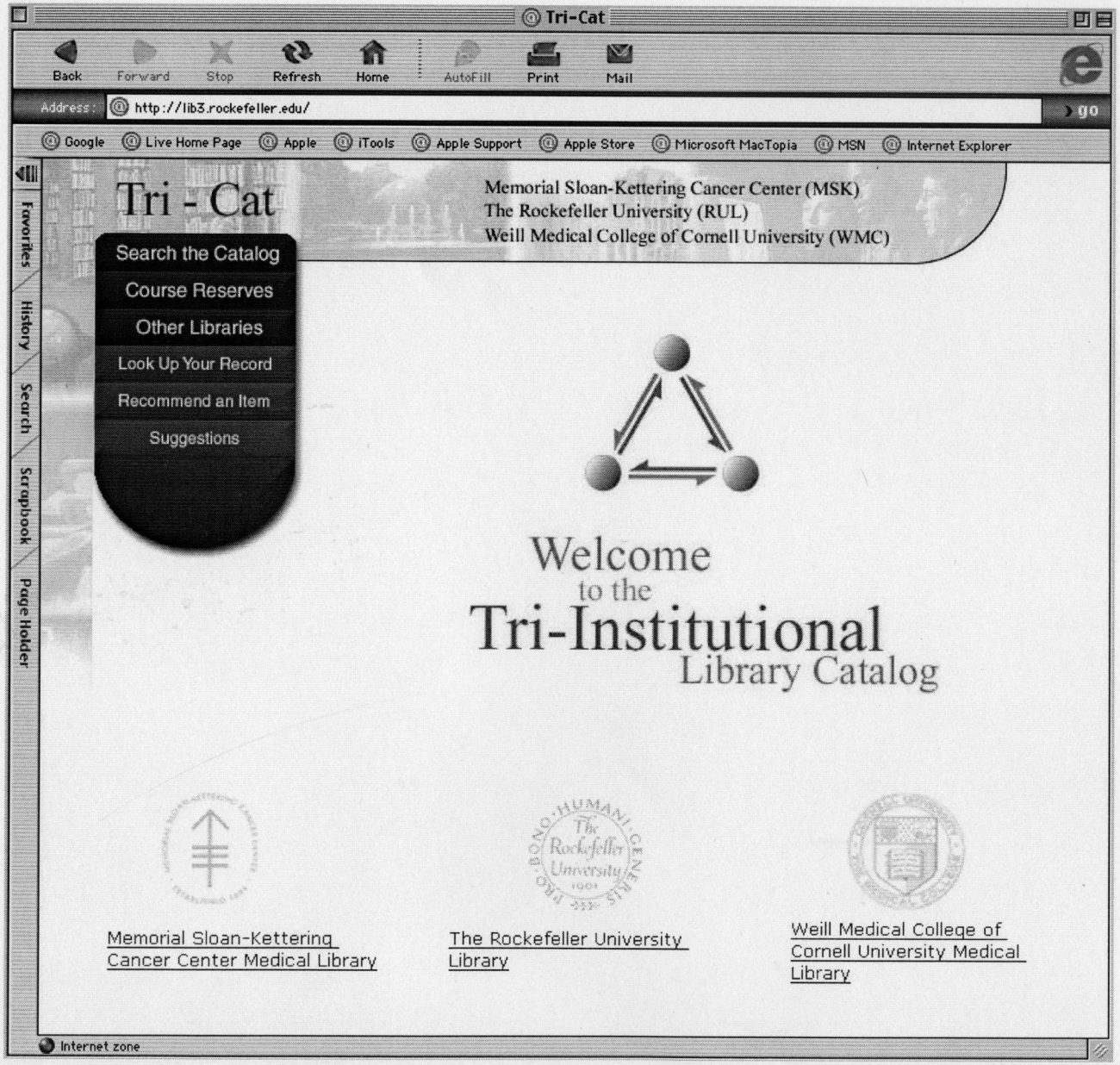
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The Rockefeller University (RUL)
Weill Medical College of Cornell University (WMC)
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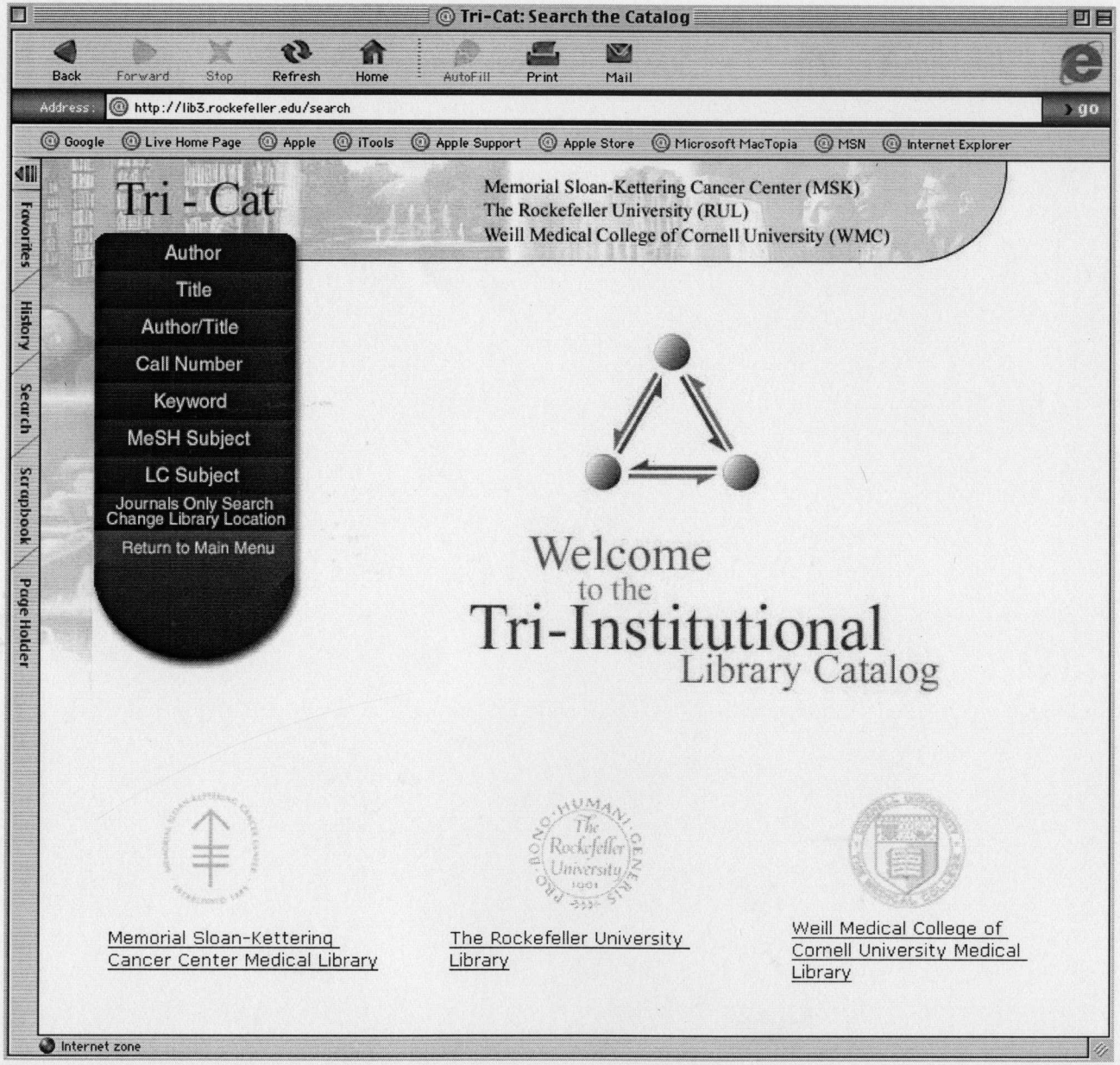
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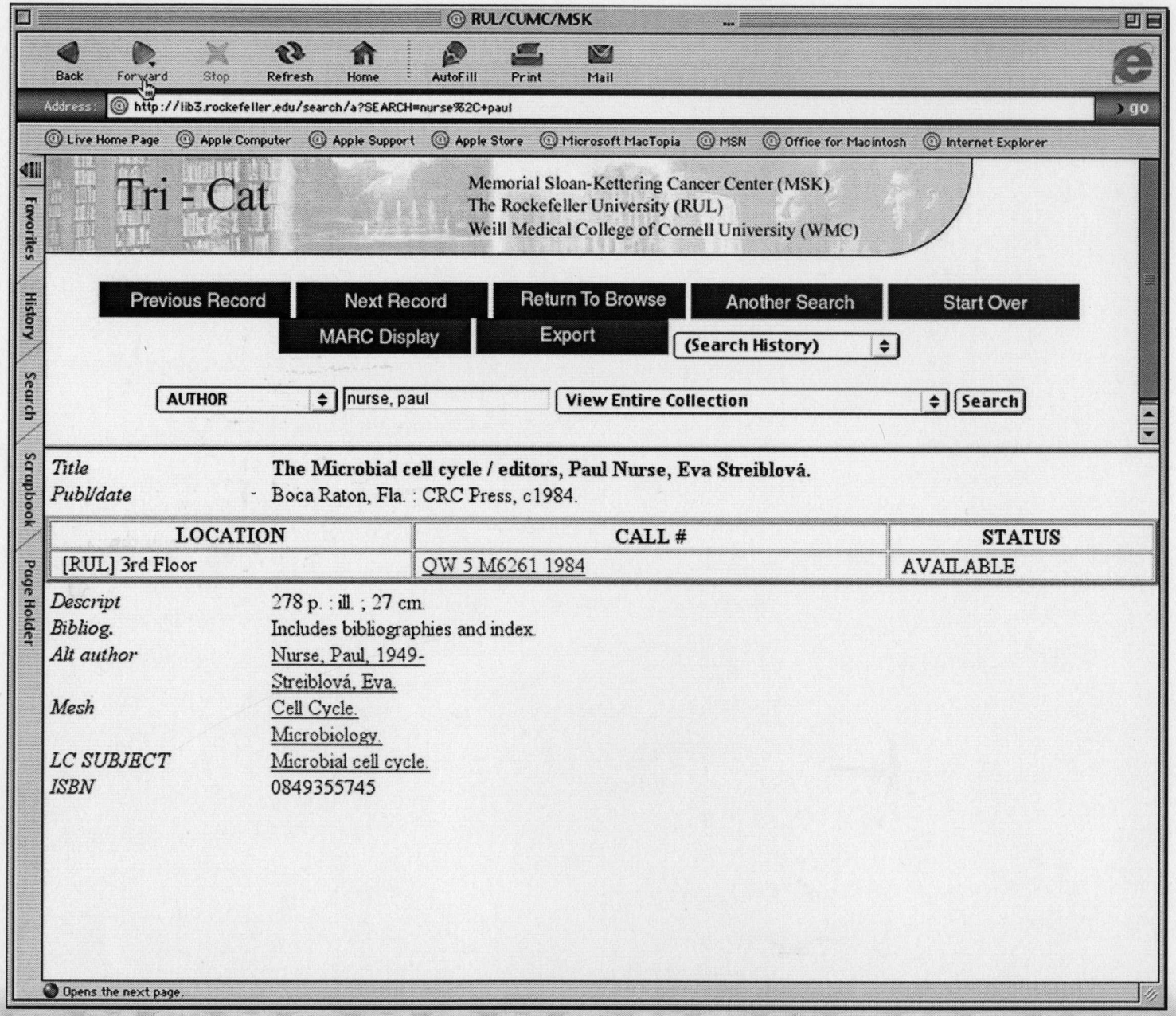
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nurse, paul
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The Microbial cell cycle / editors, Paul Nurse, Eva Streiblová.
Publ/date
Boca Raton, Fla. : CRC Press, c1984.
LOCATION
CALL #
STATUS
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278 p. : ill. ; 27 cm.
Bibliog.
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Microbiology.
LC SUBJECT
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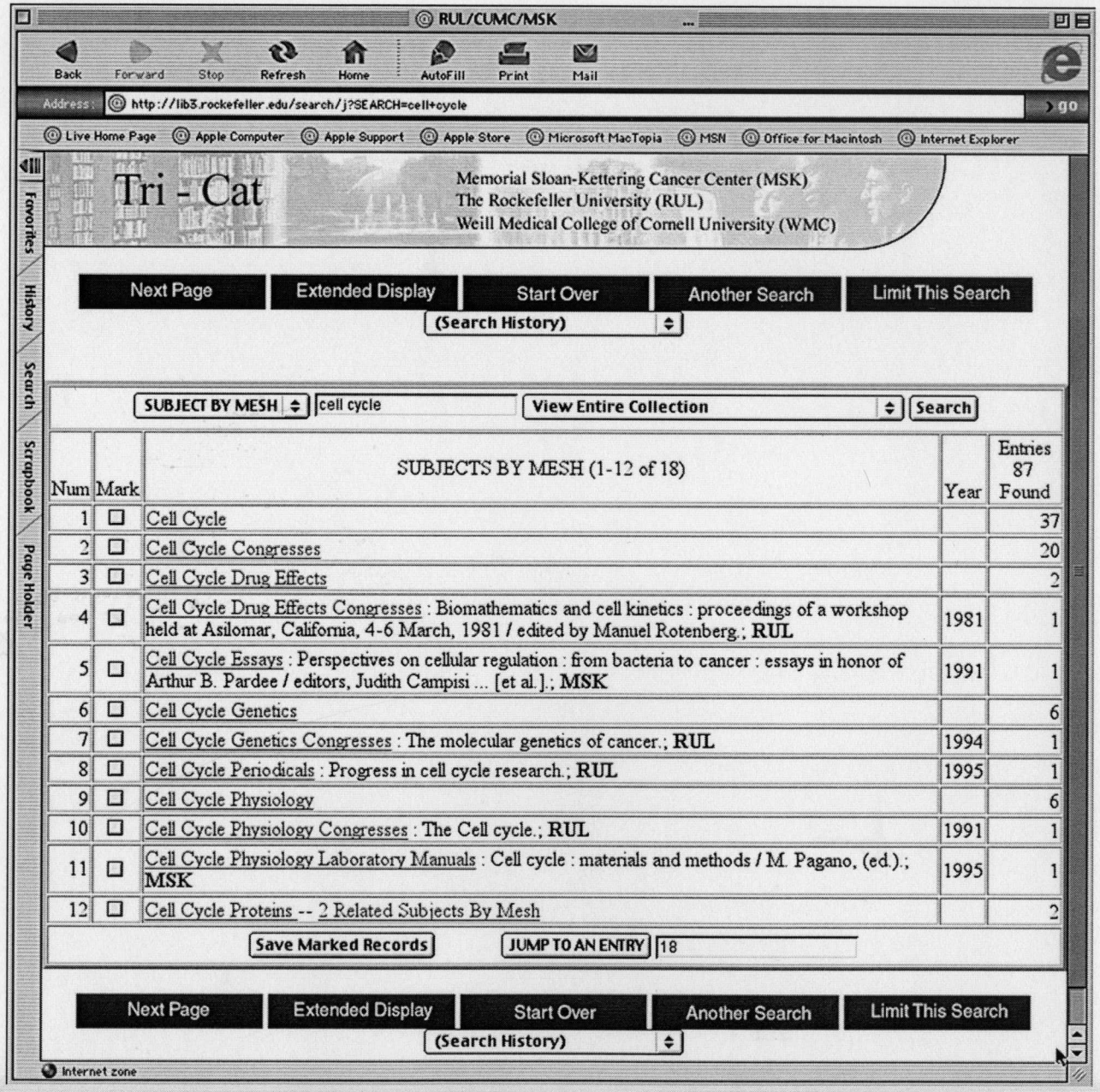
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3 Cell Cycle Drug Effects 2
4 Cell Cycle Drug Effects Congresses : Biomathematics and cell kinetics : proceedings of a workshop held at Asilomar, California, 4-6 March, 1981 / edited by Manuel Rotenberg.; RUL 1981 1
5 Cell Cycle Essays : Perspectives on cellular regulation : from bacteria to cancer : essays in honor of Arthur B. Pardee / editors, Judith Campisi ... [et al.].; MSK 1991 1
6 Cell Cycle Genetics 6
7 Cell Cycle Genetics Congresses : The molecular genetics of cancer.; RUL 1994 1
8 Cell Cycle Periodicals : Progress in cell cycle research.; RUL 1995 1
9 Cell Cycle Physiology 6
10 Cell Cycle Physiology Congresses : The Cell cycle.; RUL 1991 1
11 Cell Cycle Physiology Laboratory Manuals : Cell cycle : materials and methods / M. Pagano, (ed.).; MSK 1995 1
12 Cell Cycle Proteins -- 2 Related Subjects By Mesh 2
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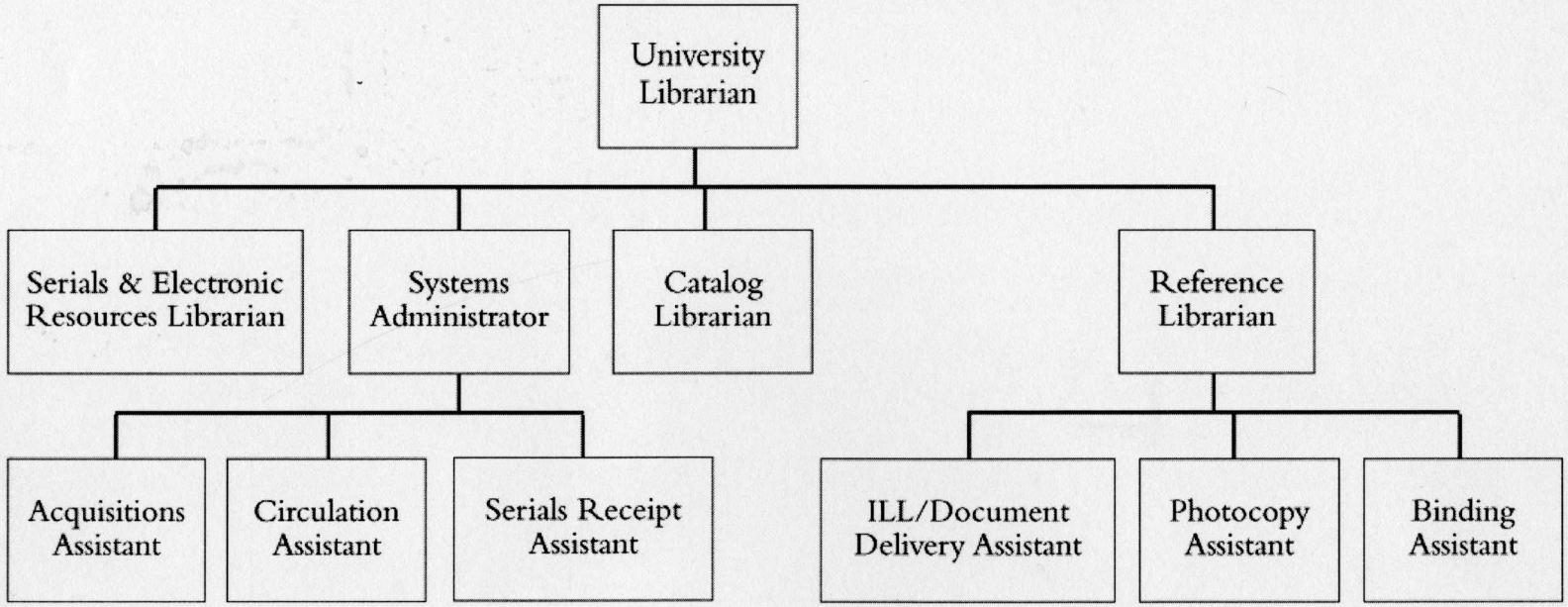
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PARTNERS

Formalized Consortium/Memberships:

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Hospital for Special Surgery
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Weill Cornell Medical College
Metropolitan Library Council of New York
Medical Library Center of New York
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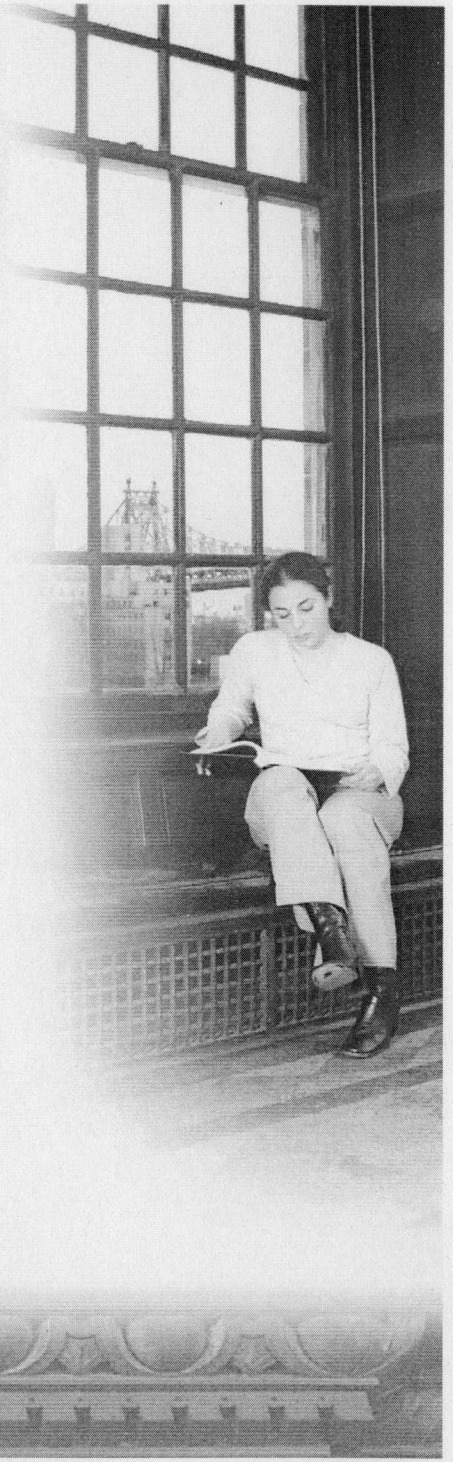


ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PARTNERS

Informal Cooperative Endeavors:

Columbia University (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics/Science, Physics/Astronomy Libraries)

Harvard University (Biological Laboratories and Medical Libraries)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Science and Neuroscience Libraries)

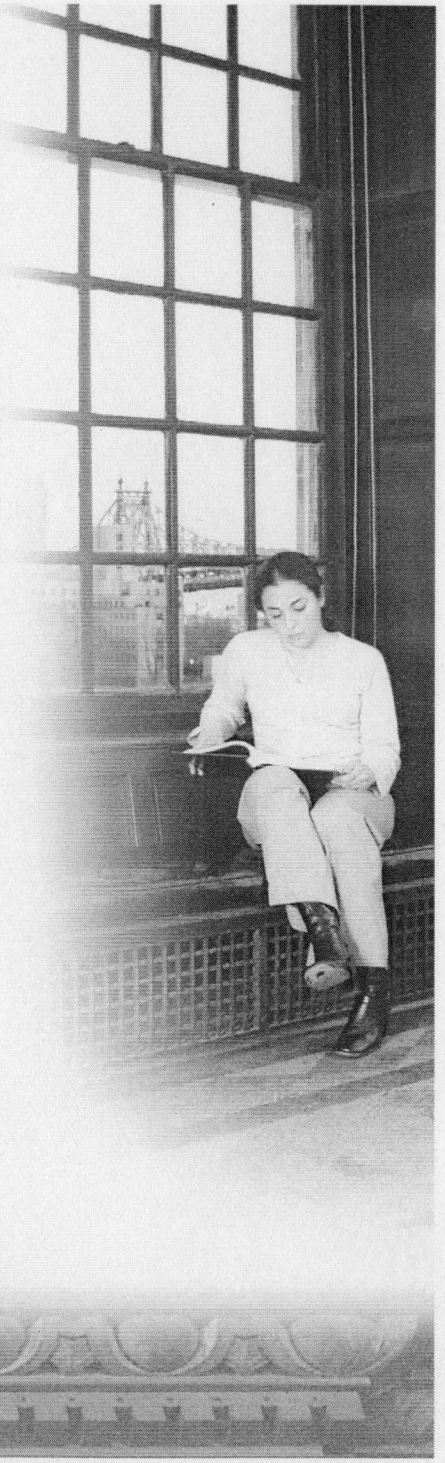
New York University (Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Library)

Polytechnic University

Princeton University (Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Population Research Libraries)

Rutgers University (Alcohol Studies, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Physics Libraries)

Yale University (Medical Libraries)



ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PARTNERS

Bio-Science Information Synthesis Collaborative

(Formation in progress)

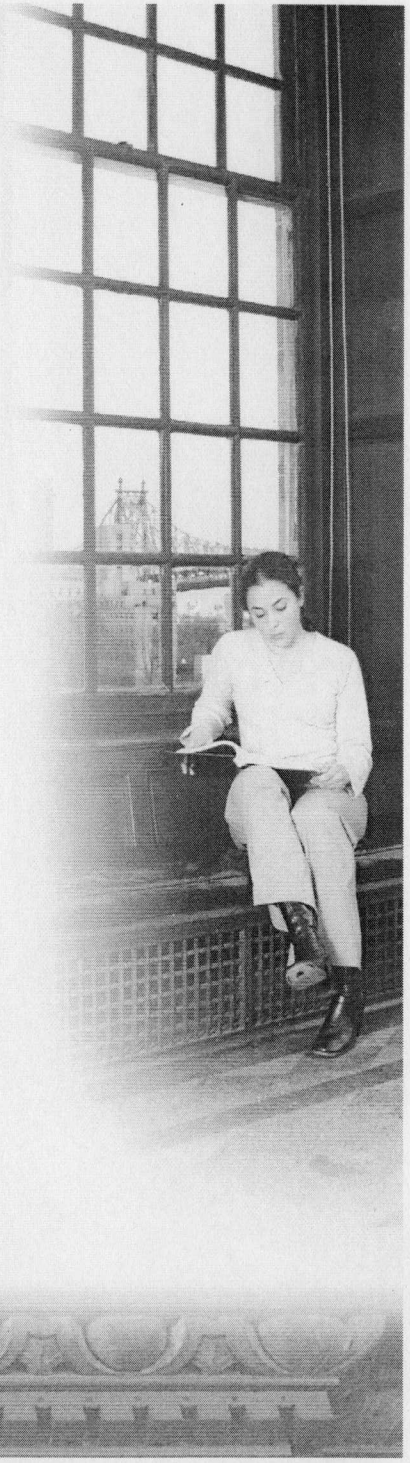
American Museum of Natural History

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

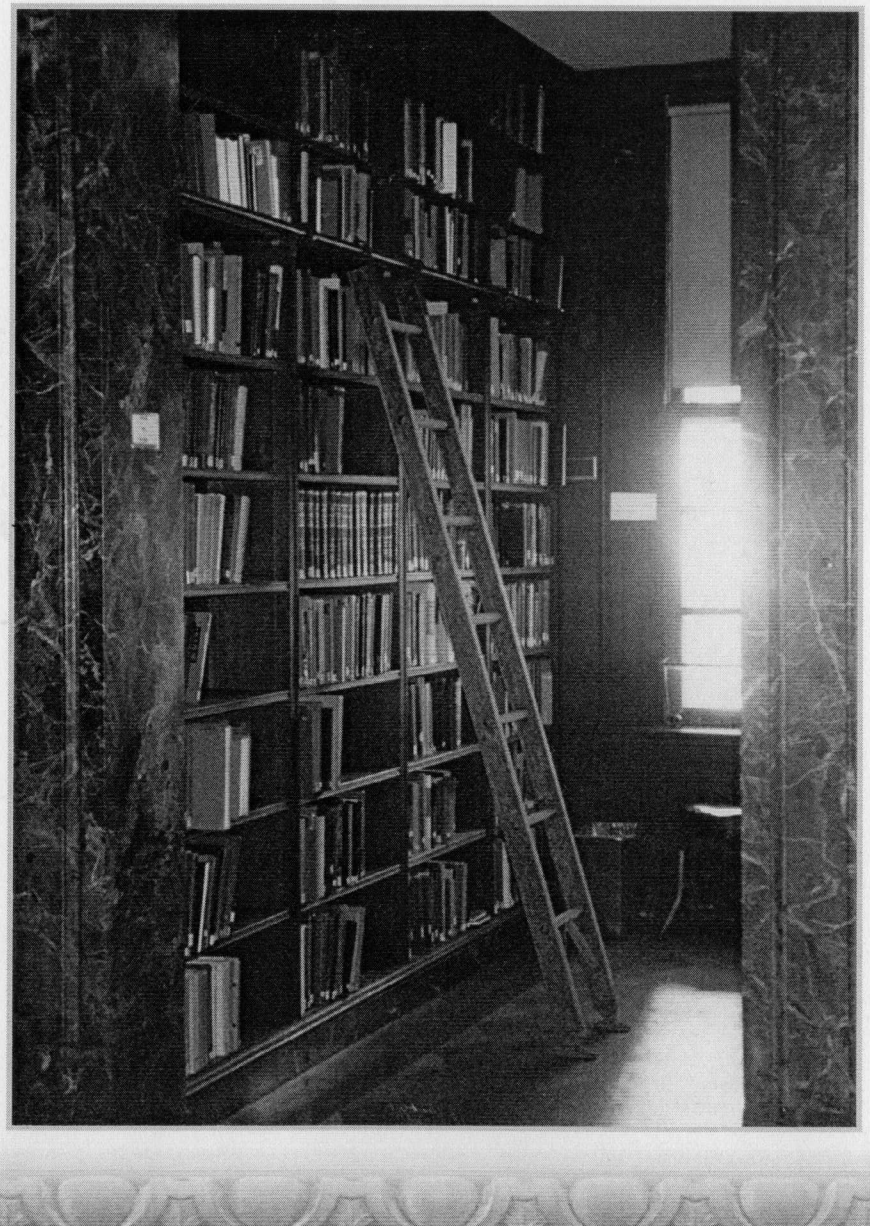
Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University

New York Botanical Garden

Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole



Library Today



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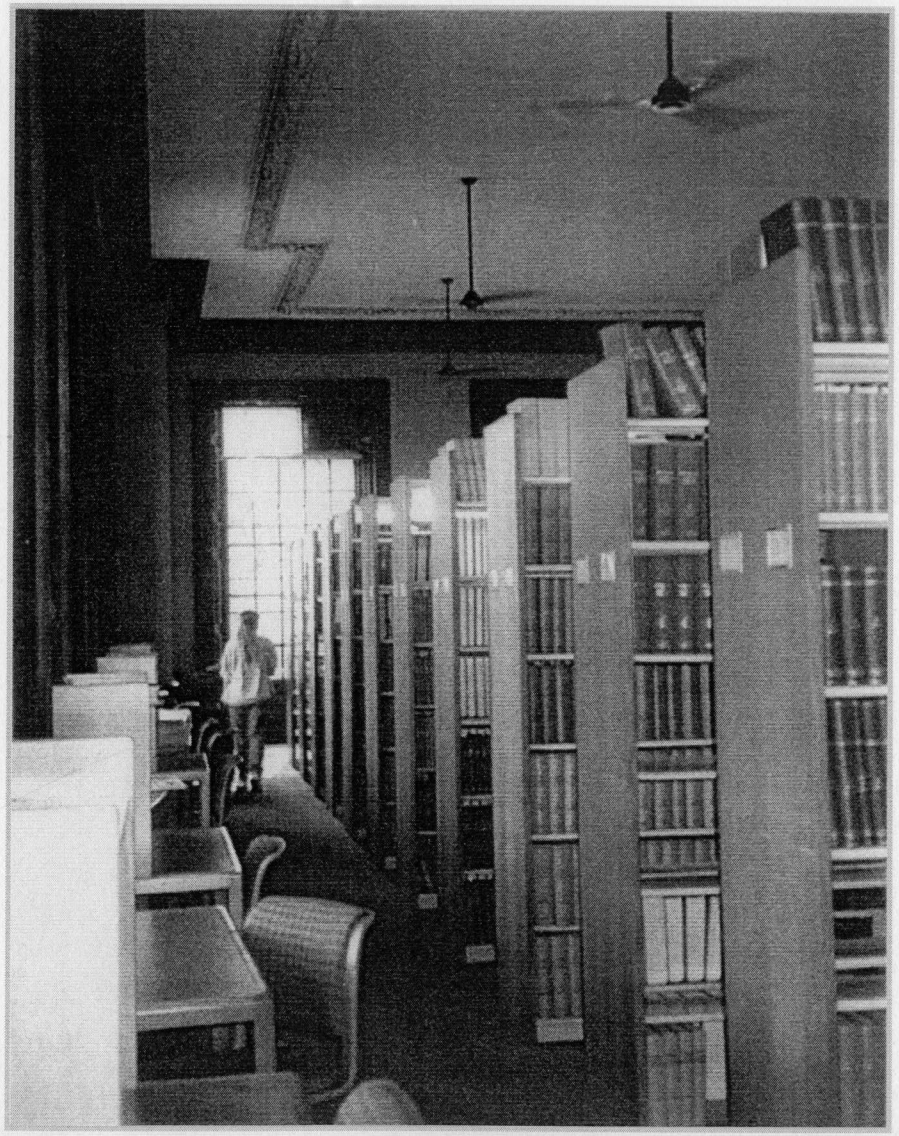

The Reading Room Today