

# BRENNER LIBRARY QUINCY UNIVERSITY



1968-2010



2011-2018

The old library, east wing of Francis Hall, about 1960.



Brenner Library construction, 1967- required closing of city street-College Ave.





## NEW LIBRARY DATA

Architects . . . . . Gaul and Voosen, Architects, Chicago  
 General Contractor . . . . . C. Iber and Sons, Peoria, Illinois  
 Mechanical Trades . . . . . Seither and Cherry, Keokuk, Iowa  
 Electrical Work . . . . . Eckelkamp Electrical Company, Washington, Missouri  
 Furniture . . . . . Library Bureau of Remington Office Systems, Division of Sperry Rand  
 Carpeting . . . . . Interior Design Inc., Chicago

Planning with architect began . . . . . June 8, 1965  
 Construction began . . . . . January 31, 1966  
 Library was occupied . . . . . April 5, 1967  
 Dedication . . . . . September 16, 1967

### Size:

External measurement . . . . . 46,453 sq. ft.  
 Internal measurement . . . . . 42,254 sq. ft.

### Capacity:

#### Books:

Immediately . . . . . 175,000  
 Eventually . . . . . 250,000  
 Study stations . . . . . 600

Cost . . . . . \$ 1,243,185

Federal grant . . . . . \$ 414,395

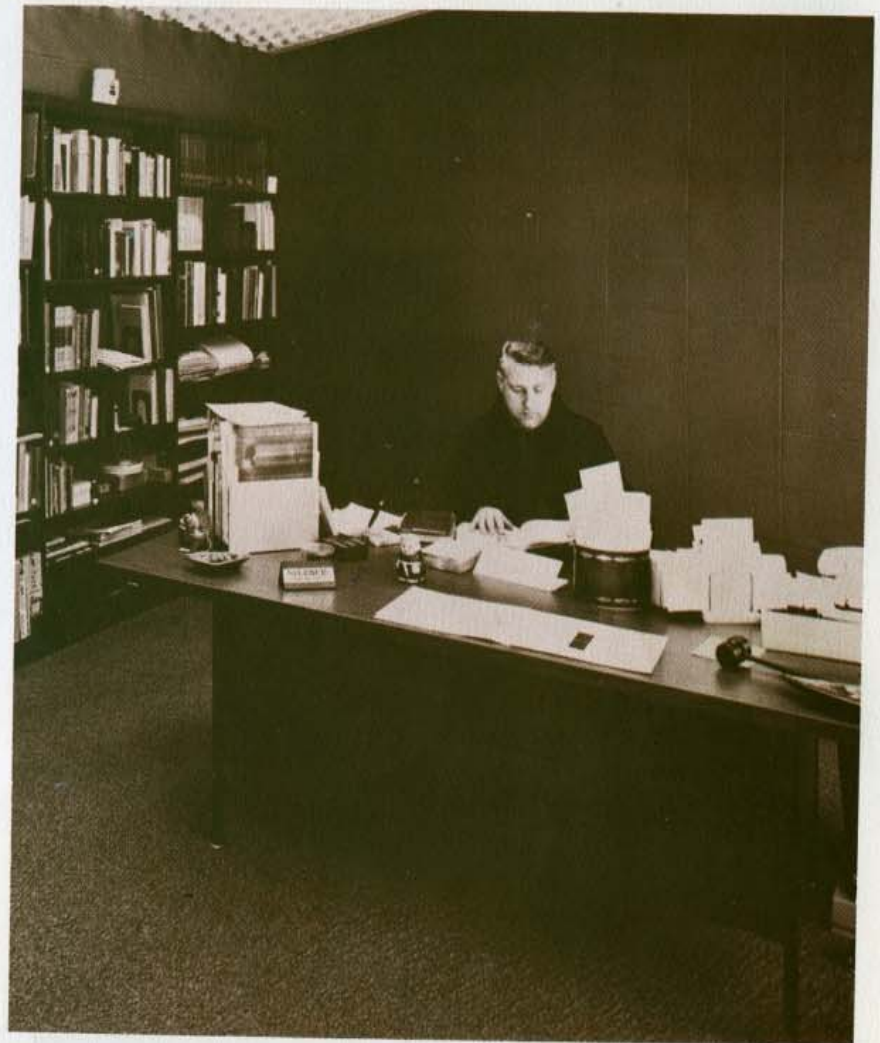
Equipment and Furnishing . . . . . \$138,673

Carpeting . . . . . \$ 39,948

Landscaping . . . . . \$ 6,178

Site . . . . . \$ 4,000

*Fr. Jovian Lang, O.F.M., MS. in LS., has been head librarian since 1958. He also has served as president of the Catholic Library Association.*





**First Floor Main Reading Room**



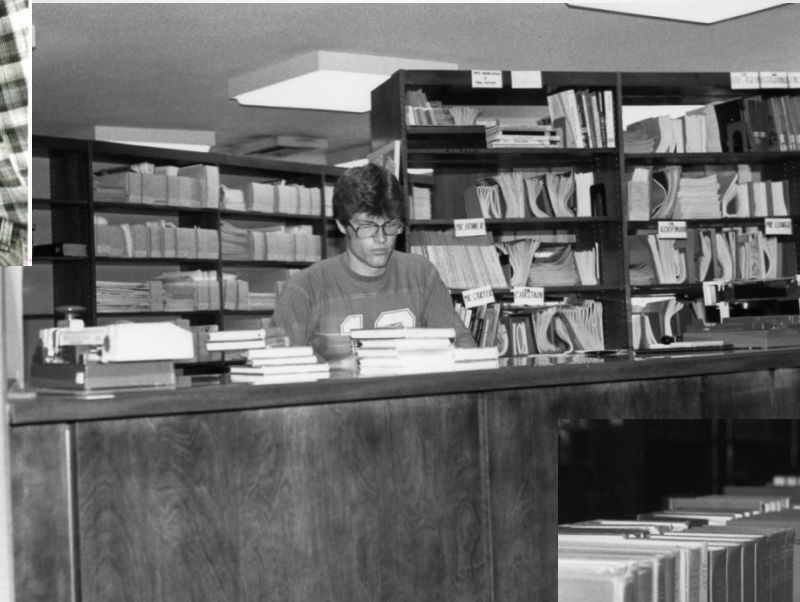
*Main reading room of first floor of library.*





The Card catalog

Doing Research the old fashioned way, about 1980 'BC' (before computers)



The Periodical Index Table

The Circulation desk



## Renovation-2011-2014

*Goal-to bring together all service points into a 'one stop' area to more efficiently serve the students.*

Funded, in part, by an estate donation of \$1.3 million dollars.

*Major phases, completed or in progress:*

1. **Information Commons**: combining the services of circulation, reserve, research assistance, and interlibrary loan
2. **Security system**: adding a security system and improving handicapped accessibility
3. **Student Success Center and Café**: improving social areas and adding student support services
4. **Technology**: upgrading technology including PC equipment, audio/video equipment and Wi-Fi (ongoing)

**1. Information Commons** – Planning for the renovation of the lower level and main floor began in the fall 2011. The librarians worked with the university's master plan committee and architect, Mr. Anthony Crane of Architechnics, Inc.-Quincy.

The old circulation /reserve desk was high and flush with the gallery/foyer wall.

The reference desk was located in the middle of the main floor.

The interlibrary loan service was in a separate office.





In 1967, the lower level, which has a separate entrance, provided classrooms and study space.

Over time, as the university remodeled other areas of campus, the classrooms became library space for rare and AV materials.

In 2010, there was a small lounge area near the entrance. The entrance was not handicapped accessible.



Schlipman Construction, of Quincy, began work on the lower level in January, 2012.

The entrance was expanded and made handicapped accessible and the lounge area became the Qyo Frozen Yogurt Shop.





In the spring of 2012, construction moved to the main floor.

The service areas were incorporated into one **Information Commons**.

And yes, the library remained open and offered all services during the construction.

We even provided earplugs.





The Information Commons as first completed in 2012.

At first, the DVD/ media cabinets and shelving dividing the space.

Information Commons as seen from the library's main entrance.

The desk is semi-circular, and moves into the foyer space.







Research assistance area

This opened up visual space for clients and staff to 'see' and 'be seen.'

The Information Commons today after a little further renovation,

The DVD cabinets were relocated to the AV library/workroom on the main floor.

Reserve and interlibrary loan shelving was designed at counter height.



Interlibrary loan service area

## Repurposing the library-2010-2016

- Beginning in 2010, the university administration conceived a different vision of the library. One which did not include print resources or media, but was electronic only with multiple areas for technology and collaborative learning.
- This vision was not shared by the librarians or faculty, who believed in a blended library combining print, media, and technology. A library that provided social and collaborative learning space, but not at the expense of individual study and research.
- Nevertheless, the librarians were directed to open up large amounts of space, especially on the main floor. The university's goal was to restrict print resources to the upper level, and have the main floor only used for technology and collaborative learning.
- Therefore, an extensive culling project was begun which reduced the general collection from 138,000 volumes in 2010 to 94,000 volumes in 2017.
- The bound periodical collection (stored on the upper level) has essentially been eliminated, adding about 45,000 volumes that those that were discarded. Fortunately, most of these titles are available electronically



Creation of the Student Success Center.

- A second phase of the 'repurposing' involved the complete renovation of the library's lower level to create a student success center.
- Partial renovation of the lower level had been planned along with the Information Commons area. However, the librarians had expected to retain about a third of the lower level for a rare books area (14,000 plus volumes and the university/local archives).
- In the end, the library was able to keep a room (about 40 feet x 20 feet) for the archives. The rare book holdings were reduced to about 2,400 titles and are stored with the archive collections.
- The university would not provide an alternate storage site for the culled volumes, so they were either sold, donated to other libraries or discarded.
- In all, about 25 aisles of shelving have been removed or at least emptied from the main and upper floors.
- Because of a serious budget crisis in 2015-2017 which generated a change in the university's administration, the full 'repurposing' plan has been abandoned.



First floor, study area and theology collection about 2010.

Note the heavy wooden shelving.

Most of this type of shelving has been removed, opening up seating space and improving lighting.



We provide a game area for stress relief.

The same area in 2018.







Art Gallery, located in the library foyer

## Exhibit areas on the main floor.



Exhibit area, DVD  
display and reference  
collection-main floor

## 2. Security system and handicapped access



Until the estate donation in 2010, funding for a security system had never been available.

- Sentry WAM (wide-aisle management) EM (electro-magnetic) detection system was installed. Gates were installed on both the main floor and lower level.
- Books were tagged with magnetic strips, but not media, rare materials or journals. In all, about 150,000 volumes were tagged during 2012 by student workers, library staff and volunteers.





## 2. Handicapped access

- A handicapped access ramp and automatic doors were installed on the front, lower level entrance.
- The library's elevator was modified from key access to public. The restrooms in the lower level were modified for handicapped access.
- Previously, a handicapped patron could gain access to the building by contacting the library and entering through a loading dock ramp.



### 3. Student Success Center and Café

The Student Success Center, located in the lower level of Brenner Library, was opened in August of 2014.

In 2016 the center was dedicated in honor of QU alum, J. Kenneth Nesbit '63.



Lobby entrance from cafe



Classroom



Computer lab





## The J. Kenneth Nesbit Student Success Center

- Open 24/7 during academic year
- Peer tutoring and success coaches
- Math and Computer labs
- Classrooms and testing rooms
- Group Study areas
- Quest Center: career services, study abroad, service learning and internship opportunities
- Office of Student Development: clubs, student events and Greek Life



## Qyo Café then (2012) and now (2018)



Students requested a café/coffee shop in the library.

In 2012, a frozen yogurt shop was constructed in the lower level. It did not succeed financially.



In 2017, the café was repurposed to offer snacks and coffee (which is still to come).







#### 4. Technology Upgrades

PC workstations, about 2012, across from Information Commons.

We offered 8 workstations and a network printer.

By 2014, we added 6 more PCs and a microform reader/printer with scanner.



### Fiscal Crisis and Recovery: 2014-current

- A series of poor fiscal decisions caused a budget shortfall of over \$7 million dollars (FY16) which when added to a mounting debt and a declining enrollment cast doubt on the ability of QU to survive.
- In response, the faculty passed a vote of no-confidence in the president (Oct. 2016). This action became public knowledge and eventually lead to the president's resignation (March 2017).
- QU alumni, the QU community and indeed, the community of the greater Quincy region have rallied to the support of the university.

From the *Quincy Herald-Whig*, Aug. 27, 2017

### **\$53M IMPACT QUINCY UNIVERSITY:**

Three-month study shows university's  
annual influence on the area





- **We are back!** Under new leadership, the university has demonstrated its value to the community, having a \$53 million dollar a year impact on the region.
- Faculty and staff positions, unfilled since 2014 are being filled; new courses are planned and partnerships with area community colleges are in development.
- While library renovation has been 'on hold' since 2014; there are plans to fulfill some of the delayed maintenance issues such as replacing the library's main entrance and updating the main floor restrooms.
- There have been improvements in Wi-Fi and other technology in the library and across campus.
- Other renovations may be possible over the next 3-5 years.

## Plans for the future:

- New carpeting for the upper level (photos from upper level)
- Replacement of lounge, study and computer furniture
- Replacement of HVAC system
- Renovation of the art gallery
- Improvement in lighting and Wi-Fi access







## Quincy University Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Presented by Patricia Tomczak,  
Dean of Library and Information  
Resources, March 15, 2018

