

12/16/36

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Univ Chicago  
microphotography  
36466

It was, on motion,  
RESOLVED that the sum of Twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000),  
RF 36143 or as much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it is  
hereby, appropriated to the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO towards  
the expense of establishing a LABORATORY for LIBRARY  
MICROPHOTOGRAPHY, the fund to be available during the  
period December 1, 1936, to December 31, 1937.

UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO -  
LABORATORY  
FOR LIBRARY  
MICROPHOTOGRAPHY

The following were the considerations presented:

Relation to Program: Humanities: This proposal is within the plan  
for aiding American and foreign libraries in the collection and  
distribution of materials for research workers.

Previous Action: None.

Finances: The expense of establishing the laboratory in a univer-  
sity building adjacent to the Library is estimated at \$24,702 for  
all types of equipment.

The University will carry overhead costs and salaries of staff;  
and from its current budget the Library will provide for initial ex-  
penses above the amount requested of the Foundation.

Future Implications: There is no implication of further support to  
this project.

General Description and Comment: This proposal is recommended by the  
American Library Association and the Joint Committee on Materials  
for Research representing American societies working in the social  
sciences and the humanities. Its purpose is to give scholars in  
( these fields a non-commercial laboratory for producing film copies  
of materials in print or in manuscript.

Microphotography provides the best present method for pre-  
serving copies of the masses of material required by scholars who  
work with rare books, documents, manuscripts, and newspaper files.  
It also enables the librarian serving them to make such material  
accessible. By reducing each page of copy in proper sequence, the  
photographer produces a strip of 16 or 35 millimeter film that can  
be read as easily as print through the use of an enlarging machine  
for desk use or on a wall screen. The cost of film copying is low:  
300,000 pages have been taken at a cost of \$400. It is estimated  
that film copies of a library of a million volumes could be stored  
in five cubic feet of space. Other advantages in using film for

this purpose are ease of bringing large stocks of material to one location for duplication or loan, and preservation of text materials printed only on the perishable wood pulp used for newspapers. The savings from film copying will be reflected in library budgets due to resulting ease in handling and in replacing such contemporary records, as well as in storage.

UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO -  
LABORATORY  
FOR LIBRARY  
MICROPHOTOGRAPHY  
(Continued)

Selection of the University of Chicago as the location of a laboratory for library microphotography is due to three factors. Its librarian is chairman of the Association committee that is establishing this service for its members. In its Graduate Library School the University has a natural agency for developing the use of the method advantageously. The headquarters of the Association in Chicago will be a proper clearing house for all inquiries.

The estimates of cost include equipment of laboratory with cameras and processing machines to handle all types of work and a small machine shop. Carefully drawn budgets have been prepared for these basic requirements. The University will provide for materials used in making film records for its own use and will produce for other educational organizations at minimum cost on definite orders. The service will be particularly useful in the Middle Western area, but will be available to libraries both here and abroad.

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