

Preliminary sketches indicate that the building's exterior will be beautifully designed and in conformity with the other structures that comprise the United Nations compound. There will be six stories, in addition to a penthouse, three above ground and three below, measuring approximately 90 feet by 220 feet, with a net floor area sufficient to house 400,000 volumes and 285 readers, together with the necessary staff to serve them and carry out greatly expanded indexing and other bibliographical services. It has been estimated that 400,000 volumes (twice the present number) is about the optimum size for the type of special collection of current materials envisaged. Once this level has been reached it is planned to maintain it by constantly weeding out material that has become out of date.

The Ford Foundation has asked that the building be of the highest quality, designed, furnished and equipped in accordance with the most modern library standards. The building contemplated should fulfil these wishes. It will be of modular construction, designed for utmost flexibility in the use of space and for economical operation and ease of access. Its reading rooms, study rooms, carrels, entrances and lobbies will be as functionally efficient and as comfortable and attractive as expert planning can devise.

The present building will be razed to provide a site for the new one. In the period between evacuation of the present building and completion of the new structure, the Library and its staff will be accommodated in the Secretariat building.

Announcement of the Ford Foundation's gift was greeted warmly at the fourteenth session of the Assembly as an act of outstanding munificence. The Canadian representative praised the Foundation for acting with generosity and understanding and said its gift was one for which the United Nations would always be grateful. A large number of other representatives paid similar tributes. Member states also recorded their appreciation in a resolution co-sponsored by Canada and 44 other countries and adopted unanimously. After formally accepting the Ford Foundation's offer, the resolution extended "its highest appreciation for the gift and the spirit which had prompted it" and decided that a memorial stone inscribed "Gift of the Ford Foundation" should be placed at the Library's main entrance "as an expression of the gratitude and appreciation of the member states".