

Inter-department Correspondence



FROM

THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
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PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR;
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This report concurred in by every member of Arts Survey Committee.

Extracts from Report on the Redpath Library made by Professors Waugh and Woodhead for the Arts Survey Committee:-

The Library is under the general management of a Committee of Corporation which has 21 members; only 2 are representatives of the Faculty of Arts; representation should be greatly increased. Committee only meets three times a year, its control over library policy is perfunctory. It rarely if ever appoints a sub-committee.

Function of a University librarian is to purchase, house, and render accessible such books as teachers and students need. All other functions are secondary.

In reviewing the employment of the Library's pecuniary resources, it must be remembered that there are many special funds which must be spent on objects specified. Nevertheless true that money is used for the purchase of books and other things which contribute little or nothing to the advancement of learning.

If in the future there is any notable increase in amount of money allotted to the Library, the teaching staff, we hope, will be allowed to exercise a decisive influence on its appropriation. We believe that the Library's existing resources are not being employed as wisely as they might be

The Library is the Arts students' workshop and its careful and effective administration is a matter of cardinal importance.

The task of selecting books for a University library at the present time is exceedingly onerous and difficult. The publication of books is now largely controlled by publishing companies who publish books rather than instruct the public. Many priceless books are doubtless never published at all, and some published are smothered in a mass of publications of a superficial kind. The Committee feels that the whole weight of University knowledge and experience should be brought to bear on the selection of books for the Library. The Library Committee should be one of the most active and interested of all administrative bodies in the University.