

THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY LIBRARY,

1950-1966:

The Minnow that Gave Birth to a Whale

by

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Introduction

In August of 1956, the University of California Regents accepted the proposal of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Director, Dr. Roger Revelle, to establish a Graduate School of Technology and Engineering in La Jolla, California.¹ Thus began an unusual experiment in university development which culminated in the founding of a new campus of the University of California in 1960. The University of California, San Diego (UCSD), started with graduate-level programs in the sciences and worked from the top down to develop a general campus.

The period from 1956 to 1964, when undergraduates first enrolled at UCSD, was fraught with frustrations as well as the excitement of major changes and the satisfactions of success. As Dr. Walter H Munk, Director of the Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, noted, "It was an interesting experiment to watch a bunch of sailors start a university."² This period in the history of Scripps and UCSD has never been studied in detail.

What effect did "...the fateful decision whether to develop a general campus..." have on the Scripps Institution and its library?³ Were the people who made these decisions aware of the possible consequences for the SIO Library vis-a-vis the new university library? What advantages did they expect to gain for the Institution and its library?

As SIO served the first campus of UCSD, its library became the university's first

¹The Institution is named in honor of its major benefactors during the early years, E.W. Scripps and his sister Helen Scripps of newspaper fame.

²Walter H. Munk, "The Nth Campus Problem," Bear Facts, May 1966, 2.

³Ibid.

library. In 1958, before a university librarian had been named, the SIO Librarian initiated the task of acquiring materials for the Graduate School of Science and Engineering. The SIO Library staff began the all-consuming process of establishing a major university library. It is possible to say that the SIO Library ceased to exist as a separate entity between 1961 and 1963. Its building became the physical staging area for the new general library. When the main library finally moved to the upper campus, the SIO Library became a branch library of the UCSD library system. The SIO Librarian reported to the University Librarian, not to the Director of Scripps.

This paper will examine the development of the SIO Library during this period of expansion and turmoil. The effect of the establishment of the new university library on SIO's collections, physical facilities, personnel, services, and the relationship between the SIO Library and the Scripps faculty will be discussed. As an area of study, the founding of UCSD university libraries has received little formal attention, thus there are numerous possible areas for further research, a few of which will be mentioned.

The fateful decision

Several factors played roles in the development of SIO and the direction taken by university expansion. Key among these were the intellectual isolation of the Institution prior to 1960, its informal organizational structure, and Scripps resentment of outside interference in administrative matters. The interdisciplinary nature of the discipline of oceanography and the post-war boom in scientific education also influenced its development.

By starting with graduate programs in the sciences before establishing the general campus and by insisting that the new campus be located contiguous to the Institution, Revelle and

other Scripps researchers achieved their major goal of educational support for SIO. Revelle, along with other educators in the discipline, described oceanography's interdisciplinary nature in an article on the educational needs of those who study the ocean.

Oceanography acquires its unity because it deals with everything taking place in a limited geographical subdivision of the earth, its watery envelope. Problems in oceanography fall rather definitely into two groups, those of geophysics and those of ecology. Their solutions require the various techniques of physics, chemistry, geology and biology.⁴

While no mention of library resources was made, clearly there were implications for library development. Departmental or laboratory libraries cause unnecessary duplication in an environment where the same information is needed by many researchers.

At about the same time Revelle wrote about oceanographic education, he began work to bring a major scientific branch of the University of California to La Jolla which would support as well as complement Scripps programs. He encountered tremendous opposition from officials and faculty leaders on the other campuses, especially for the plan to build from the graduate level down. According to Mary Harrington Hall, opposition came primarily from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).⁵

The launching of Sputnik in 1957, and the opening of UCSD in 1960, was no coincidence. Herbert York, UCSD's first Chancellor, recalled:

As Revelle and I both point out, UCSD started at exactly the right time Five years earlier the stimulus for more scientific training caused by worldwide events like Sputnik did not exist, and five years later the bloom was off the rose. Everyone, including state legislators and ordinary voters, agreed we needed to

⁴Vern O. Knudsen and others, "Education and Training for Oceanographers," Science 111 (June 23, 1950): 701.

⁵Mary Harrington Hall, "Revelle," San Diego and Point Magazine 13 (May 1961): 41.

expand higher education.⁶

The founders of UCSD were sharply aware of the impetus for more scientific training provided by world-wide events.

Walter Munk remembered being the entire student body of SIO in 1937.⁷ During SIO's first four decades, only one or two students could be found working on campus in any one year. By the 1950s, four or five students per year received advanced degrees. After the decision to develop a general campus, the number of students receiving Doctorates at Scripps jumped dramatically. In 1965 alone, twenty-five students earned Phds.

The need to end Scripps's intellectual isolation contended with a resentment of the impersonal nature of large institutions in the writings of those involved. La Jolla attracted many people because of its relative isolation. They came to regret its loss, yet they recognized the need to be nearer the scientific community.⁸ Elizabeth Shor recalled, "over the years Scrippsians (sic) have grumbled at rules and procedures imposed from 'above' - Berkeley, or UCLA ... or UCSD."⁹ SIO's original deed of transfer to the University of California and certain exemptions granted to several UC laboratories in 1961, were often used to justify noncompliance with UC regulations.

Scripps' desire for autonomy might have developed out of the institution's long history of

⁶Christopher Canole, "York recalls UCSD's beginning," UCSD Guardian, November 18, 1985, 8.

⁷Munk, 2.

⁸Karen Kawasaki, "Munk Genuflects to Pre-UCSD Era," UCSD Guardian, October 24, 1985, 8.

⁹Elizabeth Noble Shor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography: Probing the Oceans, 1936-1976 (San Diego, CA: Tofua Press, 1978), 462. The other laboratories included the Agricultural Experiment Station at Davis, the Lick Observatory, the Lawrence Radiation Laboratories at Berkeley and Livermore, and Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico.

quasi-independent status and the limited financial assistance received from the University of California and the state.¹⁰ Especially after World War II, the role the state played in supporting the Institution dropped. In 1967, SIO received seventy-five percent of its support from the federal government, twenty-one percent from the state and four percent from other sources.¹¹

For the library, this effected a variety of issues. For example, head librarians were supposed to be members of the academic senate. In 1955, the SIO Library Committee suggested compliance with this recommendation to the faculty. They agreed to allow the librarian to attend as a consulting member.¹² On the other hand, Scripps officials often sought advise from other librarians in the UC system. The SIO technical director consulted with Robert Vosper in 1951 concerning the subject of the proper level of classification for the SIO Librarian.¹³

The relaxed style of the Scripps administration may be attributed to the difficulty of organizing a diverse collection of academics, researchers, laboratories, and associated groups. A UC management improvement project report examined Scripps as a large research unit within a university in 1973. The report noted that SIO had

...an organizational and management structure that has remained relaxed and flexible. The very informality of its management has been an important factor in its past accomplishments. The challenge that faced SIO was whether it could effectively introduce a new minimal level of modern management into its

¹⁰Arthur B. Jebens, "The Organization, management and Support Services for a Large Organized Research Unit within a University - Scripps Institution of Oceanography" (Berkeley, CA: University of California Research Management Improvement Project, 1976), 4.

¹¹Verne A. Stadtman. comp. and ed., The Centennial Record of the University of California (Berkeley: University of California Printing Department, 1967), 507.

¹²"Abstract of Minutes of SIO Faculty Meeting, June 7, 1955," Faculty Meetings, 1955-1959, Denis L Fox, 1901-1983, Papers, 1931-1983, SA.

¹³Robert Vosper to James L. Faughn, November 27, 1951, Library, 1951, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

operations to cope with the demands that were being placed upon it in the highly competitive and changing fields of oceanographic research. At the same time it was essential that SIO retain those qualities that gave it strength, quality and character in its early decades of operations.¹⁴

This relaxed attitude effected the ability of SIO librarians to gain control over collections and to provide other library services.

There are not many similar situations with which to compare Scripps and the founding of UCSD. The University of Chicago, 1890, and Johns Hopkins, 1875, are often mentioned as universities that followed a similar plan of development as UCSD. However, large, private endowments support both of those universities.¹⁵ Scripps endowments were much more modest and certainly were not sufficient to create a university in the 1950s. Other, more specific examples of research institutions which founded universities were not uncovered during this investigation.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography library prior to 1950¹⁶

Though nominally a part of the University of California since 1912, the history of Scripps can be characterized by its isolation. Early photographs of the Institution show a tiny group of buildings lost along the empty La Jolla coastline. The closest library of any consequence for scientific research was located over one hundred miles to the north at UCLA.

¹⁴Jebens, 3.

¹⁵John F. Ohles and Shirley M. Ohles, Private Colleges and Universities, vol.1, The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions, no. 6. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982), 236, 609.

¹⁶A timeline of important events in the history of the SIO Library is included at the end of this paper.

Scripps grew slowly through the tenure of founder and first Director, William Ritter from 1903 to 1923. Helen Raitt and Beatrice Moulton chronicled those early years in a book entitled: Scripps Institution of Oceanography: First Fifty Years.¹⁷ The library originally occupied a room in the multi-use building that also served as the Ritter Family home. The collection grew slowly, primarily through donations from the Scripps staff. ~~Helen~~ ^{Eileen} Scripps made the first substantial gift to the library. Of the sixty thousand dollars she turned over to the UC Regents in 1912, one fourth was to be used to support the library. The most significant event for the SIO Library during the early years was the completion of the Library-Museum Building in 1916.

Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director of the Institution from 1924-1936, oversaw the expansion of the library from 9,500 to 15,000 bound volumes. The Great Depression and the lack of trained librarians slowed the progress of the library. Non-professional, part-time staff ran the library through most of its first fifty years. Claude E. Zobell wrote of the need for a full-time librarian in a report from the library committee. Harald Sverdrup who became director in 1936. Zobell did not request a full-time librarian be hired because he was aware of other pressing needs.¹⁸

The SIO Library resembled other small departmental libraries. Library use policies either did not exist or were ignored. The research staff was accustomed to having needed items close at hand. This kind of small library tended to be poorly housed, inadequately staffed, and

¹⁷Helen Raitt and Beatrice Moulton, Scripps Institution of Oceanography: First Fifty Years ([San Diego, CA]: The Ward Ritchie Press, 1967).

¹⁸Claude E. Zobell to Harald Sverdrup, "Confidential Report, October 6, 1936," p.5, SIO Library Committee, 1936-1970, SIO Subject Files, AC6, SA.

access limited.¹⁹ For an institute dedicated to an interrelated subject like oceanography, ready access to reference materials in all disciplines was a major issue; one that would later help fuel the drive to expand.

The Zobell's 1936 report to Director Sverdrup is the first to mention difficulties obtaining compliance with library policies in an institutional environment like SIO. These problems included the lack of locks on library doors, disregard for check-out procedures and the hoarding of books in offices and laboratories. The low levels of staffing and lack of enforcement powers, made establishing control over circulation difficult. Zobell lamented the Library Committee's inability to act in these matters.²⁰

Scripps went to sea under Sverdrup's leadership. Major expansion at Scripps started during World War II. The Navy needed information about ocean conditions and it naturally turned to institutions such as Scripps. During the war many SIO researchers were called to active duty and the relationship forged during war time continued to grow through the years after the war with the creation of new laboratories and research groups affiliated with the institution.

Ruth Ragan, the SIO director's assistant secretary, now devoted the majority of her time to the library. She struggled to keep the library abreast of the changes. A 1947 librarian's report noted the need to expand the acquisition of library materials to better serve the many new projects with which SIO was involved. The search for more room to house the collection was also a constant requisite. "The library seems to have outgrown its swaddling clothes,- it is actually bursting at the seams." The demand for services such as interlibrary loan increased

¹⁹Karla J. Pearce, "Academic Scientific and Technical Libraries: Some 19th and 20th Century Tales," Science and Technology Libraries 8 (Fall 1987): 8-9.

²⁰Zobell to Sverdrup, Confidential Report.

during this period.²¹ Expansion of Scripps programs would continue at accelerated speed in the 1950s.

The beginnings of professionalization, 1950-1960

Ragan was succeeded in 1950 by SIO's first professional librarian, W. Roy Holleman who had a B.S. in Biological Science from Oklahoma State University, a M.S. in physics from the University of Oklahoma and a M.L.S. from the University of Illinois. Holleman worked diligently to establish professional service. His first action as librarian was to conduct a library survey in which he outlined the duties of the Librarian and staff. This report emphasized the need for an adequately trained staff to select, organize and provide access to the collection and the importance of professional library education.²²

The staffing of the SIO Library and the UCSD library follows a pattern recognized by Anita Schiller. She noted that women's representation in key professional positions steadily fell through the decade of the 1960s.²³ The trend away from women in library management positions started early at SIO with the hiring of Holleman. A member of the Library Committee wrote in a letter to a prospective recruit, "Naturally what we have to have here is the *man* who

²¹Ruth Ragan, "Librarian's Report, April 3, 1947," SIO Library Committee, 1936-1970, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

²²W. Roy Holleman, "Library Survey, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC, December 1950, revised," SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

²³Anita Schiller, "Aware: Report on Women in Librarianship," American Libraries 2 (December 1971): 1215.

is able to fill the position whatever the details of his training might have been"²⁴

Throughout the 1960s, men would be hired for library management positions for the new university library.²⁵

Actions intended to improve library service to the Scripps community were instituted during the Holleman's tenure as SIO Librarian. He developed a simple form to alert researchers to articles of interest and began to route publishers announcements for faculty and staff recommendations. Those who requested items automatically received notification of their arrival.²⁶ SIO Library began to acquire its materials directly. Previously this had been done by the acquisitions department at UCLA.²⁷ In 1951, for the first time the SIO Library budget was separated from the rest of the Institution budget. The SIO Library Committee enthusiastically endorsed these undertakings.²⁸

However, progress was slower in other areas of support and service. Materials continued to be hoarded in individual labs and offices. Library books even disappeared at sea.

²⁴Denis L. Fox to Frederic M. Falconer, January 5, 1950, SIO Subject Files AC6, Library, 1949-1950, SA. Italics are mine.

²⁵The subject background of these men cannot be questioned. Holleman's qualifications have been mentioned above, Melvin J. Voigt received a degree in mathematics and his M.L.S. from the University of Michigan, while George Vdovin, head of the Science and Engineering Library, and Joseph Gantner, SIO Librarian, 1963-1966, both earned zoology and M.L.S. degrees at UC, Berkeley.

²⁶Holleman to Betty Rosenberg, December 5, 1956, Library, 1956, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

²⁷Vosper to Robert Sproul, February 28, 1951, Library, 1951, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

²⁸This occurred because Senior Accountant P.M. Douglas noticed that there was no statement of the Library's expenses in the Scripps section 1949/50 Financial Report of the University. He pointed out that it was desirable to let the librarian know how much money he was allocated at the beginning of the year. P.M. Douglas to O. Lumberg, April 10, 1951, Library, 1951, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

Holleman reported that of 274 books placed on two research vessels outfitted for the Capricorn cruise, 204 were missing when the ships returned.²⁹ There was still some reluctance on the part of some the faculty to relinquish control over selection of materials. In response to a circulated list of the duties of the SIO librarian, one stated, "... the decision to on purchases should remain with the staff."³⁰

Scripps officials were also reluctant to allow Holleman travel expenses to professional library association meetings such as ALA and SLA. A series of exchanges between Holleman and the SIO Technical Administrator in 1951, illustrate the wide-spread lack of recognition of these activities as professional in nature as well as ignore the fact that attendance at professional meetings was part of the SIO Librarian's job description. They refused to fund Holleman's request to attend the Special Libraries Association meeting on the grounds that the organization was not a large nationally-recognized educational association.³¹ Holleman reluctantly curtailed his participation in professional activities to the local and regional level.

Holleman struggled throughout the decade to maintain the collection and services in the face inadequate funds for materials and staff. Requests for increases in the book and serials budget were finally granted in 1956. But the personnel problem was more obstinate. Complaints about staff shortages abound in the records of the SIO Library. The demand for more personnel accelerated with the expansion of Scripps in the 1950s. Holleman attempted to run the SIO Library with only one other librarian and several assistants.

In 1952, the cataloging backlog consisted of over 12,000 items including maps, charts,

²⁹Holleman to Mr. Isaacs, February 26, 1953, Library, 1953-1954, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

³⁰Carl L. Hubbs to Zobell, July 28, 1950, Library, 1949-1950, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

³¹Holleman to Faughn, May 23, 1951, Library, 1951, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

slides and microforms. At the same time, demands for library services increased more than thirty-five percent due to the steady increases in the number of employees and graduate students. The small number of employees limited the kind and amount of services provided.³² The low pay offered made available positions difficult to fill. In 1956, Holleman had trouble filling a reference vacancy as well as a cataloging position at the salary scale then available.³³ Melvin J. Voigt, the first University Librarian at UCSD, recalled that there were no more than four or five professional librarians working at Scripps library when he arrived to take over as University Librarian in November of 1960.³⁴

A new library for a new university, 1960-66

Efforts to build collections for the new graduate school began prior to Voigt's arrival. Holleman attempted to do this with a staff budget allocation which had not increased substantially since 1956. He wrote in a March 18, 1960 memo:

New instructional and research programs at Scripps require additional books and expanded library services. With very few exceptions, additional library funds have not been granted to meet new program requirements. The work load of processing books, periodicals and other library material increased more than 60% from December 1957 through June 1959. Since July 1959, acquisitions and cataloging for the School of Science and Engineering increased more than 100%. This has meant that many important services of the SIO Library staff

³²The Library Committee to Roger Revelle, August 29, 1952, Library, 1953-1954, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

³³Holleman to Revelle, May 6, 1956, Library, 1956, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

³⁴Melvin J. Voigt, Interviewed by Harry Tuchmyer, March 27, 1981, transcript, UCLA Oral History Program, Donated Tapes, UCLA Special collections, Box 2113, University of California, Los Angeles.

have been curtailed.³⁵

He, then, compared the personnel figures for cataloging and acquisitions staff for two of the smaller UC campuses, Santa Barbara and Riverside. These figures can be seen in Table 1. Both had substantially larger staffs than SIO.

Some parallels can be drawn between the Scripps experience and that of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace and its library on the Stanford University campus. Unlike UCSD, Stanford was an established university with its own library system. Yet, the flood of materials acquired by Hoover Institution personnel overwhelmed Stanford Library's cataloging staff and shelving space alike. With the situation reversed at Scripps, the acquisition of books for the new UCSD library brought the same result.

Lack of communication between Hoover and the library administration caused numerous misunderstandings and bad feelings. Hoover insisted that the collection be maintained separately. He preferred that the money donated be spent on materials and not on the salaries for people to process them. The most important task, according to Hoover, was to acquire items as quickly as possible before they disappeared. Hoover did not believe it was necessary to catalog the materials until later. He did not understand disservice to patrons caused by the lack of access.³⁶

Voigt made the same decision to buy books while they could get them and to worry about

³⁵Librarian to Chairman of the Budget Committee and the Library Committee, March 18, 1960, Library, 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

³⁶Gary Norman Paul, "The Development of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace Library, 1914-1944" (D.L.S. diss., University of California, Berkeley, 1974), 219-229.

processing them later with quite similar results.³⁷ The consequences of this policy for the SIO Library meant, at the very least, delays in the cataloging of their materials. This would fuel demands for the return of acquisitions and cataloging to the SIO Library.

The magnitude of UCSD's collection development program in the early years can be illustrated by the following statistic. It took Berkeley fifty years to reach four hundred thousand volumes; the UCLA Library reached that total in less than twenty-five years; for UCSD it took just seven years.³⁸ Is it any wonder that SIO Library collection development appeared to get lost?

Voigt began new programs beyond those tasks normally associated with building a new library. The "New Campuses Program" and the serials computer project took time and staff to develop.³⁹ The new library system had to support graduate programs from the beginning. All these factors played a part in the neglect of services and collections at the SIO Library during the founding of the UCSD University Library. Table 3 summarizes projected book collection development from 1961/62-1970/71. While predictions show Scripps collections doubling; the School of Science and Engineering expected to increase 10-fold in the same time period. The general collection would grow twice as fast.

Holleman campaigned to keep the SIO Library budget separate from the new University Library. He sought support from the SIO faculty for this endeavor in a memo dated September 12, 1960. He felt that it would be in the SIO Library's best interest for its budget to be

³⁷Voigt, Interviewed by Tuchmyer, March 11, 1981, transcript, UCLA Oral History Program, donated tape, UCLA Special Collections, Box 2113, University of California, Los Angeles.

³⁸Melvin J. Voigt, "Case Study of the California Experience in Library Collection Building" (San Diego, CA: Institute on Acquisitions Procedures in Academic Libraries, University of California Library, 1969), 2.

³⁹See the bibliographic essay on primary sources at the end of these paper for an explanation of these projects.

separate from the general library budget because of the specialized nature of its collection and because it was at a different stage of development than the University Library.⁴⁰ SIO Director Revelle allowed Holleman to send out the memorandum, although it was his experience that "... the SIO library will do better budgetarily (sic) if it is included in the campus budget."⁴¹

Responses from the faculty varied, although the majority supported Holleman. This can be seen as another example of Scripps resentment of outside authority. The following was a typical response:

A person within reach whose job is to satisfy only those needs [the staff's] is obviously much more responsive to the needs of a scientific staff than some whose duties include responding to the needs of numerous and diverse interests The only way a librarian can respond quickly is if he has direct control of his budget. Lord knows this University doesn't need any more "channels" and red tape.⁴²

Others feared that the smaller needs of the smaller entity would always be sacrificed for those of the larger.

Another staff member responded to Holleman's memo:

Financing a new library is a difficult and expensive job and since librarians never have as much money as they would like or think they need, it would require a librarian who is also a saint, not to build the acquisition of the new library at the expense of maintaining the SIO library.⁴³

There was a measure of resentment of University Librarian Voigt on the part of some staff members for that very reason. They could not understand why the new university library should take precedence over the SIO Library in acquisitions, staffing and building priorities.

⁴⁰Holleman to SIO Faculty, September 12, 1960, Library, 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁴¹Revelle to Holleman, September 15, 1960.

⁴²Art Kelly to Holleman, Undated, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁴³John A. Knauss to Holleman, October 24, 1960, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

Several responses echoed that of Roger Revelle. They pointed out that even with consolidation, there would probably be a firm amount within the general budget allocated to the SIO Library which would be based upon past, current and estimated future needs. Pointing to the growing libraries of the medical schools at Berkeley and UCLA, they questioned whether the SIO allotment would necessarily shrink.⁴⁴

A headless library

No direct evidence could be located, such as a letter of resignation, to support the notion that Holleman resigned under any kind of pressure in February 1961. Several terse memos announcing the resignation, effective February 28, 1961, and instructing that all matters previously referred to Holleman be directed to the University Librarian were the only pieces of evidence of the event. However, Holleman did not have a position waiting for him when he quit. He did not obtain employment until July of that year, when he took a position at the University of Southern California Library School.⁴⁵

Whatever his reasons, Holleman's resignation left the SIO Library without a head librarian. It occurred at a most inopportune time for those who hoped Scripps Library would maintain some measure of autonomy. Thus, communication between the SIO faculty and the Library suffered as a consequence. This was never more apparent than in an exchange of letters

⁴⁴Denis Fox to Holleman, September 26, 1960, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁴⁵San Diego Union, July 16, 1961, 20. It must be recognized that official records of an institution probably have a bias toward those employees that remain until retirement. It is harder to collect the papers of people who have left under unusual circumstances.

between Acting SIO Director F.W. Spiess and Voigt in 1962.

Spiess wrote of the concern he shared with other SIO staff members about the future of the Scripps Library.

It is clear that at a future date some of the material now housed in the existing library building will be removed to the upper campus leaving behind a collection to support the Institution and other related groups located on the lower campus. The detailed decisions as to which volumes are to remain will entail considerable clerical work at the least and must be coupled with a clear knowledge of the items which will be required to support our work.⁴⁶

He, then, suggested that a new SIO librarian be appointed who would remain after the move had been completed and that a card file be maintained of the actual volumes which were to remain on the lower campus.

Voigt replied:

Before commenting on your suggestions I might state that I was amazed when I arrived here, at the weakness and spottiness of the SIO collection. Serial files, the heart of any scientific collection, were less complete than any library I have ever come upon. The cause of this must be as much lack of concern for the collection on the part of the faculty as the fault of the library staff.⁴⁷

He described the steps taken to improve the situation including an increase for the SIO book fund of thirty-nine percent and plans for a map and chart collection which included allocation for more staffing and space. He also told Spiess that his two suggestions had been in practice from the beginning. George Vdovin had been appointed to the staff with the understanding that he would be the SIO Librarian when the Central Library moved to the upper campus. The plan to maintain the integrity of the SIO collection had been worked out with Director Reville and the Library Committee. Plans also included several services which would improve availability and reduce duplication. Graduate School of Science and Engineering Library holdings would be

⁴⁶F.W. Spiess to Voigt, April 23, 1962, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁴⁷Voigt to Spiess, April 25, 1962, p.1, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

included in the SIO catalog.⁴⁸

Revelle's absences during this period also contributed to the deterioration of communications. In September 1960, Melvin Voigt and Roger Revelle worked out a tentative program for the development of the UCSD University Library for the next fifteen years, according to a letter written by Voigt.⁴⁹ Revelle, as SIO Director, knew about and approved of Voigt's plans for expansion of the library, but how much did he communicate to the rest of his staff? This is a question that needs further investigation.

It is hard to understand how Vdovin could have been SIO Librarian for over a year without the acting SIO director knowing it. This could have occurred for two reasons: one, that the SIO Library ceased to function as a separate entity during this time period or, two, that Vdovin really had not been hired as the SIO Librarian. Records prior to Spiess's letter show only that he was hired as the Head of Public Services and University Library organization charts always referred to him as such. Vdovin never served a day as the SIO Librarian. Joseph Gantner was hired in 1963 for that position.

On the other hand, Voigt was justified in his assessment of serial holdings at the SIO Library. The serials collection contained one thousand titles which had not been recataloged to the Library of Congress classification scheme. Additionally there were about three hundred titles which had not been cataloged at all.⁵⁰

It is true that the SIO Library acquisitions budgets did not increase while the University

⁴⁸ Ibid., 2-3. The practice of representing S&E holdings in the SIO catalog continued until the implementation of UCSD's automated catalog this year. The system has recently been christened "Roger" to honor, of course, Roger Revelle.

⁴⁹ Voigt to J.R. Blanchard, September 21, 1960, Archives Series 743 rec, UA.

⁵⁰ Voigt, "Reprocessing of SIO Serials, August 9, 1963," Archives Series 743 rec, UA.

Library was housed under the SIO Library's roof. However, neither had earlier book budgets increased substantially between 1950 and 1956. The growth rate during this period was about 1,200 volumes per year. From that slow start at the beginning of the 1960s, the rate of collection growth increased to 5,800 volumes per year by 1969/70.⁵¹ Holleman's fears for the SIO Library did not materialize. Voigt recognized the special library needs of an institution like Scripps.⁵² He wrote to President Kerr in 1963:

The SIO Library has not had a book budget increase in two years and is falling behind a rapidly expanding field. While the University points with pride at this Library as its specialized collection in oceanography and marine biology, both UCLA and UCB are now buying more material in these fields than the SIO Library can with its limited funds.⁵³

Staffing issues

Though there was no increase in personnel until after the main library moved out, Voigt planned to leave five or six persons at the SIO Library, all of whom would be engaged in public service activities. SIO cataloging and acquisitions would be done in centralized departments at the main library. Library organization charts done while Scripps was the only library for the

⁵¹William Goff, " A Brief History of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library, August 1975," Library: Histories, 1946-1977, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁵²Voigt came from a special library background having worked at General Mills indexing their laboratory notebooks.

⁵³Voigt to Kerr, October 9, 1963, Archives Series 743 rec, UA.

new university do not make any differentiation between SIO and University Library staff.⁵⁴

Staffing and acquisitions were not the only resources effected by development of the new university library. The SIO Library building was hardly sufficient for SIO's own collection. Though delayed by the need for physical facilities for the new main library and its other branches, backing would eventually be forthcoming for a new SIO Library building.

Physical facilities

The Library-Museum Building served as the SIO Library for sixty years, undergoing several remodeling jobs during that time. In 1951, the library occupied the entire building, but by 1960, the pressure of acquisitions for the new university library caused large amounts of the collection to be put in storage. A final remodeling job was completed after the main library collection was removed. Voigt estimated that the SIO Library's capacity, at 65,000 books and 60 seats, would be adequate until about 1968. In a 1962 memorandum, Voigt stated:

Without the reader space, students will not be able to use the library. 40% of the SIO Library is now in storage. Space will be available to bring these books back to the library and thus to make them accessible to users when the remodelling is completed Without this equipment, all research will be hampered and in some cases will become impossible. With the expansion of the SIO Campus ... these library facilities are essential.⁵⁵

Discussions were already under way for a new SIO library building and its organization. In 1966, Voigt predicted that over 60% of SIO books would be in storage by 1971. Noting the difficulty this would cause for operation of the library, he stressed the importance of

⁵⁴Herbert York, "FTE and Budget for Professional Librarians, July 10, 1962" Series Archives Series 743 rec, UA.

⁵⁵Melvin J. Voigt, "Minor Capital Improvement Request, 1963/64, March 12, 1962", UCSD Archive Series 743 rec, U.A.

completing the new facility by 1971 in a letter to Chancellor Galbraith.⁵⁶ Minutes of the Library Committee meetings began to discuss delays in planning and allocation of resources for the new building. However, a new building for the SIO Library had to be a lower campus-wide priority. On the upper UCSD campus, the numerous buildings under construction at this time included the Biomedical Library and the Central University Library.⁵⁷

Special service

Lack of adequate personnel and space both caused problems in service by restricting access to materials. Insufficient staffing meant the library could not be kept open for the long hours researchers require. The solution of issuing keys to research staff and graduate students was not satisfactory for library security. Low staffing levels and the informal environment allowed a reading room-like atmosphere to prevail with regard to circulation procedures. Mention has already been made about the struggle to control unrestricted borrowing. Messages requesting that the faculty return all library materials they were not using appear frequently in Library Committee correspondence.

Since the installation of locks in the SIO library building in the late 1930s, keys had been issued to Scripps research staff and graduate students. Holleman issued keys to outside

⁵⁶Voigt to Galbraith, January 31, 1966. Library Committee Files, Office of the Department Head, SIO library, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla.

⁵⁷As noted on the time-line of events real planning and completion of construction did not occur until 1973 and 1976 respectively.

authors and researchers at the behest of Director Revelle.⁵⁸ The tightening of this policy occurred gradually. Voigt attempted to clarify it in a letter to the Library Committee in 1961. Keys to the Reading Room would issued to any graduate student, faculty or staff member. Graduate students would not be eligible for stacks keys until the completion of their qualifying examinations.⁵⁹ In June of 1964, the locks of the SIO Library were changed and all keys returned. At the same time hours of operation expanded to nights and week ends.⁶⁰ SIO researchers traded their keys for hours.

Scripps' services followed a development pattern similar to many early special libraries. The research staff gradually accumulated books and journals. A staff member would supervise the collection until it became too large and its organization too chaotic; at which time, a full-time, though not necessarily professional, librarian would be employed. Special libraries tended to acquire more diverse types of materials, such as maps, charts, laboratory reports and preprints, and to offer more services than other kinds of libraries. Kruzas observed that early special libraries were characterized by "simultaneously neglecting and extending the standard library practices of their time."⁶¹ The provision of reference services to a specific clientele was the principal function of a special library.

The task for SIO Librarians after 1963, was to attempt to restore SIO's special library

⁵⁸Holleman to Laurence C. Powell, December 17, 1956, Library 1956, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁵⁹Voigt to Library Committee, March 10, 1961, Archives Series 743 rec, UA.

⁶⁰Voigt to Mr. Hutchison, June 23, 1964, Library 1959-1972, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁶¹Anthony Thomas Kruzas, Business and Industrial Libraries in the United States, 1820-1940 (New York: Special Libraries Association, 1965): 87; quoted in F.W. Lancaster and Linda C. Smith, "Science, Scholarship and the Communication of Knowledge," Library Trends 27 (Winter 1978): 374.

atmosphere, while taking advantage of the resources offered within the organized and controlled environment typical of an academic library. Most special library collections related strictly to the parent organization's research needs and depended heavily on interlibrary loan.⁶² Free access to a well-developed general collection nearby was part of the bargain SIO received with the creation of UCSD.

Support was forthcoming from the University Library administration. Voigt wrote in 1962, "What we want to do here is to restore, as quickly as we can, the real special kind of service which was provided here in the past and which is needed in this kind of a research organization."⁶³ Scripps service still differs from the other branch libraries in the system. A full-time staff person maintains gifts and exchanges. Circulation policies, such as open reserves and overnight borrowing of journals, remain distinct from the other branch libraries.⁶⁴

Conclusion

Writing in 1966, Munk wondered if the handful of people at Scripps who worked so hard to make the new campus a reality did the right thing. His answer follows:

Speaking as a Scripps member, I think the answer is definitely "yes," for we were too isolated from developments in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer

⁶²Lancaster and Smith, 374.

⁶³Voigt to Theodore Gould, September 7, 1962, Archives Series 743, UA.

⁶⁴In 1965, SIO Librarian Gantner was reluctant to agree to a new stricter journal circulation policy even though it was pointed out to him that demand would fall on the branch with the most lenient policy. Library Dept. Heads Meetings Minutes, September 16, 1965, Archives Accession A1987.44 rec, UA.

Technology, etc., to participate adequately in the revolutionary developments that were taking place all around us. Though we were the best oceanographic institute in the country, we were not very good and by now would have been less good still if the splendid new departments on the new campus had not come about. In some other ways the atmosphere has deteriorated: from the gobbledygook of bureaucracy that sneaks in with large organizations, from the brutality of land development But these were irritants. All in all I have no doubt that we did the right thing for Scripps (and I hope the University) to help bring the general campus here.⁶⁵

The SIO faculty understood the advantages to be gained by the presence of a research library within easy reach. Complaints about short term problems and inconveniences made it appear as though some did not appreciate the possibilities they had set in motion by founding a university. A lack of communication exacerbated the problems.

In the long run, the university library gave Scripps access to a basic science collection that it could not have accumulated with its own funds. It could, thus, concentrate on acquiring oceanographic science materials. By being part of larger library, the SIO Library gained access to more personnel and to a larger book budget. While some local autonomy was lost to the university library in the form of centralized processing and inclusion in the general library budget, SIO librarians also gained a measure of independence from the Scripps administration.

The story of the SIO Library after the establishment of UCSD does not end in 1966. A logical transition point occurs ten years later with the completion of the new SIO library building. The new building resolved many problems in terms of space for people and collections. The return of technical services to SIO Library in 1973, after ten years of centralization is another story that needs to be studied to complete the picture of the SIO Library today.

There are many other questions to be answered. They include the recruitment of the first professional librarian, W. Roy Holleman; the circumstances of his resignation; the periodic efforts to make the SIO Library an information center for the institution; and the

⁶⁵ Munk, 2.

development of computerized processing for report literature. More precise budgetary information might help to clarify the relationship between growing financial support for Scripps institution and the funds allocated to the library during the time period under study. Another question of interest is whether there was separate Library Committee for SIO during the period from 1960-1964.

The effects of becoming part of the new university library system could be felt throughout SIO Library's operations. Collection development, physical facilities and personnel and service policies as well as the library's funding structure underwent changes during the period from 1960 to 1964. After the trauma of giving birth to the new library system, a new relationship with Scripps Institution and its staff had to be forged. SIO Librarians have had to work to rebuild trust by showing the Scripps faculty that SIO Librarians could be advocates for the Institution's information needs even though they report to the University Librarian.

Major Events in the History of SIO and UCSD Libraries

- 1903 Marine Biological Institution of San Diego founded; William Ritter, Director 1903-1923.
- 1905 Institution moved to present site in La Jolla; Professor Harry Beal Torrey assumed responsibility of the library.
- 1912 MBI became part of the University of California and its name changed to Scripps Institution for Biological Research; Total vols. numbered about 500.
- 1913 Dr. S. Stillman Berry of Stanford University appointed librarian.
- 1916 Library-Museum building completed; Collection size totaled 5,300 vols.
- 1924 T. Wayland Vaughan, Director 1924-1936; Tillie Genter served as librarian.
- 1925 UC, Regents changed the name to Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Vols. in the library totaled almost 10,000.
- 1936 Harald Sverdrup became SIO Director, serving until 1948; Assistant secretary Ruth Ragan acting librarian; Collection reached 16,000 vols.
- 1949 Carl Eckart, Director 1948-1950, and Ruth Ragan developed the library's first collection development policy; Ragan retired.
- 1950 Roger Revelle named Acting Director; SIO first professional, head librarian, W. Roy Holleman appointed; Collection holdings reached 25,000, the maximum capacity of allotted library space.
- 1951 Dr. Roger Revelle named Director of SIO, serving until 1964.
- 1956 UC Regents authorized an expanded graduate program, establishing the School of Science and Engineering.
- 1960 Regents approved the creation of The University of California, San Diego; Melvin J. Voigt named the first University Librarian of the UCSD Library; SIO Library collection of 35,500 vols. served as base for the new library.
- 1961 Fred N. Spiess served as Acting Director, 1961-1963 and as Director, 1964-1965; W. Roy Holleman resigned; "New Campuses Program" began on the UCSD campus; The computerized serials record program began.
- 1963 First buildings on the present UCSD campus opened; Central Library moved to Urey Hall on the main campus; SIO Library became a branch of the University Libraries; All technical processing centralized; Joseph Gantner selected as the Head of SIO Library.
- 1964 "New Campuses Program" completed; Normal business hours established at SIO Library after locks changed and all library keys returned.
- 1965 William A. Nierenberg began tenure as Director.
- 1966 Current Head of the SIO Library, William J. Goff, appointed; Total volumes in
- 1968 University Libraries totaled 500,000 volumes.
- 1970 SIO Library holdings reached 83,200. The Central University Library completed.
- 1973 Millionth vol added to the University Libraries; Planning began for the new SIO Library building; Technical services including cataloging returned to SIO Library.
- 1974 SIO Library contained 105,000 vols; over 50% of which housed in storage.
- 1976 New SIO Library completed; Millicent D. Abell appointed University Librarian.⁶⁶

⁶⁶Based on the timeline in The Responsibility of the University Library Collection in Meeting the Needs of its Campus and Local Community: a Symposium in Honor of Melvin J. Voigt upon his Retirement as University Librarian of the

Combined Acquisition & Cataloging Staffs (1960)⁶⁷

	Total (FTE)	Prof. (FTE)	Non-Prof. (FTE)
Scripps Institution of Oceanography	4.5	2.0	2.5
UCLJ (School of Science & Engineering)	2.0	1.0	1.0
Riverside	13.5	5.0	8.5
Santa Barbara	13.0	5.5	7.5
UCLJ (Requested 1961-62, School of Science & Engineering)	11.0	4.0	7.0

Table I

University of California, San Diego, Friday, September 17, 1976 (La Jolla, CA: Friends of the UCSD Library, [1977]), 50-51. Additional information obtained from Library Histories, 1916-1977, SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

⁶⁷Holleman to Chairman of the Budget Committee and Library Committee, "Library Budgets for Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the School of Science & Engineering, March 18, 1960," SIO Subject Files AC6, SA.

Summary of Book Collection Development⁶⁸

	Vols.in Library 7/1/61	Vols.added 1961/62- 1965/66	Vols.in Library 6/30/66	Vols.added 1961/62- 1970/71	Total Vols. in Library 6/30/71
Scripps Institution of Oceanography	33,000	27,000	60,000	52,000	85,000
School of Science an Engineering	8,500	81,500	90,000	141,500	150,000
General Collection	5,000	105,000	110,000	295,000	300,000
Medical School	-----	-----	-----	80,000	80,000

Table II

⁶⁸"Plan for the development of the University Library, University of California, San Diego, 1961/62-1970/71," Draft, Archives Series 743 rec, AU.

Bibliographic essay on primary sources ⁶⁹

The majority of primary sources for the study of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography library are housed in the SIO Archives and the UCSD University Archives. A considerable body of records has not been transferred to either of the above-mentioned archives and can still be found in various library and university offices, departments and personal files. The SIO and UCSD archivists have only been gathering records and personal papers of retired faculty in a systematic fashion since 1980 and 1986 respectively. Previous collection occurred in a random manner.⁷⁰ Several key players in the development of the SIO Library during the period studied have not yet deposited their personal papers in any archive.⁷¹

Additional sources can be found at other archives in the University of California system. The University of California archives at Berkeley, contains the official administrative records of the Office of the President of the University of California. For the purposes of this paper, the researcher consulted only the first two archives in any detail. She also reviewed an oral history of Melvin J. Voigt housed in the Special Collections Department at the University Research Library, UCLA.

At the SIO archives, the main file examined for this research paper was the SIO Subject files, records, 1903-1981, Archival Collection-AC 6, box 11 of 28. The documents found

⁶⁹The author would like to thank Bill Goff, Head, SIO Library, Deborah Day, SIO Archivist, and Geoffrey Wexler, University Archivist, and their respective staffs for their helpful suggestions and support of this research project.

⁷⁰Helen Raitt found the bulk of the records contained in the SIO Subject Files stored in boxes in the basement of the old SIO Library. It also served as the basis for her history of the first fifty years at SIO.

⁷¹These include Melvin J. Voigt, first University Librarian at UCSD, 1960-1976, Fred Noel Spiess, Acting SIO Director, 1961-1964.

