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The officers recommended that the Foundation appropriate to Oxford University a sum not to exceed \$2,300,000 for the development of the Bodleian and other libraries.

BODLEIAN  
LIBRARY -  
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1. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held May 22, 1929, the officers were authorized to enter into conversations with the authorities of Oxford University looking toward the eventual participation of the Foundation with the University in a program which may involve an appropriation of a substantial sum by the Foundation in case a comprehensive plan is brought forward for the solution of the Bodleian Library problem; and to invite a commission from the University to visit, as guests of the Foundation, some of the leading libraries of the Continent and of the United States and Canada.

2. The group of libraries for which Bodley's Librarian is responsible, under the general control of the Curators, consists of the Bodleian, the Radcliffe Camera, the Radcliffe Science Library in the Parks, the libraries of the Indian Institute and of Rhodes House, the Law Library and the Maitland Library in the Examination Schools.

The Bodleian ranks among the great libraries of the world by the extent of its collections, which at present number roundly 40,000 manuscripts, 8,400 rolls, 15,000 charters, and (if the branch libraries are included) some 1,500,000 printed volumes estimated on a conservative basis. But their quality is more important. For over a century before the British Museum was founded, the Bodleian was the obvious destination of collections given to the nation; and since that time it has had many benefactors. Since 1610 it has had the right to receive most of the significant works in English literature as they appeared. Its collections of manuscripts or rare printed books give it, especially in the fields of history, and English, Classical, and Oriental literatures, not only a national but an international significance.

3. The present character of the Bodleian Library has been determined by the nature of the books it has housed, by the size, qualifications, and residency conditions of the student body which it serves, and by the methods of teaching and study at the University. Oxford has a comparatively small number of students, chosen as a rule on fairly high qualifications. The college libraries are at their disposal. Oxford research is predominately the work of mature scholars many of whom pursue their studies in the intervals of exacting duties. To meet the needs of such scholars is one primary function of the Bodleian. Another is determined

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by its collections of manuscripts and rare books which attract scholars not only from the British Isles but from other countries. In respect to both types of use the demands upon the Bodleian are intensive rather than extensive.

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4. The Bodleian Library was founded by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1598. In his will Sir Thomas provided for more room "because I doe foresee that in proces of time there must of necessitie be very great want of comeyance and stowage for Bookes, by reason of the endless multitude of those that are present there and like hereafter to be continually bought and brought in". For a time the walls, bays, and cupboards provided space. Late in the 18th century the process had begun by which the Bodleian books have engulfed not only the Schools Quadrangle but the Sheldonian basement, the Old Ashmolean basement, the Examination Schools basement, the Radcliffe Camera, the Underground Book Store completed in 1912, and the branch libraries. The dispersion of these stores is not their only inconvenience. None of them was designed for the purpose except the Underground Store, which is far from ideal.
5. On March 4, 1930, upon the invitation of the Foundation, the Congregation of Oxford University appointed a Commission to visit modern university libraries in Europe and America and to report to the University. The Commission consisted of:  
Sir Henry Miers, M.A., D.Sc., Fellow of Magdalen College, Chairman.  
Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, G.B.E., K.C.B., M.A., Hon.D.Litt., Hon.Fellow of New College and Magdalen College.  
Sir Edmund K. Chambers, K.B.E., M.A., Corpus Christi College.  
George N. Clark, M.A., Fellow of Oriel College.  
Henry R.F. Harrod, Student of Christ Church.  
Kenneth Sisam, B.Litt., M.A., Merton College, Secretary.  
The Commission conferred with representatives of the various libraries at Oxford University, informed themselves of the recommendations made by previous Commissions with respect to the problem of the Bodleian Library, invited and studied memoranda from members of the Oxford Congregation, and visited libraries in Europe, the United States, and Canada.
6. Two reports were rendered by the Library Commission, one, a Majority Report signed by all members of the Commission except Mr. Harrod, and the other, a Minority Report signed by Mr. Harrod. Neither report favored the erection of a complete new library for Oxford University. It was the opinion of the Commission that a complete new library would be far more costly than a scheme which would utilize and recondition present buildings. Secondly, while greater compactness might be secured at a new site,

centrality would be lost. Thirdly, a new library would entail the complete abandonment of the Bodleian as a home for living research. The Commission was impressed by the reverence in which the historic Bodleian is held far beyond the borders of Oxford, or of England. The Commission considers the Bodleian still well adapted for its purpose.

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7. The Majority Report recommended that the Bodleian, now crowded with 433,000 volumes, be restored to its original condition as a range of reading rooms providing seats for 250 scholars and direct access to collections definitely limited to 100,000 volumes. This proposed reference library will be five times the size of that in the main reading room of the British Museum. The Report recommends the maintenance of the Underground Store; the relief of the Radcliffe Camera from storage and its continuance as an undergraduate reading room; the enlargement of the Radcliffe (Science) Library; the enlargement of the Taylorian Modern Languages Library; the unification and development of the subsidiary Special Libraries in a new building; and the preparation of a new catalogue for the Bodleian and an improvement in the salaries of its staff.

The problem of storage, by these recommendations, is, for the first time in the history of the University, definitely lifted from the shoulders of the Bodleian. It is recommended that storage be concentrated in a building to be built upon a site on Broad Street, already secured and adjacent to the Bodleian. This building will provide space for 5,000,000 books. This, with the shelving offered at the Bodleian and in other buildings included or proposed in the Commission's recommendations, will provide space for a total of 6,300,000 volumes. If the present rate of increase in the Bodleian continues, the plan will suffice for two centuries; if the rate doubles on the average during that time, for one. In the meantime the Commission proposed that a site be secured at once in order that a repository for little wanted books may be erected when needed. There is, as the Commission points out, no way of knowing by what methods human utterance will be recorded at the end of either period.

8. In the discussions between those representing the Majority and Minority Reports, it became increasingly apparent that the Majority Report contained provisions for the inclusion and experimental trial of features which the Minority considered important. This being made explicit, those favoring the Minority Report yielded, and the Report of the Majority was unanimously adopted by the Congregation of the University on May 26, 1931.

9. The financial implications of the recommendations are as follows:

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<u>Capital Charges</u>		<u>Summary</u>	
Sites		£ 79,000	
Building & Equipment		547,900	
Cataloging		<u>112,500</u>	
	Total		£739,400
<u>Recurring Expenditures</u>			
Increased cost of operation and salaries		£ 12,725	
Capitalized at 5 per cent			<u>254,500</u>
			TOTAL £993,900

10. The officers have recently conferred with the authorities at Oxford University. A total of £140,000 has been secured to date. This includes the definite allocation by the University of three sites of an estimated value of £79,000 and the assumption by the University of the increases expected in the local rates and taxes, which, capitalized at 5 per cent, represent a sum of £46,000. It is hoped that substantial contributions may be secured from the Colleges and by a private appeal to various bodies interested in the University. A public appeal will be launched as soon as there are signs of a restoration of prosperity.

The Chancellor, Lord Grey of Fallodon, and the Vice-Chancellor, Rev. F. H. Dudden, in their formal request of June 19, 1931, have written:

"The University hopes, however, that the Trustees, without waiting for this public appeal to be launched, will be willing to indicate whether they are ready to provide assistance toward the cost of extending the Bodleian Library, and, if so, whether they could suggest the amount which they would be prepared to find."

The officers believe that it is highly important that the present Vice-Chancellor, to whom should be given the principal credit for the successful outcome of the deliberations at Oxford on its library problem and who retires on June 30, 1932, should be allowed to initiate the campaign for the funds required. That campaign, without Foundation assistance, could hardly be undertaken.

The University hopes that the Trustees of the Foundation would be willing to extent their assistance to cover such projects, germane to the proposals of the Commission, as to the extension of the Ashmolean Museum and the establishment of a Mathematical Institute. The officers do not concur and recommend that Foundation assistance be limited to the main features of the proposal as outlined in this presentation.

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In accordance with the desire of the authorities at Oxford University, the officers recommend that the Foundation appropriation be paid in Pounds Sterling. The limit of the suggested Foundation participation represents, in dollars, one half of the estimates accepted by the University on May 26, 1931, at the rate of exchange then current. Under the terms of the suggested resolution, the Foundation's contribution would not be less than fifty per cent nor more than sixty per cent of the total required in Pounds, the ratio depending upon the rates of exchange during the next five-year period, nor more, in any event, than \$2,300,000.

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Whereupon it was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Two million three hundred thousand dollars  
RF 31121 (\$2,300,000) be, and it is hereby, appropriated to OXFORD UNIVERSITY toward the University's Plan substantially as adopted by Congregation on May 26, 1931, (D.R.457) for the development of the Bodleian and other University libraries at Oxford; no payments to be made until the University has received a total of £377,720 in cash and/or collectible pledges from other sources for the same purpose; payments by the Foundation up to the total amount hereby appropriated of \$2,300,000, to be made in English Pounds Sterling at the rate of £60 for every £40 secured in cash from other sources for the same purpose on or before December 31, 1936; it being understood that University guarantees of increased annual maintenance up to a total of £12,725 will be accepted in lieu of cash and/or collectible pledges up to a total of £254,500.