STATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION

1897-98
The University announces a School of Library Economy to open in September, 1897. The library school, which has been conducted at Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, since September, 1893, has been transferred to the University of Illinois.

The increasing interest in libraries as important factors in public education has made manifest the unsatisfactory facilities for managing these institutions. There was no place in which systematic library instruction was given, until 1887, when a course in library economy was first offered at Columbia College, New York, and fostered by the American Library Association. Now five institutions offer regular courses of one or two years, three summer schools have been established, and bibliographic instruction has been given in many of our leading colleges.

The Library School which is transferred to the University is the only one in the West. The University now goes farther than any institution of learning, either in the East or West, has ever gone, in recognizing the right of Library Economy to a place among the regular college courses. The Librarian and Director of the Library School will be given a full professorship in the University, and members of the Library staff will be given positions of relative standing.
Object of Course

A substantial foundation for the profession of Librarian will be laid in the College of Literature and Arts, in the freshman and sophomore years, and will be followed with technical work in the Library School in the junior and senior years.

At an early day the Professor of Library Economy will give a course of lectures upon "The Use of Books in College Work," and it is likely that attendance upon work of this character will be required of all students in the freshman year.

Instruction will be given in each department of library administration and stress will be laid upon simplicity and economy, although elaborate methods will be taught to enable students to work in large libraries, where bibliographic exactness is required. The higher aids of library work will be emphasized throughout the course, and students will be taught their responsibility to the schools, to the clubs, to the factories, to university extension, and to the people as organized bodies or as individuals.

One or two years of training will not take the place of years of experience, but they will make the student more adaptable and general library service more intelligent. It is the purpose of the University to send out trained librarians, not only equipped with technical details, but filled with an appreciation of their high calling to furnish "the best reading to the greatest number, at the least cost."

Facilities

The State of Illinois has just erected for the University, at a cost of $160,000, one of the most elaborate and beautiful library buildings in the country. The libraries now embrace about 40,000 volumes, and the Legislature has just appropriated $20,000 for additions thereto. All this creates the best possible and the most fascinating opportunities for the work of the Library School. On the other hand, the work of the School must make this elegant building teem with life and bring the treasures of the libraries to the ready use of all connected with the University.

Faculty

Miss Katharine L. Sharp, Professor of Library Economy in the University and Director of the Library School, is a graduate of Northwestern University, (Ph. B. 1885 and Ph. M. 1889) and of the New York State Library School (B. L. S. 1892). She has organized various public libraries and filled numerous positions in library administration, having been Professor of Library Economy at Armour Institute of Technology, Director of the Summer School of Library Science at the University of Wisconsin, and University Extension Lecturer in Library Economy at the University of Chicago. Miss Sharp has also been entrusted with many responsible positions in organizations for the promotion of library interests. She is a woman of liberal culture, untiring energy, and unbounded enthusiasm in library work, and has won the first place among American women in her line of work.

Miss Mary L. Jones, Assistant Professor of Library Economy in the University in a graduate of the University of Nebraska (B. L. S. 1885), and of the New York State Library School (B. L. S. 1897). She has been in charge of the Library, and Adjunct Professor of Bibliography, at the University of Nebraska for several
years. She is a former president of the Nebraska State Library Association and is widely known as an enthusiastic student and worker in library affairs.

Miss Margaret Mann, heretofore of the Armour Institute Library School, has been engaged as cataloguer.

Length of Course

The course of instruction will cover four years beyond the High School, consisting of two years of regular college work and two years of technical library work. The two years of technical work will rank as Junior and Senior and will be given only to those who have received credit for at least two years of college work.

Outline of Course

Freshman and Sophomore years in the College of Literature and Arts, with special lectures.

Junior Year

Fall Term.—Cataloguing, Library, Handwriting, Reference Work, Bibliography, General Library Economy, Selection of Books, Apprentice Work.

Winter Term.—Order Department, Accession Department, Shelf Department, Classification, Loan Systems, Binding, Reference Work, Bibliography, Selection of Books, Apprentice Work.

Spring Term.—General Library Economy, Reference Work, Selection of Books, Typewriting, Apprentice Work, Inspection Visits to Other Libraries.

Senior Year

Fall Term.—Comparative Classification, Library


Freshmen and Sophomores who register for the Library School will take reference work and some general lectures in connection with their college studies.

Degree

The degree of Bachelor of Library Science (B. L. S.) will be conferred on those who complete the course outlined.

Registration

All candidates must matriculate in the University. Students must register on or before Sept. 13 and 14, 1897. For entrance conditions see the University catalogue. Students entitled to advanced standing may of course obtain it.

Fees

Tuition is free to residents and non-residents of the State. The matriculation fee of $10 is good for the entire course. Term fees amount to $22.50.

For further information apply to W. L. PILLSBURY, Registrar, Urbana (or Champaign), Illinois.
The University of Illinois.

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