

## *A brief history of the Ryerson Library*

When Ryerson was established in September, 1948, a double-winged room in the 98-year-old building known as Ryerson Hall (the former Toronto Normal School) was designated as a library.

But almost a year later it contained only a handful of books and was being used as a centre for meetings and social gatherings rather than for reading and study. However, it slowly became established as a library and a modest budget allowed for the purchase of about 1,500 books per year, so that a 1958 report listed a collection of 8,000 volumes and described the accommodation as "two pleasant reading rooms — seating capacity 50 — being fully used."

By 1965 the collection had doubled to 16,000 volumes, in enlarged quarters in the newly-constructed quadrangle buildings now known as Kerr Hall. That same year a Library Affairs Committee was established by then-Principal Howard H. Kerr to examine the entire question of future library facilities. In 1967, a new committee took up the task under President F. C. Jorgenson and, like its predecessor, it sought the aid of an outside consultant and input from the Ryerson community.

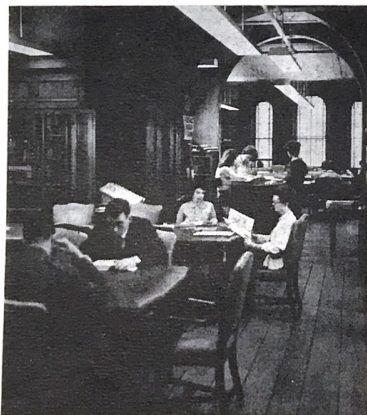
The library shifted quarters twice more in an effort to keep up with the needs of a rapidly growing student body. After a brief stay in the old MGM building (coincidentally on the site of the new Centre being opened today), the collection of 30,000 volumes was relocated in 1968 on the sixth floor of the Business Building at 285 Victoria Street. In two years the collection doubled again to 60,000 volumes and in 1971 facilities were expanded to the fifth floor. By 1973, 110,000 volumes were crowded onto the two floors.

Meanwhile, the program requirements for a new learning resources centre were completed and approved in 1968 and architects were hired to design a building. Construction began in January, 1972, and was completed only a few weeks ago, although the first six floors were in use last September.

The Centre has a capacity for 200,000 volumes and adds approximately 1,186 student places in seating capacity of classrooms, lecture halls and seminar rooms, with a further 1,590 places provided throughout the actual library area in group study, reading, reference and book stack areas. Included in the latter figure are 702 carrel positions, each capable of being connected to an under-floor duct system which will provide audio-visual aids.

Other facilities include a media centre; office and classroom space for the Library Arts, Interior Design and Urban Planning programs; library administration facilities; offices of the Management Development Institute; a periodical reading room (with 2,500 titles); microfilm and microfiche readers; library information service; a reference and reading area; and archives.

The building is named the Donald Mordell Learning Resources Centre, in honor of Ryerson's third President, who retires on August 31st of this year.



*The original library in Ryerson Hall*

## *Official Opening*



## *The Donald Mordell Learning Resources Centre*

*Wednesday, May 29th, 1974  
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute*