THE MILLION-DOLLAR enlarged and re-
modeled Russell Library building of
Northwestern State College of Louisiana,
at Natchitoches, was formally opened on
November 1, 1957. The ceremonies, at
which W. Porter Kellam, director of li-
braries, University of Georgia, delivered
the main address, climaxed a ten-year
campaign to secure modern and ade-
quate library facilities for the College.

The three-story brick structure, built
in 1936, originally was shaped like the
letter T, with the three reading rooms
in the cross-bar, and the four-tier book-
stacks in the somewhat shortened stem.
In order to make possible the conversion
of the building from the traditional type
to an open-shelf, divisional arrangement,
a two-story addition was constructed in
the form of a squared U around the sides
and rear of the bookstacks. Thus the
non-convertible stacks, which had previ-
ously extended out at the rear of the
building and had thereby been separated
from the reading areas, now became the
core of the building, their central po-
tion providing easily accessible book-
storage space.

The new portion of the building con-
tains two group-study rooms, a student
typing room, two listening cubicles, the
reference office, and the librarian's office.
Except for these rooms and the stair well
and rest rooms, the new portion of the
building is partitionless. The large open
areas thus provided on each floor are set
up as subject division areas—social

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sciences and education on the first floor,
and humanities and natural sciences on
the second floor. All four division areas
are filled with ranges of free-standing
double-faced shelves, so placed as to
provide numerous open spaces among
the ranges. Each such open space con-
tains one or two reading tables with
chairs; thus books in all the various sub-
ject fields are readily available, while at
the same time the students are afforded
a considerable amount of privacy. In-
dividual carrel desks are available, both
in the divisional areas and in the book-
stacks, for graduate students and faculty
members who are engaged in research.
Included in the educational division are
a curriculum laboratory, a textbook col-
collection, and a juvenile collection.

The less frequently used materials in
each subject field are shelved in that por-
tion of the central bookstacks immediate-
ly adjacent to the appropriate divisional
areas. There is no reserve book room;
reserve books are kept in their regular
classified order on the open shelves. The
fourth level of the stacks houses the
depository collection of United States
documents, while the second level
(which lies between the two main floors
of the building) contains the depository
collection of Louisiana state documents
as well as other Louisiana materials.

With the exception of a small audi-
torium at one end, in the original struc-
ture, all of that part of the first floor that
extends across the front of the building
was divided into a series of offices and
classrooms. Removal of the numerous
partitions was not feasible; so these
smaller rooms have for the most part been retained, but have been converted to new uses: a shipping room; a microfilm and microcard reading room; a microfilming laboratory, complete with dark-room; a conference room; a library science classroom, with adjoining office; a staff room; and a North Louisiana archives room. The second floor rooms which previously served as the periodical reading room and the browsing room have been combined into a single, large technical processes room; a private office for the circulation staff has been provided at the side of the charging desk; the former reference room now houses the card catalog, the office of the head of reader services, and a recreational reading area adjoining the humanities division. The third floor, comprising four seminar rooms and a large classroom, remains unchanged. In addition to the rooms and areas already enumerated, there are several large storage closets on each floor, quarters for the janitor, and a machinery room.

Two of the most important features of the building are the lighting and the air-conditioning systems. The fluorescent light fixtures, which are recessed into the ceiling, are placed end-to-end in strips running across the entire width of the building, the strips being three feet apart on centers; the illumination provided is evenly distributed and shadowless, with an intensity of approximately eighty foot-candles at table top level. The entire first and second floors have been air conditioned. A hydraulic elevator has been installed also.

The building is of modified Tudor architecture, with exterior walls of red brick in blended shades. The interior walls are painted in pastel hues of blue and green; the stair-wells and first floor corridors are enlivened with touches of orange. The concrete floors are covered with asphalt tile, which is so designed as to resemble cork. The old portion of the building and the new have been so completely integrated that it is now difficult to distinguish between the two.

The library furniture and the filing cabinets were supplied by Remington Rand, the free-standing steel stacks and the carrel desks by Estey, and the office furniture by Security.

William H. Jesse, director of libraries, University of Tennessee, assisted with the preliminary plans. Edmon Low, librarian, Oklahoma State University, served as official library consultant throughout the planning and construction stages. E. P. Dobson, of Houston, Texas, was the architect.

Under One Roof
(Continued from page 201)

Equipment contractors

Stacks: Estey Metal Products.
Library furniture: Loan and reference desks, catalogs, tables.
LC shelving: Twombly Associates (Myrtle Desk Company).
Lounge and occasional chairs: International Hotel Supply Company

and New England Contract Furnishings, both Boston, Massachusetts.

Steel furniture: All-Steel Equipment.
Curtains: Edwin Raphael Company; Margeson's, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Picture racks: Nevlen Company, Wakefield, Massachusetts.

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