

1921 - 1940s



Arnold Guebert, c1959-1960.

Arnold Guebert, Head Librarian 1946 -1963

As one of Concordia's most popular instructors, Arnold Guebert unofficially ran the library prior to becoming Concordia's first librarian in 1946. In addition to this work, he also served as acting president from 1959-1960.

Arnold Guebert continued to serve Concordia up until his death on November 24, 1970.

Memories of her Father

I would characterize Dad as a staunch Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Christian ... He worked hard, staying up 'til midnight in his study preparing for classes or sermons. He loved family and led games whenever we were together. - Marjorie Plitt, (Arnold Guebert's daughter).

Library Location: Schwermann Hall



When Concordia moved to its Highlands location in 1926, the library was located in room S208 in the Administration Building, now known as Schwermann Hall.

By 1942, student library fees were officially implemented and the library's collection consisted of 3,890 volumes.

Students often worked in the library and could borrow materials at any time as the library remained open continuously.



Library Moose Head in Administration Building, 1927.

Schwermann Hall Library, c1920s.





New Library in the Old Gym (Founder's Hall), 1955.

1950s

Library Location: Founder's Hall



In 1955, the library was temporarily moved into the basement of the dormitory building, now known as Founder's Hall, where the current cafeteria exists today.

The library spent four years in this location before moving to a purpose-built space on the third floor of what is now known as Guild Hall in 1959.

Student Library Assistants

Concordia students were often hired to work in the library throughout the decades to assist library staff. These student workers offered library services to students, faculty, staff, and the general public.

The hiring of student workers is a tradition that the library has continued to carry out throughout its existence.

Today, you can find Concordia Student Library Assistants working at the Library Service Desk during the evenings and weekends.



Guild Hall Library with Arnold Guebert (Head Librarian) and Student Librarians, c1959.



Edith Lechelt, 1949

Edith Lechelt 1948 -1953

Edith Lechelt was Concordia's first female instructor who also worked as a library assistant from 1948-1953.

Asst. Librarian, Bookstore, Co-ed Counselor, Instructor in: English, Sociology, Typing, Phys. Ed.; Scona High School; Normal School; University of Alberta. At Concordia since 1948.
Address: 7010 Ada Blvd., Edmonton, Alberta.



Guild Hall, April 1962.

1960 - 1970s

Library Location: Guild Hall

In 1959, Guild Hall, previously known as the Science-Library Building, was dedicated. The library occupied the entire third floor of this building and featured ceiling high windows that overlooked the river valley as well as a mezzanine level to house its growing collection.

The library was situated above college administration offices, instructor's offices, and science laboratories.

By 1965, the library housed over 10,000 volumes.

Proper Dress in the Library

Students are expected to be properly dressed in the library during the day, evenings, and during the weekends. Bare feet will not be permitted. Any student presenting himself in the library improperly dressed or without shoes will be asked to leave - 1974 Library Handbook.



Guild Hall Library, c1960s.

Hilda Robinson, Head Librarian 1971-1978

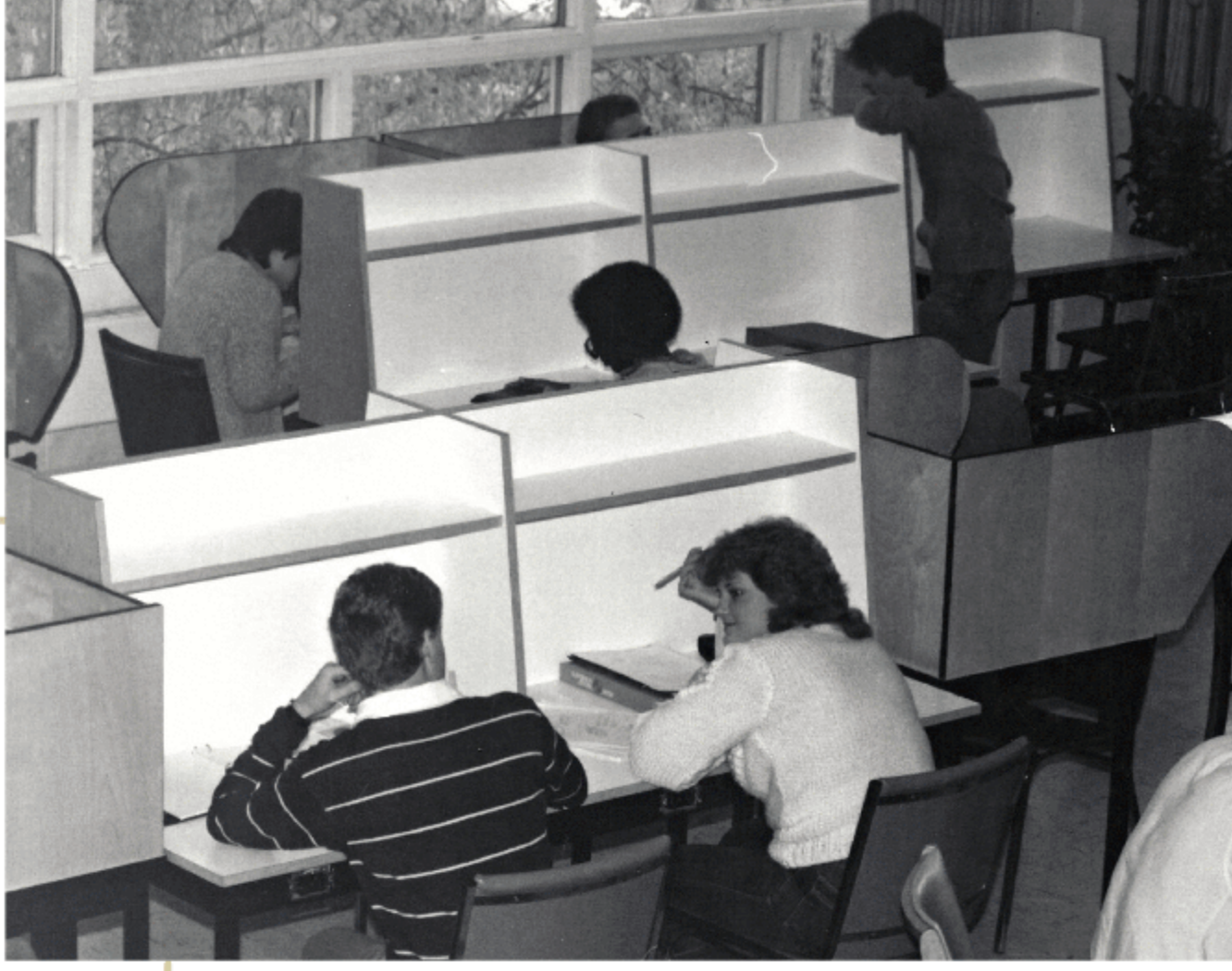
As a head librarian, College's Archivist, and Archivist for the Alberta-British Columbia District of the Lutheran Church-Canada, Hilda Robinson was responsible for preserving Concordia's past.

Her librarian work greatly expanded the library's collection with very little available money.

Hilda Robinson also contributed to the renaming of the Lutheran Historical Institute (LHI) which held Concordia's records until 2015.



Hilda Robinson (Head Librarian), 1973.



Study Hall in Guild Hall Library, c1980s.

1980s

Golden Valley Acquisition

In 1985, Judith Meier, Dean of Academic Affairs, bought the collection of the Minneapolis Golden Valley Lutheran College Library. This acquisition of 31, 000 volumes more than doubled the library's 23, 000 titles.

This increase in library holdings was a major requirement in Concordia's application for degree-granting status.

Due to a lack of space in the Guild Hall location, Concordia installed two portable trailers to hold the Golden Valley addition until their move to Module I in 1988.



Module I, c. 1978-1979.

Library Location: Module I



In 1988, the library moved from its Guild Hall location into the Module I building in order to provide more space for its growing collection of books. Module I's exterior walls are still visible along current library entrance.

Building Professional Partnerships

In 1988, Concordia College signed an agreement with and The Kings College to share library resources.

This agreement with Kings was a precursor to the library's ongoing partnership with the Networking Edmonton's Online Systems (NEOS) Library Consortium.



David Dubois unloading library books, 1985.

Mircea Panciuk (Head Librarian)
at Golden Valley trailer opening, 1985.

Mircea Panciuk, Head Librarian 1978 - 1993



1990s



Library Expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony, May 6th 1994.
Richard Kraemer (Concordia President) far left,
Margaret Russel (Library Director) wearing the brown floral dress,
Mircea Panciuk the far right.

Library Location: Arnold Guebert Library

In 1994, the library saw a \$2.6 million expansion which doubled the library's size. This expansion transformed Module I into the library's current space.

In total, the library building's expansion added 17,000 square feet of space that allowed the library to offer a larger collection that was integrated alongside student study space.

The opening of the Arnold Guebert Library took place on September 6, 1995.

NEOS & the Internet

In 1994, in addition to connecting Concordia to the information super-highway, the library also helped to found the Networking Edmonton's Online Systems (NEOS) Library Consortium.

NEOS was created to maintain a shared online catalogue among Edmonton academic, government and special libraries. This partnership greatly expanded the number of resources that were available to Concordia students, faculty, and staff.

Today, NEOS provides students, faculty, and staff with access to over 3.4 million print items from many other post-secondary and AHS libraries located across northern and central Alberta.

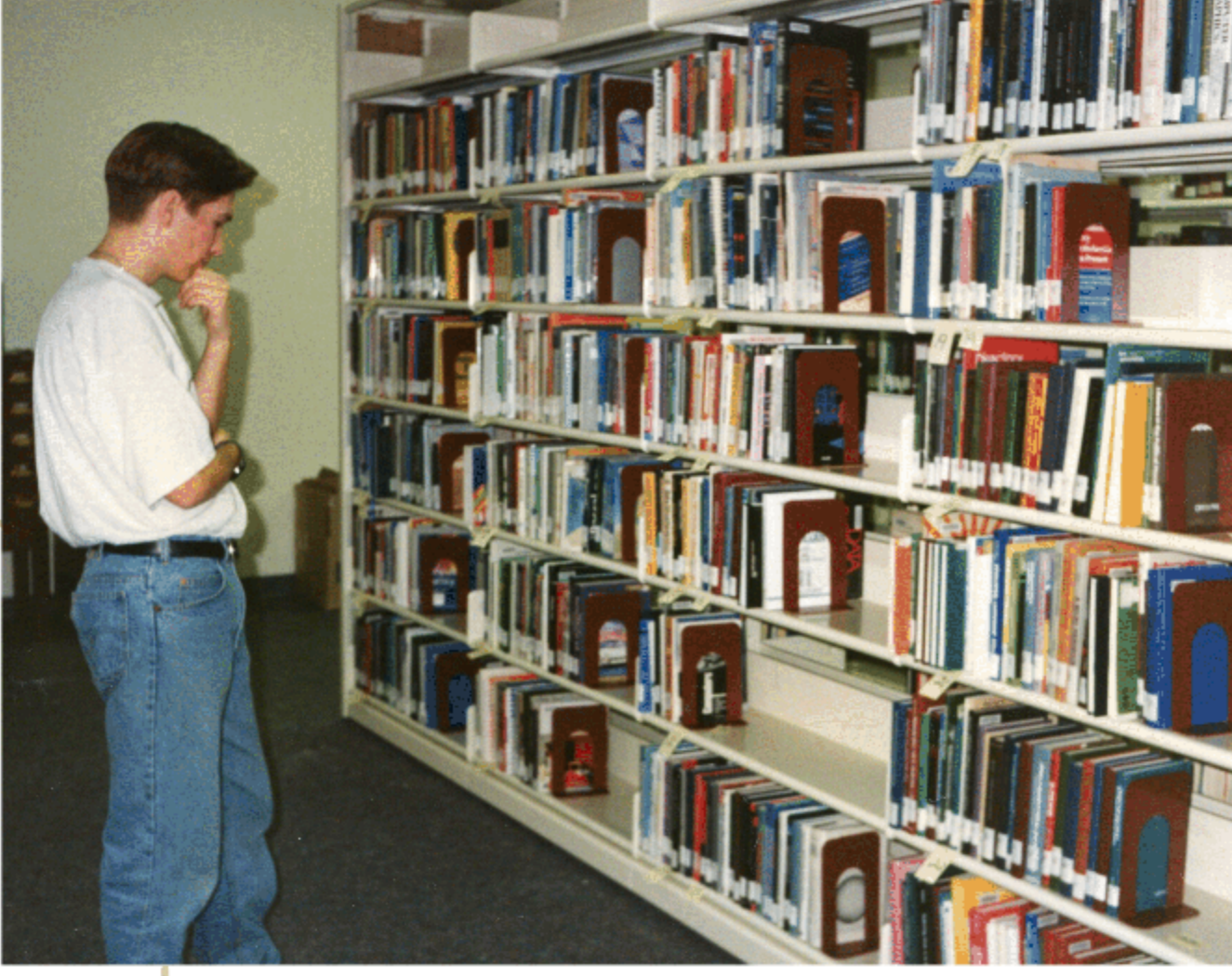


Arnold Guebert Library entrance, c1999.



Library computer stations, c1990s.

1990s



Library stacks, c1990s.

Library study carrels, 1991.

Information Technology Center, 1999.



Library computer stations, c1990s.

Rick Willie and Margaret Russel (Library Director) accepting a donated copy of Rick Willie's PhD thesis, c1990s.



Reclassification of Library Materials

In 1996, library staff began the immense task of transitioning the library's collection away from the Dewey Decimal Classification system to the more academically suited Library of Congress Classification (LCC) system.

Not only did this transition improve the organization of the library's collection but it also improved the shareability of the collection with other NEOS libraries who also used LCC.

The LCC conversion was completed in 2004.

Guild Fundraisers

In 1994, money from Concordia Guild fundraisers purchased a new CD-ROM computer workstation for the library, which allowed students to access electronic documents, periodicals, and encyclopedia information.

In 1995, the Guild also raised over \$36,000 for the library through their annual auction. These funds were put forward to purchase study carrels for the newly expanded library building.

Margaret Russel, Library Director 1993 - 2003

2000s - Present



Main floor, Mezzanine, 3rd floor stacks, 2001.

Expanding Library Partnerships

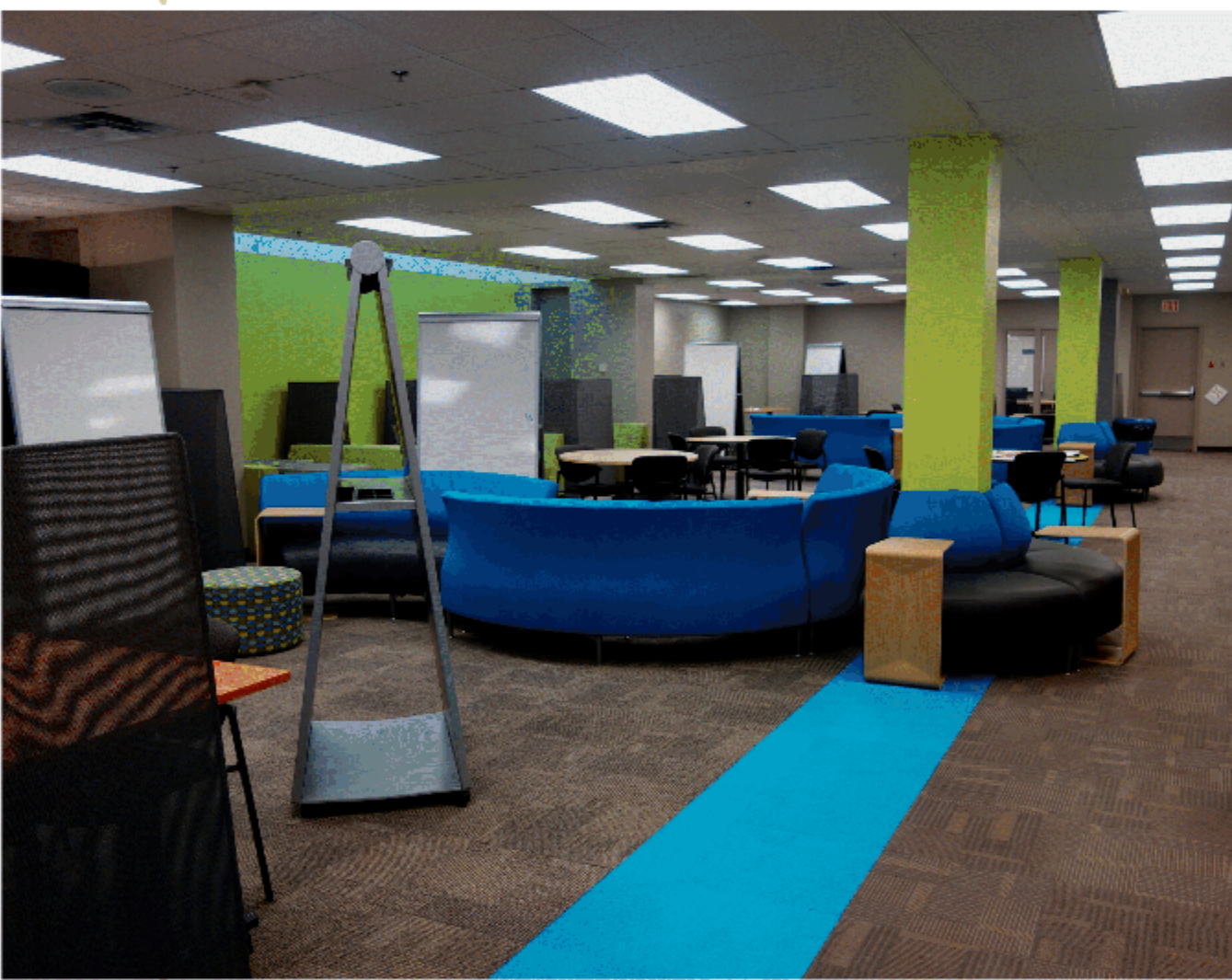
In 2001, the library joined The Alberta Library (TAL): a province-wide library system that was developed in 1997 to address the challenges of new Internet technologies.

In 2002, the library joined the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL), which consists of 22 universities located across Canada.

In 2004, the library joined the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), a national consortium of research libraries committed to equitable and affordable access to online research collections.

In 2013, Concordia partnered with the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) to provide students, faculty and staff with access to EPL's services and resources.

These valuable and longstanding library partnerships continue to connect Concordia with other prominent institutions at municipal, provincial, and national levels.



Library basement renovations and new furniture, 2016.

Dan Mirau (Library Director), 2008.

Dan Mirau, Library Director 2004 - Present

Currently, the library's collection includes over 64,000 print titles, 600,000+ ebooks, hundreds of streaming videos, and millions of online articles for students, faculty and staff to access.

In addition to maintaining these large collections, library staff continue to provide important services that are essential to academic life at Concordia. Such services include research and citation help, in-class library instruction sessions, copyright support, and scholarly publishing advice.



