



CHRONOLOGY OF THE DARTMOUTH LIBRARY

The Librarians of Dartmouth College:

Bezaleel Woodward, 1773 - 1777
John Smith, 1779 - 1809
Roswell Shurtleff, 1810-1820
John Aikin, 1820-1822
Timothy Farrar, 1822-1826
Charles Bricket Haddock, 1826-1850
Oliver Payson Hubbard, 1851-1865
Charles A. Aiken, 1865-1866
Edwin David Sanborn, 1866-1874
Clarence Scott, 1874-1878
Louis Pollens, 1878-1886
Marvin Davis Bisbee, 1886-1910
Nathaniel Goodrich, 1911-1950
Richard Morin, 1950-1968
Edward Lathem, 1968 - 1978
Virginia Whitney (acting), 1978 - 1979
Margaret Otto, 1979
Richard Lucier, 2001 – 2004

DEANS of DARTMOUTH COLLEGE LIBRARY

Jeffrey L. Horrell, 2005 - 2016
Susanne Mehrer, 2016 -

1770 - Eleazar Wheelock brings his library to Hanover, mostly religious tracts, Bibles, and primers, approximately 300 volumes he had assembled, or received as donations from supporters in England and Scotland, for his work in Moors Indian Charity School.

1773 - The library is housed at Bezaleel Woodward's house, and he is appointed librarian.

1774 - While visiting for Commencement, Jeremy Belknap records in his diary: "The College Library is kept at Mr. Woodward's. It is not large, but there are some very good books in it."

1777 - The library is moved to a College building

1779 - John Smith appointed librarian. Use of the library restricted to officers and students of the College, and resident graduates.

1783 - Library relocated to Pres. Wheelock's house

Society of Social Friends founded

1786 - United Fraternity founded

The two literary societies maintained their own libraries, volumes of more practical use than the College library, and with significantly more availability to undergraduate members. For many years, the literary societies' libraries would be the primary source of books for students and faculty alike.

1796 - "For the purpose of taking books out of the Library, the Seniors may attend from one to two o'clock on the first, and every alternate Monday in term time...the Juniors, at the same time of day, on the Tuesdays of the same weeks-- the Sophomores, at the same time of day, on the Monday and Freshman on the Tuesday of the intervening weeks -- provided not more than five be in the Library chamber at a time, and that no one remove a book from its place, but by consent of the Librarian." (*from regulations of the College*)

1791 - Dartmouth Hall completed. Middle room of the first floor set aside for the Library

1802 - The collection numbers approximately 3,000 volumes, many of which are duplicates and of little practical use to the students and faculty. Library hours very restricted: 1 hour per class every other week. No more than 5 students could be in the library at one time, and no one was permitted to take a book down from the shelves without permission of the librarian. Use fee of \$1.50 per year assessed from each student, 1/4 of which went to the librarian. Circulation was limited to 1 volume at a time for freshmen, two for sophomores and juniors, and three for seniors.

1809 - The first printed catalog of the Dartmouth College library is printed.

1817 - In the middle of the difficulties between the State of New Hampshire and the College, the literary societies decide to move their libraries, each numbering about 2,000 volumes, from their location in a building now held by the University, to rooms under Society control. In attempting to seize the books before they could be removed, officers and agents of the University broke into the Society library

and are set upon by a group of students defending their property. The University forces realized they were outnumbered and withdrew. Ultimately, both sides pressed charges, both students and University faculty were arrested, but an agreement was reached before the matter came to trial. Rufus Choate was among the students involved in the "riot".

1840 - Reed Hall completed and the library is moved there.

1852 - George Shattuck gives \$2,000 and Roswell Shurtleff gives \$1,000 for the acquisition of books for the College library, both with the stipulation that no undergraduate be allowed to withdraw books purchased from the funds.

1859 - In the librarian's report to the President, Oliver Hubbard states that the library has been closed to students all term, except on special order of a professor. Hubbard believed that giving free access to undergraduates was unworkable. He recommended keeping the library closed for another term in order that the librarian might be undisturbed to classify recent acquisitions.
(Needless to say, much student use of the literary society libraries was made.)

1860 - The College Library holds approximately 15,000 volumes (the combined libraries of the societies, Medical School, and the College Library is about 35,000.).

1864 - The library is open one and a half hours a day; funding for a newspapers and periodical room is approved by the Trustees

1870 - Serving as librarian, Edwin Sanborn notes with disapproval that the library contains no books on American literature; none authored by Cooper, Hawthorn, Emerson, Irving, etc; nothing illustrative of College history, and states that it is high time something be done to rescue the history of the College from oblivion. He recommends an annual appropriation of \$1,000 for the purchase of books.

1874 - The literary societies agree to combine their libraries with the College library under one administrative head. In return, the Trustees approve the appointment of a full-time librarian; library hours are to be several hours a day; a certain amount of money to be set aside for purchase of books in part selected by the undergraduates; a uniform library use fee (\$6.00) to be collected from all students to constitute a fund for maintaining the reading room. This agreement remained in place until 1904 when the societies disbanded and full title to their libraries was transferred to the College.

1877 - The combined libraries number 54,600 volumes

1885 - Wilson Hall is completed, the first building on campus constructed specifically to house the College Library and large enough to accommodate 150,000 volumes; the collection stands at 60,000 volumes. The cost is \$67,000. The shelving arrives barely in time for the Commencement opening, so the student body pulls together and moves the library's holding in 3 days.

1911- Due to a number of gifts during the latter part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th, by 1911, the Library has an endowment of \$100,000

1920's - With an enrollment of about 2000, Dartmouth finds its library's resources and building sadly deficient. Rival institutions joke that Dartmouth is the only college among its peers that has a larger gymnasium than it does a library. However, by the end of the 1920's, with major gifts from 2 different donors (George Baker and Edwin W. Sanborn), Dartmouth in 1928 has one of the best endowed and well- housed research libraries in the country.

Reclassification from the Old Dartmouth system to Dewey Decimal begins.

1928 - Baker Library opens.

Designed by Jens Frederick Larson, the building is funded by a gift of George Fisher Baker who asks that the library be named in memory of his uncle, Fisher Ames Baker, Class of 1859. The collection numbers 240,000 bound volumes; the building will accommodate 500,000 volumes.

The move from Wilson Hall, and from storage in the basement of New Hampshire Hall, is accomplished at the rate of 15,000 volumes per day.

1929 - Sanborn Library and Sherman Library open in the newly completed buildings, Sanborn House (housing the English department) and Carpenter Hall (housing the Art History department).

1932-33 - Jose Orozco murals painted in the Reserve Reading Room of Baker Library

1938 - Friends of the Dartmouth College Library established. Their purpose is the acquisition of rare single volumes or collections, manuscripts, etc. anything outside the normal collection scheme for general library funds.

1941 - Merely 13 years after its completion, Baker is expanded with a four- story stack annex. Additional capacity is nearly 500,000 volumes

1952 - Stefansson Collection acquired

1953 - Library holdings stand at 700,000 volumes

1957 - East courtyard of Baker filled to house the bindery and cataloging depts. (current location of Jones Microtext Center)

1958 - West courtyard of Baker filled in for Archives and Rare Book stacks

1961 - Cook Mathematics Library opens

1962 - Paddock Music Library opens
(Expanded in 1986)

1963 - Dana Biomedical Library opened

1970 - The Dartmouth College Library ceremonially adds its 1 millionth volume to the collection: *The Tenth Muse*, by Anne Bradstreet

Northwest courtyard between Baker and Carpenter Hall filled in for Art Library (renamed the Sherman Art Library) and a workroom for Special Collections

1973 - Kresge Physical Science Library opened

1974 - Feldberg Library (business and engineering) opened, combining the Thayer and Tuck libraries under one roof in the new Murdough Center

1986 - The Dartmouth Community for Divestment occupies Baker tower

1992 - John Berry and the Baker family give \$30 million for a new library adjoining Baker

Matthews-Fuller Health Sciences Library opened at the new DHMC

1994 - The Library adds its 2 millionth volume (actually a whole collection: The Sine Collection of British illustrated books). It took the Library 200 years to achieve its first million volumes, and a mere 24 years to double the collection.

1996 - Bruce '78 and Diana Rauner give \$5 million for the renovation of Webster Hall to house Special Collections

1998 - Rauner Special Collections Library opens in Webster Hall (Dec. 15)

2000 - Berry Library opens

2003 - Cook Mathematics collection relocated to Baker-Berry Library. Sanborn Library becomes a reading room under the responsibility of the English department. Unique titles from Sanborn Library relocated to Baker-Berry.

2021 - Kresge Physical Sciences Library and Paddock Music Library collections and services are relocated to Baker-Berry Library from Fairchild Physical Sciences Center and the Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts.