

APRIL 14, 1967

DEAR DR. STENZEL:

A UNIVERSITY IS JUDGED BY MANY STANDARDS AND IN MANY WAYS BY DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS. STANDING AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF ANY STANDARD OF JUDGING A UNIVERSITY IS ITS LIBRARY. A LIBRARY IS NOT ONLY A COLLECTION OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, BUT A PLACE IN WHICH THESE MATERIALS MAY BE UTILIZED. IN JUDGING THE WORTH OF A LIBRARY IN TERMS OF ITS HOLDINGS IT IS NOT THE PHYSICAL NUMBER OF BOOKS, ALTHOUGH THIS DOES MERIT CONSIDERATION, BUT RATHER THE SELECTION OF AND QUALITY RATING OF THE HOLDINGS WHICH RANK A LIBRARY HIGH IN THE RATINGS GIVEN BY EDUCATORS AND SCHOLARS. IN A NUMBER OF AREAS THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STANDS AT THE TOP AMONG SCHOLARS. YET THERE ARE AREAS IN WHICH A GREAT DEAL OF IMPROVEMENT CAN AND SHOULD BE MADE IN OUR HOLDINGS OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMITTEE, MINDFUL OF ITS CHARGE FROM THE FACULTY TO SEEK WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING OUR HOLDINGS, IS NOW SEEKING HELP FROM THE FACULTY MEMBERS IN IMPROVING OUR LIBRARY. LIBRARIANS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIBRARY, BUT THE PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN IS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE ACTUAL RESEARCH AND/OR TEACHING NEEDS. OUR LIBRARIANS HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN HELPING US BECOME AWARE OF MANY NEEDS IN OUR AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING BUT WE, THE FACULTY, OFTEN KNOW OF ITEMS WE NEED TO FILL OUT AN AREA WHICH IS WEAK. THEREFORE, THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE WANTS YOU TO HELP US CATALOGUE OUR AREAS OF STRENGTH AND/OR WEAKNESS. FROM THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM YOU, THE FACULTY, A LONG-RANGE PLAN CAN BE WORKED OUT WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO BUILD TO STRENGTH AND ADD STATURE TO OUR AREAS WHERE NEEDED.

WE ARE ASKING YOU TO GIVE US INFORMATION ON TWO MAJOR AREAS AND, IF YOU DESIRE, ADD ANY COMMENTS WHICH YOU FEEL WILL ENABLE YOUR COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND TO THE ADMINISTRATION SUCH STEPS AS WILL ENHANCE THE PRESTIGE OF OUR LIBRARY. FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR OPINION AS AN INDIVIDUAL FACULTY MEMBER OF THE LIBRARY HOLDINGS IN YOUR FIELD OF SPECIALIZED INTEREST WHICH GIVE YOUR DEPARTMENT PARTICULAR STRENGTH OR SIGNIFICANCE AND WHICH MAKE THE LSU LIBRARY DISTINCTIVE FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH IN YOUR AREA.

SECOND, WE ARE ASKING YOU TO GIVE US SPECIFIC DESIDERATA (ITEMS WHICH WOULD BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT AND IF OBTAINED WOULD ADD CONSIDERABLY TO THE STRENGTH OF LIBRARY HOLDINGS IN YOUR FIELD).

FROM THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE US WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT A PLAN WHICH WILL ENABLE LIBRARY FUNDS TO BE CHanneled INTO THOSE AREAS EXHIBITING NOT ONLY THE GREATEST NEED BUT ALSO THE GREATEST PROMISE FOR ATTRACTING BETTER FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO OUR UNIVERSITY.

IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU BY MAY 1, 1967 WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH THE HOLDINGS IN YOUR AREA. WE WILL THEN PROCEED TO MAKE OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE BASED ON THE EXPRESSED DESIRES AND NEEDS OF THOSE FACULTY MEMBERS FEELING AN URGE TO TELL US OF THEIR HOPES. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE COST OF DESIDERATA FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT -- LET US GET IT IN THE PLAN AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE ABLE TO SECURE SUCH ITEMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SINCERELY,


L. DALE NEWSOM, CHAIRMAN
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY