

THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

No notice will be taken of anonymous contributions.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

On the 15th of March the editors of THE VARSITY sent out the following Circular to the Librarians of over sixty Colleges and Universities in the United States and Canada:

CIRCULAR OF ENQUIRY.

Office of THE VARSITY, University College, Toronto.

The Editors of THE VARSITY being desirous of obtaining a consensus of opinion from the Librarians of the leading Colleges in Canada and the United States, in reference to the best methods of popularizing the Library amongst students, would very respectfully ask you to reply to the following questions:—

1. Is your library open freely to students? If so, at what time, and upon what conditions?
2. Is your present system satisfactory?
3. How, in your opinion, can a University Library be made of most use to the students?

Up to the date of the present issue, answers have been received from twenty-five Librarians. We append the replies exactly as they were received:

(1.) HAVERFORD COLLEGE, Pennsylvania, U. S.—Allen C. Thomas writes:

1. Yes; 7½ hours daily. Free access to shelves. Books can be taken out, except books of reference (generally so recognized—Dictionaries, etc.), and specially reserved books, rare books, etc.

2. Yes, in main outlines; could be improved in some points with larger funds at our disposal.

3. By having an intelligent librarian, professors who will co-operate with him, and with whom he can co-operate. A librarian who will be pleasant, willing to offer his help, yet not officious, sympathetic and wide in his tastes, who "brings wide out-look where he goes." The Librarian should keep the run of the subjects interesting both the students and instructors, find out what there is in his library bearing on such subjects, and be ready to give information, or better, post up references, etc.

(2.) BROWN UNIVERSITY, Providence, R. I., U. S.—Reuben A. Guild writes:

1. Yes. From 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Saturdays, 10 till 1. Vacations—on Saturdays, 10 till 1. Each student pays \$5 per year. Professors and members of the corporation free.

2. Entirely so.

3. By using it as a reading room, as a library for reference, and a library for circulation: and by allowing students and professors FREE ACCESS to the shelves.

(3.) UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. Gregory B. Keen writes:—

1. Yes. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on days when the University is in session.

2. Yes.

3. By giving them the greatest freedom of access to the books.

(4.) WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Williamstown, T. H. Safford writes:—

1. Five hours daily, 9-1, 2-4, during term time.

2. Yes, as far as it goes. We are continually improving it.

3. By a card catalogue, and plenty of assistant librarians who can help students to find books; by co-operation of the professors in directing students' reading, and by other means too numerous to mention. All these require money in abundance.

(5.) INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington, Ill., U.S. Wm. W. Spangler writes:—

1. Yes, every day of college recitations, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays till noon. Students and faculty have all free access to everything in the library and reading room, and may borrow books for home use.

2. Quite so. Only hindrance comes from some who thoughtlessly keep books longer than the two-weeks' limit, because there are no fines imposed.

3. Justin Waisor, of Harvard Library, and Otis H. Robinson, of Rochester University, have fully answered this in a pamphlet, "College Libraries as Aids to Instruction" (Circular of Information, No. 1, 1880), issued by the U. S. Bureau of Education (which see).

(6.) UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Va., U.S. James B. Baker writes:—

1. It is. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. every day of the week except Sunday. Each student can have out 3 volumes at the same time, to be returned in 2 weeks; can be renewed if not called for by another; not more than 3 renewals. Fine of ten cents a day on each volume kept out over 2 weeks.

2. It is.

3. By giving them free use of it, under such conditions as may be found necessary.

7. HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. Justin Waisor writes:—

1. Open to students 7 days in the week. Unrestricted access to shelves holding 7-8000 volumes. Admitted to the main library for good reasons. Can draw books from all. Members of the University the only condition. There is the main library and 22 other libraries connected with departments, laboratories, and class-rooms, and these subsidiary libraries have from 100 to 25,000 volumes each, and students have the privileges of all, so far as their specific studies lead them.

2. Yes.

3. Our system represents our views in this respect.

(8.) IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, Iowa City, U.S.—Mrs. Ada North writes:—

1. Yes. From 8 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., for all students to draw books or consult them. Seniors admitted at all times to shelves; under-class men on Friday and Saturday. Large list of reference books placed in the Reading Room and accessible to all.

2. Yes. Students resort constantly to the library and our catalogues, indexes, classification, and other aids, with much of the personal assistance of the librarian, securing a very general use of our resources.

3. Through great freedom of access, through cataloguing, indexing, and the combined efforts of librarian and professors to direct and arouse enthusiasm in the use of books.

(9.) AMHERST COLLEGE, Amherst, Mass., U.S. Wm. J. Fletcher writes:—

1. Yes. 9 to 5 daily. Condition—Good behaviour only.

2. Highly so.

3. By intelligent librarianship, working in close relations with the Faculty, and by a generous use of reference to the library by the Faculty themselves in their teaching work.

(10.) CORNELL UNIVERSITY, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S. Geo. Wm. Harris writes:—

1. Yes. From 8 a.m. to 9 30 p.m., in term time; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in vacation. Free to all as a reference library. Access to the shelves is restricted to those who have special permission (see printed regulations sent herewith). Reference books are in open shelves accessible to all.

2. Fairly so. Our present limited quarters prevent us from placing a much larger number of reference books in open shelves, and the neglect on the part of students to replace books on the shelves gives rise to some inconvenience.

3. The most important requisite is a good catalogue, but the greatest usefulness of the Library can be attained only by co-operation on the part of the professors in directing and guiding the reading of the students, and by readings on the part of the librarian to help students in their researches. We have found that the students are greatly helped by the preparation of lists of references to the more important books and articles on the subjects assigned by the professors for essays in literature and history. Forty-eight such lists were prepared last year by the assistants in the library.