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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$8 million University of Toledo Library, most costly single construction project in the University's history, have been scheduled for Friday, December 4, at 2 p.m, according to Patrick T. Barkey, director of University Libraries, who will preside at the event.

J. Preston Levis, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, and Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the University, will turn a symbolic spadeful of earth enclosed in a container resting on the Student Union terrace which overlooks the site. A mechanized construction shovel also will turn a shovelful of earth at the site itself. Guests attending the ceremony will be seated in the south lounge of the Student Union, where they will be able to observe the groundbreaking activities.

A reception and tea for those attending has been scheduled immediately following the ceremony in the north lounge of the Student Union. Various departments of the University Library will mount exhibits of special collections donated by the Friends of the University Library, University alumni and others, and of materials relating to the academic program in library science and other activities. The model and rendering of the new structure also will be displayed.

The new University Library will enclose 252,520 square feet of floor space on six levels -- making it the University's second largest structure, after University Hall -- and is designed to house up to 1,500,000 volumes and seat 3,500 students at any one time. Plans call for more than 400 lockable study carrels for use by graduate students and faculty. An "office landscape" organization of internal space will eliminate rigid, four-wall administrative, staff and processing areas.

Architects for the new Library are Munger, Munger & Associates of Toledo, who have indicated that the new facility should adequately serve the University's need for library space through 1980, after which a wing could be added to the structure.

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General contractor for the project is MacKinnon-Parker, Inc., also of Toledo.

The existing University Library, Mr. Barkey said, houses a collection of more than 789,000 volumes, with the University's library collections growing at a rate of over 50,000 volumes a year.

Architectural plans call for a six-level square structure blending elements of the University's collegiate gothic architecture with a contemporary overall design, which the architects say will complement existing campus buildings. It will feature eight rectilinear towers topped by slanting roofs, and projecting segments of exterior wall.

The interior plan will utilize the open stack system of library organization -- reading areas interspersed with free-standing book stacks. It also will feature an innovation to library organization -- the office landscape concept for arranging administrative, staff and processing areas. Offices will be divided by panels rather than by permanent walls. Soundproofing will be achieved with carpeting, acoustical ceilings and the sound control qualities of the panels themselves, Mr. Barkey noted.

The University's Technological Media Center, which is an administrative unit of the Library, and computer terminal facilities will occupy the new building's basement level.

The new building will provide more than three and a half times the floor space available in the University's existing Library, completed in 1953.

The design also specifies a 60-seat lounge area where students may study and engage in conversation without disturbing other library users. The building will enclose a portion of the trans-campus pedestrian walkway which the master plan indicates will eventually extend from University Hall on the north to residence halls on the south.

In planning the University Library, The University of Toledo was the only state

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University taking advantage of provisions of state law which allowed state universities to proceed with preliminary planning on projects to be constructed with state capital improvements funds as long as state tax monies were not used to finance the planning. Dr. Harold W. Oyster, vice president for University development, estimates that the procedure allowed the University to gain at least a year on the project and thereby to reduce eventual cost of the structure.

It will be financed with state capital improvements funds realized from the sale of bonds authorized by Ohio voters in November, 1968. The project's \$8 million cost was appropriated by House Bill 531 passed by the Ohio General Assembly in August, 1969.

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