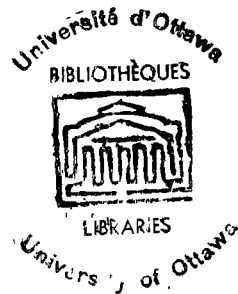


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DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL
AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF
MAURITIUS 1970 - 1995
AND A LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAMME
AND A BRIEF TO THE ARCHITECT

By Baboo Runbeersing Goordyal

Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,
University of Ottawa, as partial fulfilment
for the degree of
Master of Library Science (M.L.S.)
1971 - 1972



University of Ottawa, 1972

 B.R. Goordyal, Ottawa 1972.

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Sgd: B. R. Goordyal

Library School

University of Ottawa

Date: July 3rd, 1972

CURRICULUM STUDIORUM

Baboo Runbeersing Goordyal was born at Rose Belle, Marie Jeannie, Mauritius, on 21st July, 1942. He obtained the following qualifications from Panjab University, Chandigarh, India.

- (1) B.A. (Honours), English
- (2) Post-Graduate Dip. Lib. Science
- (3) B. Ed.

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ABBREVIATIONS

N.U.L.M.: National and University Library of Mauritius

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SUMMARY OF
"THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL
AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF
MAURITIUS 1970 - 1995
AND
A LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAMME
AND
BRIEF TO THE ARCHITECT"

For a small island of 720 square miles, a National and University Library would be a sound proposition, as this would be economically, professionally and academically worthwhile. It would be the ideal place to keep documents relating to the various cultural, economic, social, political, and ethnic needs of the nation, as well as certain public and private records.

The primary and secondary schools are having a higher annual percentage of enrollment with few library facilities. The University of Mauritius has embarked on a programme of teaching and research for the developmental needs of ~~the~~ country, and it is quite likely to absorb a large number of students now proceeding abroad for higher studies. If higher education is intensified and diversified, the National and University Library of Mauritius would come to play a larger role in the development and support of education in Mauritius. It would act as a great centre of learning with provisions to cater to the advanced needs of research and the national interest. Most of the existing libraries are not sufficiently equipped, nor do they have enough resources to provide facilities to enable deep or higher study of academic and other subjects. So the N.U.L.M. would come to fill in the gap as a nationally important institution that would seek to provide facilities for every aspect of the educational needs of Mauritians.

The early growth of libraries must have accompanied the rise of primary and secondary schools. However, some colonists had their own small collections of books. Other small libraries must have followed on the

heel of the establishment of government institutions. The main public or municipal libraries functioning as from the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century at first served a restricted clientele and later were opened to the general public. The Archives Collection existed right from the beginning of the French Administration, the Port Louis Municipal Library was founded in 1851 and other libraries grew in the twentieth century. A library is supported by each of the five municipal authorities in Mauritius, and a few other important centres have a public library.

Educational development and rising enrollment in schools have out-paced library facilities. Library development, coordination, planning, cooperation and budgeting have received scant attention; little financial provision, few training incentives, inadequate library consciousness and the lack of professionalization have contributed to the stunted growth of libraries.

The N.U.L.M., if created, could pull out library movement from the "stagnating pool" of apathy. It could bring to it a new consciousness, activate service and nation wide library facilities by various schemes of cooperation, besides triggering the growth of libraries, the training of librarians and the creation of the necessary atmosphere and conditions for the healthy development of libraries throughout the island.

The N.U.L.M. would essentially come to grips with the sorry state of the library art in Mauritius. To fulfil its role, it should acquire retrospective documents of a national character from the Mauritius Institute

Library and the Mauritius Archives which would then have to devote its attention to archival collection and other records. The obvious advantages of the N.U.L.M. would be an increased and enriched collection to serve research, teaching and general needs of Mauritians and others. Its bigger budget and financial provision would help it to carry out its role confidently. Its specialist staff, training facilities and competent guidance would further activate educational development.

The N.U.L.M. would perform national and international activities, acting as the centre for interloan, referral and bibliographical services. It would engage in the publication on cards or in book form of the national collection, duly classified and catalogued. It would purchase selectively items of foreign literature. At home, it would assist in the training of library personnel, give advice on library techniques and planning and act as the national Coordinating Centre for library service. It would also endeavour to provide a balanced collection for its undergraduate, graduate, research, doctoral and other academic programmes.

The necessary piece of legislation should be passed in the National Assembly to create the N.U.L.M. This should enable it to take over part of the national collection from the Mauritius Archives and the Mauritius Institute Library and build up a solid foundation of library development programme for the whole island. The N.U.L.M. would not however be able to cope alone; it would be desirable for it to form a network of library systems and start various cooperative schemes. It is suggested that the N.U.L.M. should establish links with libraries of the Port Louis Capital Region, the Rose-Hill - Beau-Bassin Region, the Quatre Bornes Region, the Vacoas-Phoenix Region, the Cure-Pipe Region, the main School Libraries, the

various specialized Libraries and the future district and village libraries which would have to be created. The N.U.L.M. should also sponsor a National Union Catalogue of Books and Serials in Mauritian Libraries, besides entering into specific fields of cooperation with libraries capable of handling the programme.

The building programme conceived for the N.U.L.M. would be adequate for a period of 25 years, that is from 1970 - 1995, when it would be expected to provide 1,000 seats for a full-time student population of 3,000. Its bookstack would then have reached its full working capacity of about 250,000 volumes.

It would comprise an undergraduate collection, a graduate section, a periodical area, special collections, the national collection and it would offer various facilities like microfilm-reader-printers, audio-visual aids, etc.

The present library occupies 10,208 square feet and its 1975 extension would be of an equal area. So, a third unit for the N.U.L.M. would be required. This could be built on the West side of the present building or on its eastern side, if the main Rduit - Rose-Hill Road is redirected or closed.

The book collection of the N.U.L.M. is expected to increase by geometric progression (or by compound interest) of about 8% per year as from 1976 when it would be 50,000 volumes to reach about 250,000 volumes in 1995. It is also expected that the student population would rise to 3,000 full-time and 2,500 part-time by 1995, and the faculty would have 155 full-time staff and 235 part-time teaching personnel. The library would have a full-time staff of 25 by 1995, with an equal number of part-

time staff and helpers, say roughly an equivalent of forty full-time staff. The book ratio per full-time student would be 83 by 1995. One third of the full-time student population would be provided reader stations and this would be reckoned to cater also for the part-time student population and others.

The N.U.L.M. should be a modern functional building with the best modular design, so that it could be adapted to future technological change and new methods of teaching. It should be conceived as a laboratory for the individual learner and should provide the necessary working atmosphere for research and study. All its working, administrative, and service areas should be closely related so as to result in the best communication for efficient work. Noisy areas should be planned away from quiet areas, while utility areas should be built round a central core. About 75% of the seating arrangement should be in individual carrels.

At best, the N.U.L.M. should be a simple, pleasant, attractive and inviting structure, with the requisite internal functional relationship of service-book-student facilities well matched and a conditioned atmosphere which would best fulfil its purpose.

An island-wide library complex is an urgent necessity for Mauritius, but the means to develop it fast are limited. However, this does not constitute a permanent disability. This island has known public library development since the beginning of the nineteenth century, but its growth has always been limited to the capital and some municipality townships. Library consciousness and professionalization became a growing need during the middle of the twentieth century. If accelerated development, professionalization and optimization of library service are to be expected in the near future, some strong library institution will have to command enough authoritative and prestigious influence for their successful achievement.

Such an institution could be no less than a national library. Since the University of Mauritius is going to play an important role in supplying the 'muscles' for the developmental needs and progress of the country, it would be a wise and appropriate step to bestow upon it national status. Its library could then be recognized as the 'National and University Library of Mauritius'. This would necessitate proper legislation, and adding a host of important national functions to the library. It would thus place the N.U.L.M. (National and University Library of Mauritius) at the apex of the Library system, and it would become the directional power behind many factors stimulating library growth, education, professional consciousness, increased library resources, the establishment of a workable network of library systems and interlibrary cooperation, the support of various programmes like adult education, community projects, and even the constant care and supply of suitable mass media materials.

At this stage, this thesis can only make a series of recommendations based on knowledgeable factors which now exist in Mauritius, and at best constitutes a plea for mobilizing support to start such a practicable project. Between putting ideas into words and written programmes into practice, so many variable factors tend to play down or even stress the importance of the practical application of such a project. Financial handicap is the biggest problem, but that does not preclude a small beginning to be made in the right direction until the movement gains proper momentum. The manning of such a library requires a wide support from the library management responsible for advanced training and education. A core of competently trained library staff can confidently handle some of the early burdens of directional management, guidance to other librarians, 'professionalization' and training of local talents who would be later called in to fill in the key slots of the library system thus created. The N.U.L.M. would be lucky enough to be associated with the University of Mauritius, for this would create some of the ideal conditions in which a national and university library can become a truly 'general', 'academic', and 'specialized' library, combining in one of the best features of each category.

This does not mean that the N.U.L.M. is going to function in isolation: such a proposal will be tantamount to a negation of the very principles for which national libraries are created. It should enter into workable arrangements, understanding and interlibrary cooperation programmes with other well-established libraries of the country, while

it should at the same time encourage the growth of district council, town, village and community centre libraries or even work out a feasible scheme to have villages serviced by bookmobiles.

The N.U.L.M. would therefore be a unique institution which would be able to shoulder most of the reasonable responsibilities of an institution of its nature as well as give a fillip to the 'slow' and 'lethargic' state of library development in Mauritius. With a fairly adequate financial support, a well-trained staff including subject specialists, and with the fastest annual growth rate in its stock, a project as the N.U.L.M. cannot fail to appear to be a sound proposition.

So, the N.U.L.M., as its developmental needs will be explained later on, would assume that the present 'Mauritius Archives' devote itself to archival matters and leave books and other library documents in its custody. The Mauritius Institute Library implicitly acts as the National Library of the island. Either this status should be changed by legislation and its Mauritiana and other local collections transferred to the N.U.L.M. or it should be allowed to keep its status as such, but the N.U.L.M. recognized by legislation as the National Library of Mauritius. A workable arrangement can always be arrived at. This could become the nucleus of the 'Mauritiana' Collection of the N.U.L.M., which together with other documents will continue to enjoy their historical and research value. Modern facilities would be made available for literature to be properly catalogued, indexed and serviced. A Mauritiana Index, analytical in scope could also be started. A National Union Catalogue of documents in Mauritian Libraries would also be compiled, and if the University of Mauritius starts seriously its computer

programme, there will be good reason to consider automating some of the above mentioned functions to increase the efficiency of library service.

It is expected that the N.U.L.M. would start some scheme of subject specialization with other libraries. As the academic programme of the University of Mauritius expands with the addition of new courses and rising enrollment, it would be logical for the N.U.L.M. to build up a round stock of most subjects taught, a good research collection besides the acquisition of general foreign literature of research value. It would provide some subject collection in depth and general collection in breadth. What would be assigned to other libraries for subject collection would also help to supplement its stock.

For the N.U.L.M. to become a powerful factor in the scene of Mauritian education, it would be necessary that it should provide a whole gamut of services, help and training for reference, research and informational needs. Universal education and democratization of library service could only be achieved with greater coordination if the N.U.L.M. take these bold decisions. It would of course be an onerous burden, but a welcome one for out of service and hard work, the N.U.L.M. would have proved its 'mettle' and earned nation-wide praise, not to mention the modesty with which it would be received by those who worked for it.

The N.U.L.M. would then become the cogwheel of academic programmes, the kindling flame of an educated intelligentsia, the summation of the progressive growth of libraries, the spearhead of library education, consultative and reader services: others would rely on it for perfecting their skill and putting efficiency in their job or run the risk of growing obsolete.

The N.U.L.M. would thus be cherished by every Mauritian who would regard it as a second laboratory of life, where the raw products gleaned from books and other documents produce finished scholars. The end-products of the N.U.L.M. should be the creation of an informed, educated and forward-looking progressive Mauritian.

This thesis is an elaboration of the theme of a N.U.L.M. that would be 'central' to the making of libraries, librarians, and rendering their service a national concern under its aegis. It would also be instrumental in the democratization of education, spread of literacy and in bringing library service to the people rather than the people coming to it. The case for its establishment starts with a general picture of educational development in Mauritius, the growth of public libraries and a brief survey of present educational and library facilities. It tries to analyse the inadequacy of libraries and library service throughout the country to support the increasing educational needs of the population. Some of the weaknesses and factors leading to the stagnation of library movement in Mauritius are also pinpointed. To counteract these inherent 'encumbrances' which prevent the healthy flow of library service, the N.U.L.M. is brought into the picture. It is illustrative of the needs for a N.U.L.M. which would be called upon to play a leading role in fighting such 'adverse' conditions.

Here again a line of reasoning is followed to prove that the N.U.L.M. would not turn out to be a white elephant, but an efficient workable machinery that would tone up library momentum. A national library in association with the University Library would be the best cure to the

anemic state of library development.

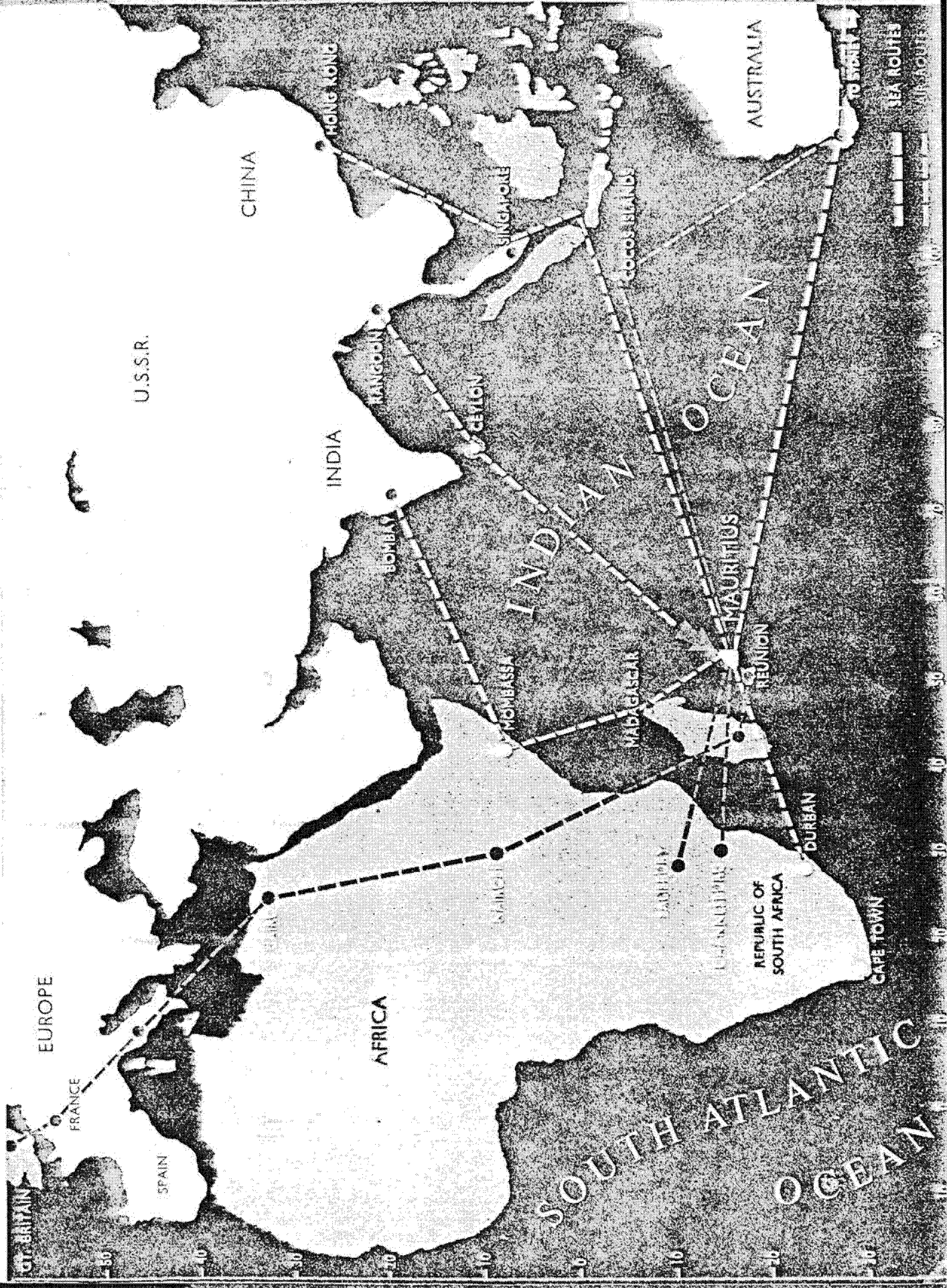
The various antidotes that the N.U.L.M. would have to apply to 'bring round' the library movement and its attendant advantages are then recommended. These at best constitute a series of integrated programmes that the N.U.L.M. would have to carry out.

The university library and its present site are then discussed in the programme and the brief to the architect. They offer various possibilities of recommending a likely plan for housing the stock of the N.U.L.M. which would be able to hold one quarter of a million volumes by 1995. Here again it needs be pointed out that the university authorities, the architects and the programme planners would have to consider each recommendation on its own merit.

In fine, the N.U.L.M. is expected to become the true apex of the library system of Mauritius. It would have the directional reins in its hands, and on its wisdom would therefore depend the fate of library movement. As an efficient national and academic library, it would ideally perform many functions, with a competent staff to offer the best service available. It would also be the most economical institution of its kind in the island.

Map No. 1 on the next page shows the geographical location of Mauritius. The dotted lines indicate air and sea links with major surrounding countries.

MAP No. I



CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL SITUATION AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Geographical situation:

Mauritius is a tiny island of about 720 square miles in area in the Indian Ocean. With its dependencies, it comprises an area of about 805 square miles. It is situated about 1,500 miles from the East coast of South Africa and "550 miles east of Madagascar, between 57° 17' - 57° 46' east longitude and latitude 10° - 20° 33' South".¹ By sea route via the Suez Canal, it is about 6,942 miles from the United Kingdom, but it is about 8,393 miles by the "alternate route via the Cape of Good Hope".² However, Mauritius is also linked with the major countries of the world by quite a number of international airlines (Vide map no. 1 on page 14).

The island enjoys a sub-tropical climate, with sufficient rainfall throughout the year and a high degree of humidity. There is sufficient variation of temperature at certain places, for example the maximum and minimum temperatures³ ever reached for Port Louis (the Capital) are 36°C and 12°C, and for Cure Pipe (1,850 feet above mean sea level) 32°C and 7°C, respectively. The summer months run from November to April, and winter from June to October. June and September-November are the pleasant transitional months of the year.

¹ Whitaker's Almanach, 1972. Complete ed., London, Whitaker, 1971, p. 761.

² Mauritius. Report on Mauritius, 1967. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1968, p. 143.

³ Ibid, p. 146.

Historical Development:

The island was known in the Middle Ages to the Arab pirates and Malay sailors,⁴ before the Portuguese discovered it. It is believed that the Portuguese Domingo Fernandes first discovered it in 1507, and called it Cirn  or Cern  after the ship he commanded. Rodrigues, called after his own name, and one of the dependencies of Mauritius, was also discovered by him. The Portuguese took possession of the island for about seventy five years. They used it until 1598 as a refuge and fresh water and other supply station.⁵ After having lost the Netherlands in 1598 to the Dutch, they were forced to give up their trade with India. They consequently abandoned the island.

In 1598 some Dutch sailors visited the island and named it Mauritius after their ruler Maurice Van Nassau. The ships of other nations also visited the island for the purposes of obtaining fresh water, food and ebony trees. A Dutch company occupied it in 1638 and a settlement started with a group of three hundred, including slaves and about thirty farmers who reared cattle, grew food crops, tobacco and lived by fishing and hunting. They also introduced sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and the deer. They exploited ebony trees which provided valuable timber for shipbuilding in Europe. They were also responsible for the extinction of the local bird, the dodo. However in 1710, they abandoned the settlement, as it did not prove to be profitable. Their settlement was continuous except for a gap from 1658 to 1664.

4 S. B. de Burgh Edwardes. L'histoire de l'Ile Maurice, 1705-1914. (n.p.), Issoudun, Imprimerie Rapide du Centre, 1924, p. 9.

5 Ibid, p. 10.

The French claimed the island in 1715, and it was only in 1722 that they settled colonists from Bourbon (now Reunion). They renamed it 'Ile de France'. The French East India Company governed it from 1722 to about 1767 after which the French government took over its administration till it was lost to the English in 1810. For a brief period during the French Revolution it enjoyed independent rule under its local Colonial Assembly.

In 1735 the population numbered about one thousand. Under the governor Mahé de Labourdonnais, the population shot up to twenty thousand of which fifteen thousand were slaves.⁶ He did much to develop the island; he encouraged the growth of various crops as well as the rearing of ~~poultry~~ poultry, cattle and goats. He strengthened its defences and even organized a small armed fleet of vessels to help the French fight the English in India.

As French pirates and others in the island raided English commerce, especially the French government of Ile de France during the Austrian War of Succession, the Seven Years War and the War of American Independence, the British had long contemplated its capture. A first attempt by a small force in August 1810 failed, but a large force succeeded in capturing 'Ile de France' in December of the same year. By the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Mauritius and its dependencies, Rodrigues and Seychelles were formally handed over to the British.

During the period of British rule various reforms were introduced. The first English governor, Sir Robert Farquhar reorganized the government and the Police, while the law courts operated with minor modifications.

⁶ Mauritius. Report on Mauritius, 1967. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1968, p.151.

'Ile de France' was again called Mauritius; Port Napoleon and Port Imperial reverted their name to Port Louis and Grand Port respectively. The large English batallion was gradually diminished and quite a number of British Officials reinforced the government machinery. But few English merchants established themselves in Mauritius. The French constituted the larger European population and they "remained mainly french in language and sentiment".⁷

One significant reform was the suppression of slavery. This was naturally resisted by the Colonists and Great Britain had to pay them some two million pounds sterling in compensation. To replace freed slaves, labourers were brought in from India. "With the aid of immigrant labour, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, 580,372 tons in 1959 and reached the record figure of 685,000 tons in 1963."⁸

With the level of prosperity increasing, the Government improved sanitation in Port Louis, built several reservoirs for the supply of drinking water and for irrigation purposes. Many welfare acts were passed, and more money was spent on education after the war.

During the Second World War, Mauritius played a vital logistic, naval and strategic part when the Suez Canal was closed. This was also the role it played during the Age of Colonisation and Exploration. Mauritius has always been an important trade link for Western Countries

7 Mauritius. Report on Mauritius, 1967. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1968, p. 152

8 Ibid., p. 152.

with the Indian subcontinent and the Far-Eastern countries. This was particularly so until the opening of the Suez Canal and the temporary closure of the Suez seems to have given Mauritius once more all its importance.

Constitutional Changes:

Constitutionally, the island had to undergo an administration run totally by officials sitting in the 'Council of Government' created by Royal Proclamations, although certain decentralized "conseils de commune" had been established in 1817 to advise the governor on certain matters. In 1831 some colonists were allowed to sit in the 'Council of Government' but this council became unpopular as vested interests sat on it and they were motivated to safeguard their own rights. In 1885 certain members were voted in the Council, but they represented only a minority of the rich who were qualified to pose as candidates. However this was the impetus which gave birth to a democratic party and an oligarchic party. In 1932 the Mauritius Labour Party began its movement, and the Indian population by 1911 began to enter the political scene. After the war, the pace towards greater reforms accelerated.

In 1947 the Labour Party of Great Britain allowed modifications to be brought to the political organization and with the gradual liberalisation of the vote, the Labour Party of Mauritius carried on vigorously a policy of constitutional reform which progressed gradually from internal autonomy to independence on March 12, 1968. The Independence Party, a coalition of the Mauritius Labour Party, the Comité d'Action Musulman and the Independent Forward Bloc won over the "Parti Mauricien

Social Democrite" on the Independence issue. To-day a government of national unity is running it through the testing aftermath of independence and other issues of national concern.

Population:

Mauritius has therefore a historical past with imprints of its colonial rulers, especially the last two and of immigrants, free slaves and indentured labourers brought in to settle and develop the land. To-day it has a cultural heritage richly infused by different ethnic, racial, religious, and continental groups, ranging from the French, the English, the Hindus, the Moslems and others from Greater India, coloured people, Creoles, Chinese, Africans, Malagasies and a sprinkle of other groups, most of them having kept their community identity, language, custom and at the same time familiar with the local dialect Patois Creole. French is also familiar and generally used by intellectuals while English is the official language.

One of the pressing problems of the country has been the rapid growth of its population. In 1846 there were 158,468; on June 30, 1962, 681,619 and 782,044 people in December 1967.⁹ "The total population for the main towns and the capital was as follows in 1970: Port Louis, 139,681; Beau-Bassin and Rose-Hill, 71,285; Cure Pipe, 52,010; Vacoas and Phoenix, 49,045 and Quatre Bornes, 45,525."¹¹

⁹ Bi-annual digest of Statistics (December, 1967). Port Louis, Central Statistical Office, 1968.

¹⁰ Whitaker's Almanach, 1972. Complete ed., London, Whitaker, 1971, p. 761.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 762.

A great proportion of the people are made up of young people, about 440,000 on June 1967 were less than twenty one years old, and 43% of them were less than fifteen years old. The Bi-annual Digest of Statistics (Dec. 1967) notes in its table no. 6 that about 100,000 young people aged between fifteen and twenty one registered themselves for a job.

As noted above the people do not belong to a homogeneous group, and the Bi-annual Digest of Statistics (Dec. 1967) has the following figures for the main ethnic groups: ¹²

General Population (i.e. people who are descendants of Europeans, Africans and Métis) 224,692 (28%); Hindus, 405,551 (51.6%); Muslims, 128,779 (16.5%) and the Sino-Mauritians, 25,022 (3.2%). The general population is made up of Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Protestants; the Sino-Mauritians are Buddhists, or other oriental faith and some are catholics.

The Mauritian Society is composed of so many diverse religious groups and ethnic elements that some people have doubted the existence of a semblance of national entity as such. Mauritians, however, are to-day more than ever aware of their nationality and independence seemed to have reinforced it further.

Socially, the white colonists have always been at the helm of affairs in the economy of the island. In the beginning the colonists used slave labour and when slaves were emancipated, they brought in Indian immigrants as from 1835 to work on their plantations. This proletariat class, inspite of opposition from the colonists, began to enter the political scene, and

¹² Bi-annual digest of statistics(December 1967). Op. cit.
Table no. 5.

later on they improved their lots, and they acceded to position of influence and authority as various constitutional changes enabled them to penetrate all sectors of Mauritian life. However, each community is improving its lot as it is offered equal opportunity and rights. The edge of communalism is being blunted; economic, political, social and other considerations are creating in Mauritians a new feeling of nationhood.

The Judicial System:

In the field of justice, Mauritius presents an exceptional case. The rights of diverse ethnic groups have to be protected. French and English systems of law are applied. The Civil Code of 1804, statutes of the penal code and the Commercial codes are applied as well as a certain number of English laws. The organisation and procedures of the judiciary are based on the English model, a contributing factor being the fact that the majority of Mauritian lawyers and jurists are trained in Great Britain.

Cultural Movement:

Cultural and literary developments have always accompanied the growing activities of each community and other groups of individuals. These activities are usually connected with the religious, social, economic or political life of the individual. Moreover, literature on all facets of life obtained from France, Britain, India, Pakistan, the Chinese mainland and neighbouring lands and other places reinforces and enriches the life of different communities at home. Moreover various joint ventures or cooperative activities, whether religious, cultural, social or economic are often organized by some people, so much so that we can

speak of a Mauritian cultural, economic, social, and political system or way of life. Programmes like "Sugar Time", Folk-dances like "Sega", Christmas Celebrations, joint religious services, etc., bring all communities together. The diverse societies have realized the needs to strengthen the Mauritian nation through cooperation, good will and love.

Some well-known societies, to name only a few, which have played a vital part in the life of this nation are the "Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius" (founded 1829), the "Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de l'Ile Maurice" (founded 1910), the "Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens" (founded 1938), the "Indian Cultural Association" (founded 1936), the "Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice" (founded 1938), community societies, religious societies, social, economic, commercial, professional and a host of other societies registered with the Registrar-General's office. All this has contributed to the growth of educational, literary, scientific, social, economic, political and religious progress and to the multiplication of contacts and exchanges with local and international bodies pursuing similar interests.

Also active in the cultural fields are the British Council, the "Alliance Française" of Mauritius, the Mauritius dramatic club, the "Hindi Pracharini Sabha", "Centre Culturel Français", the Vacoas House of Debaters, "L'Académie Mauricienne", "Union Culturelle Française", the School of Indian Music and Dance, and a great number of youth clubs and other societies.

Early printing and publications:

All these movements do activate learning, education and book or

serial publishing. In Mauritius printing was introduced by the Burgundian Pierre Saunier. It was set up before the end of 1767 in a building in 'rue de l'Hôpital' in Port Louis. However he started work early in 1768, and the first publication to come out was a short poem entitled 'La Presse'. A 'Madame La Dauphine' dedicated to the 'dauphine' of France, Marie Joseph de Saxe. Nicolas Lambert published the first newspaper of the 'Ile de France' in 1773. It was entitled "Annonces, Affiches et Avis divers pour les colonies des Iles de France et de Bourbon". He also published in 1773 a French-Malagasy phrase-book compiled by the Lazarist priest named Challan, This was meant for the use of Roman Catholic missionaries working in Madagascar. The Printing office was known as the "Imprimerie Royale". The early presses of Mauritius printed various private publications, newspapers and official publications between the period 1768 to 1810. About 400 specimens of the publication of this period are to be found in the various repositories in Mauritius, England and France.¹³

The publication output¹⁴ in Mauritius for 1970 was 943 local imprints (excluding newspapers). This total comprised : 154 government publications of which 145 were issues of serials, and 789 private publications of which 729 were issues of serials. The figure for 1969 was 888 imprints, and for 1965¹⁵ 1,058 local imprints (exclusive of newspapers).

13 A. Toussaint. Early printing in Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar and the Seychelles. Amsterdam, Vangent & Co., c1969. (The spread of Printing -Eastern Hemisphere, ed. by Colin Clair), p. 29.

14 Mauritius Archives. Annual report, 1970. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1971, p. 3 - 4.

15 Mauritius Archives. Annual report, 1965. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1966, p. 4.

For 1965 there were seventeen new serials including one newspaper, and eleven serials, including one newspaper, stopped publication.

For 1970 the Mauritius Archives reports that nineteen new serials including two newspapers were issued and eleven others including three newspapers did not appear. The total number of printing presses stood at 87 of which only 42 were engaged in book, periodical and newspaper publication.

Educational development:

A brief look at the educational scene is essential to understand the slow accompanying growth of libraries which are considered essential for the successful attainment of educational programmes.

The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs is "statutorily responsible for the progress and development of education in Mauritius"¹⁶, under the Education (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 2 of 1960). Its responsibility lies in effective coordination and control of educational facilities as well as the provision of trained teachers. It has the obligation of enforcing, through the medium of English, an educational scheme suited to the age, aptitude and ability of the pupils as well as to the needs of the island. It also provides for youth, adult extension and continuation classes with the help of youth services. It has a body of administrative officers and others responsible for all aspects of educational policy in the island. "The Historical basis of Mauritian

¹⁶ Mauritius. Triennial survey of education in Mauritius, 1967-1969. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1970, p. 4

education"¹⁷, by B. Runjitsing Goordyal provides a lucid exposé and a good historical survey of early educational development in Mauritius to about 1900. Below is given an overall rapid view of the present educational situation in Mauritius.

Primary Education:

Primary education is based on the English model. In this field, the Christian Missionaries had started as early as 1815 and the government lagged after them by seven years in opening its first primary school. Government and aided primary schools provide free education in the three R's and one or other of the principal oriental languages of the island is also taught.

Before the Education Ordinance of 1957 no age limit was imposed as attendance at any of the above primary schools, especially those entitled to resit continued to stay in the Standard VI class until they were successful (or they left voluntarily), although age limit did not entitle them to compete for junior scholarship. Nowadays after undergoing a six year primary school course, a pupil is allowed to resit only for a second time, but may not be allowed to do so a third time, unless he is not above the age of twelve by the 1st of July in the year of examination. The subjects usually taught at these schools comprise the following: English, French, Arithmetic, Geography, Religious instruction for Roman Catholics and Anglicans, Nature study, Civics, physical training, and the teaching of Oriental languages in some schools to students showing an interest in them.

¹⁷ B. Runjitsing Goordyal. The historical basis of Mauritian education. Port Louis, P. Delaitre & Cie., c1969, 121 p.

Audio-visual aids are also used, besides school broadcasts.

In 1969 out of 27,423 candidates of the Government Primary and Aided-primary Schools, 10,449 and out of 4,681 private candidates and pupils of non-aided primary schools, 1,572 passed the Standard VI examination.¹⁸

Table no. 1 below shows the number of primary schools and their enrollment:

TABLE I

STATISTICS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

<u>No. of schools:</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1969</u>
Govt. schools	175	176
Aided schools	55	55
Non-aided schools	<u>70</u>	<u>106</u>
TOTAL	300	337
<u>No. of pupils on roll:</u>		
Govt. schools	98,417	102,902
Aided schools	37,903	37,951
Non-aided schools	<u>4,175</u>	<u>5,637</u>
TOTAL	140,495	146,490

Total increase 5,995 (approx. an increase of 4% on the roll of the year 1969 over that of 1967.)

18 Mauritius. Triennial survey of education...1967-1969...
op. cit. p. 6.

3. SUMMARY OF SCHOOL STATISTICS, 1953-57

Level and type of education	Type of institution	School year	Number of institutions	Teaching staff		Students enrolled	
				Total	Female	Total	Female
Primary	Primary schools, public	1957	98	1 364	580	46 309	18 856
	Primary schools, aided private	1957	77	1 238	775	43 536	20 290
	Primary schools, unaided private	1957	152	420	309	12 446	5 721
	Total	1957	327	3 022	1 664	102 291	44 867
	"	1956	313	2 733	1 648	89 434	38 595
	"	1955	315	2 455	1 510	85 446	36 723
	"	1954	247	2 257	1 385	80 666	34 333
Secondary <i>General</i>	"	1953	240	2 123	1 316	79 878	33 592
	Secondary schools, public	1957	3	75	17	1 152	217
	Secondary schools, aided private	1957	8	136	81	2 256	1 298
	Secondary schools, unaided private	1957	58	403	113	9 198	2 573
	Total	1957	69	614	211	12 606	4 088
	"	1956	68	575	217	10 960	3 509
	"	1955	65	532	178	10 228	3 317
Vocational	"	1954	60	1 472	1 177	8 320	2 621
	"	1953	55	1 460	1 180	7 861	2 476
	Central school, public	1957	1	7	3	67	15
	"	1956	1	6	2	64	27
	"	1955	1	19	24	78	36
	"	1954	-	-	-	-	-
	"	1953	-	-	-	-	-
Teacher training	Teacher training college, public	1957	1	33	8	233	104
	"	1956	1	32	8	224	62
	"	1955	1	35	37	4204	480
	"	1954	1	5 . . .	5 . . .	123	63
	"	1953	1	5 . . .	5 . . .	188	98
	Higher	Post-secondary College of Agriculture	1957	1	6 . . .	6 . . .	792
"		1956	1	6 . . .	6 . . .	61	55
"		1955	1	16	-	46	...
"		1954	1	16	-	46	...
"		1953	1	16	-	46	...
Other	Health Department Training School	1957	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94
	"	1956	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94
	"	1955	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94
	"	1954	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94
	"	1953	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94
	"	1953	1	8 . . .	8 . . .	221	94

1. Including teachers of the training college.

2. Including teaching staff of the Health Department courses.

3. Including teaching staff of the College of Agriculture.

4. Not including 82 female teachers who followed a 6-months' course.

5. Included in general secondary education.

6. Included in secondary teacher training.

7. Including eight part-time students.

8. Included in vocational secondary education.

A summary of school statistics 1953-1957 for Mauritius quoted in "World Survey of Education"¹⁹ is also appended for the sake of comparison, Vide table no. II on page 28. This reveals that in 1957, excluding adult education courses, 20% of the total population (estimated at 603,000 in mid-1958) attended various categories of schools. 89% of the above attended primary schools, and 11% attended secondary and teacher training schools. Mauritian students in foreign universities in 1953 numbered 263 and about 400 in 1957. In 1957 some 3,000 teaching staff were employed in primary schools of which the average pupil teacher ratio was 34. 20

In 1952 the population within school age limits stood at 91,206 but the total school enrollment was 66,131.

In 1970 there were 178 government primary schools and 55 aided primary schools which had a total enrollment of about 145,636 pupils, that is an increase of 3.4% over their enrollment figure of 140,853 in 1969. Besides, some 4,766 pupils were also attending classes in private primary schools or the preparatory classes of secondary schools. "It is estimated that the total number of 146,859 primary school children attending school in Mauritius in 1970 represented about 90% of the total population of children in the 5+ to 11+ age group."²¹ The ratio of boys

19 Unesco. World Survey of education, vol. III. Secondary Education. Paris, Unesco, 1961, p. 1201.

20 Ibid, p. 1200

21 Mauritius. Annual report on education for 1970. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1972. p. 3.

to girls was 13 to 12, and the ratio of pupils per teacher was 32. The total number of staff employed numbered 4,512.

It should be noted that in the field of primary education pupils usually have to spend six years of schooling at the end of which a Standard VI examination (Primary School Leaving Certificate) is held. Pupils eligible for junior scholarship compete for it on satisfactory performance at the Standard VI examination, and usually a certain number of top candidates are awarded scholarship to attend a government secondary school. Others usually have to pay for their own secondary education schooling and choose a secondary school most convenient financially, by distance, by entry requirements and otherwise.

Below is also given a tabular representation of government spending in the field of education.

TABLE III
RECURRENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ON EDUCATION

Year	1950/51	1952/53	1956/57	1966/67
Recurrent	-----	9,833,394	14,632,520 19,927*	28,200,000
Capital	-----	3,207,000	4,461,011	2,710,000
Total	5,149,258	13,040,394	19,113,520	30,910,000
	*...contributed by local authorities			
Year	1967/68	1968/69	1969/70	
Recurrent	29,300,000	29,600,000	31,300,000	
Capital	2,210,000	1,400,000	2,300,000	
Total	31,510,000	31,000,000	33,600,000	

All figures are calculated in Mauritian rupees

(for figures 1950-1957: one Mauritian rupee = .21 U.S. dollar)

(for figures 1967 - onwards - British £ = Rs. 13.20 cents

Secondary education:

The education of the élites in Mauritius led to the foundation in 1800 of the "Ecole Centrale"²², a lycée meant for the children of French Colonists. This institution later known as the Royal College (of Cure Pipe) was made an English secondary (grammar) school in 1840. It was located in the capital, Port Louis. On the outbreak of the bubonic plague of January 1899, it was transferred to Cure Pipe, but it resumed studies on June 5, 1899. The second government secondary school for boys was opened in 1929 in Port Louis. A secondary school for girls, the only one at present owned by the State, the Queen Elizabeth College, was established in 1951. These state institutions provide a seven-year course up to Cambridge Higher School Certificate. They all have a three stream entry.

In Mauritius, the English type of grammar school education is followed. The John Kennedy College for boys opened in 1965, is one of the four state secondary schools and one among the first institutions to break away from the grammar school pattern. It teaches a common course of academic subjects in Form I and Form II, and as from Form III students are offered a choice of scientific, commercial or technical subjects.

In 1846 the Loreto Order opened the first of the six secondary schools for girls, which it now runs (one each situated at Cure Pipe, Quatre Bornes, St Pierre, Vacoas, Port Louis and Rose-Hill). Of thirteen grant-aided

22 Mauritius. Triennial Survey....1967-1969....op. cit.
p. 1.

secondary schools, the Triennial Survey of Education 1967-1969²³ notes that eight of them are for girls, namely the 'College du Bon et Perpetuel Secours', the 'Hindu Girls' College', besides the Loreto Convent schools. St Andrews College is co-educational, and the others for boys are, St Joseph College, St Mary's College, Islamic Cultural College and Collège du Saint Esprit. All these schools usually prepare for the Overseas Cambridge School Certificate examinations. They are quoted to have about 7,003 pupils, while the four secondary state schools had 2,616 students.

As the emphasis in education is changing, the government is trying to introduce new subjects and new schools with technical, commercial or vocational bias. The Triennial Survey of Education 1967-1969 mentions one Government Central School for boys and girls and two Government Senior Primary Schools, one each for boys and girls respectively, which provide the 12 plus primary school leavers a free three-year pre-vocational course.

As for private secondary schools, it mentions that these 124 institutions enrolled 32,825 students out of a total secondary school pupils of 42,444. More and more students at the secondary stage are forced to attend private secondary schools, as the government and state-aided secondary schools have limited enrollments. Generally the best elements secure admission in the government, state-aided schools and some of the well-run private secondary schools. Fees at these institutions are comparatively high and entry made on selective basis. Some private secondary schools do not really try to screen the weak students who are consequently promoted

23 Mauritius. Triennial Survey...1967-1969...op.cit. p.7.

only to face repeated failure at the Cambridge School Certificate examination. So the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs requires secondary schools to meet conditions laid down by the Cambridge Examination Syndicate. Thus pupils of non-recognized schools sit as private candidates for the Cambridge School Certificate examination after they pass the Qualifying Test in English, which is meant as a proof of proficiency in English. Poor performance of pupils in this category is due to many factors, chiefly owing to their economic and home background. The Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs is therefore, subsidizing the employment of graduates in these schools to raise the quality of education, and performance.

Primary and secondary schools are being helped by the use of audio-visual aids, specially prepared Educational Television programmes, lectures, seminars and technical help received from various sources. The government has started a book loan scheme worth Rs. 1,200,000 to some 120 private secondary schools in collaboration with the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund.

Needle craft, handicrafts, dress making, and basketry courses are being taught by the Small Scale Industries Branch. Adult literary programmes and a system of National Vocational and Technical Education with the help of the International Labour Organization and U.N.D.P./S.F. have been progressing satisfactorily. This has led to the establishment at Beau Bassin of an Industrial Trade Training Centre to train technicians, carpenters electricians, mechanics, masonry workers, etc.

Table IV below gives a brief resumé of the number of secondary schools and students on their roll:

TABLE IV

STATISTICS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Enrollment figure for State Colleges	1968	1969
Royal College, Cure Pipe	640	671
Royal College, Port Louis	736	758
John Kennedy College, Beau Bassin	597	584
Queen Elizabeth College, Rose Hill	589	666
T O T A L	2,562	2,679

Total Enrollment for all secondary schools:

No. of schools	1967	1968	1969	1970
Govt. Schools	4	4	4	4
Aided Schools	13	13	13	13
Non-aided Schools	126	120	123	122
T O T A L	143	137	140	139
No. of pupils on roll:				
Govt. Schools	2,505	2,538 ⁽²⁴⁾	2,616	2,679
Aided Schools	6,218	6,372	7,003	6,979
Non-aided Schools	29,785	30,793	38,825	34,311
T O T A L	38,508	39,703	42,444	43,969

24 Mauritius. Annual report on Education, 1968. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1969, p. 18 (The figure 2,538 does not seem to correspond with that given on page 4 of this report, para. 23... "i.e.. a total of 2,562 boys and girls.").

In addition to the above figures, the Triennial Survey of Education 1967-1969 notes that the Teachers' Training College had 668 students and the three Senior Primary and Central Schools had 375 students.

According to the "Annual Report on Education, 1970", there were about 3,000 Mauritian Students in the United Kingdom and Eire in 1970; in other foreign and Commonwealth Countries the figure for the same year stood at 765.

Mauritius also received some 85 scholarships from various donor countries, 50 awards were granted by the U.K. government towards the overseas Students Fee Award Scheme. The Government of Mauritius itself grants annually about six scholarships to top students of the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examination.

Higher Education in Mauritius:

Before the University of Mauritius was created in 1965 and started its effective work in 1968²⁵, the Department of Agriculture, later the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, ran the Mauritius College of Agriculture of which the foundation stone had been laid by the Governor Sir Henry Hesketh Bell on 12th July, 1923. The new buildings of the College were opened on the 12th March, 1925 by Sir Herbert J. Read, Governor of Mauritius. Dr. H. Tempany, Director of Agriculture uttered these famous visionary words in a speech to mark that occasion "...am I too visionary when I suggest that means may yet be found for the evolution in Mauritius of an institution giving instructions of university standard, not only

²⁵ University of Mauritius. Report for the year 1968 and 1969. Port Louis, Mauritius Printing Cy, 1970, p. 1.

in agriculture but also in arts, in science, in engineering and perhaps in medicine?" To-day much of what he said is being realized. The Director of Agriculture was also the Principal of the College of Agriculture. Teaching was carried on by some full-time staff and generally helped by departmental officers.

Agricultural education in Mauritius goes back to 1884²⁶ when on the suggestion of the Chamber of Agriculture a course in Agricultural chemistry was started at the Royal College, Cure Pipe. The first proposal for a school of Agriculture was made by the "Royal Society of Arts and Sciences" in 1847. Nothing came out of it. In 1893 when the Station Agronomique was founded, it began to train annually as from 1900 two or three students under the guidance of the Director. Some sugar chemists trained abroad and at the Station Agronomique gained a fair measure of chemical control in 1910 in the Mauritian Sugar factories. They also founded what is to-day known as the "Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière". The Station Agronomique expanded into a Department of Agriculture; this body established a School of Agriculture, and thus widened the teaching given by the former Station Agronomique. It granted a three-year diploma of the department on the following choice of courses: Agricultural Chemistry, General Agricultural Science and Economic Biology. The next step was the foundation of the Mauritius College of Agriculture.

²⁶ A.S. Macdonald. "A review of agricultural education in Mauritius", in Osman, A.M. (Chairman). University of Mauritius. (Redit, University of Mauritius, 1971), p. 22-29.

In the beginning the Diploma of Agriculture had a slant towards Agricultural Chemistry and Sugar Technology. In 1961 the College broadened its courses and started two courses, one leading to a Diploma in Agriculture and the other to a Diploma in Sugar Technology. However, it must be noted that some students still had to proceed overseas for higher education to study specialized subjects and higher diplomas, there being no university yet to teach a wide spectrum of subjects.

The University of Mauritius:

Professor Colins Leys in 1964 submitted his report on the 'Development of a University College of Mauritius'. He suggested that it would be a feasible and economical project as it could start to build on the resources of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the Mauritius Institute and the College of Agriculture. He also proposed that the new College should have a faculty of Agricultural Sciences, a faculty of Development studies and an Institute of Education.

The report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May 1964, and it was approved. The University of Mauritius (Provisional Council) Ordinance, 1965 (Ordinance no. 35 of 1965) established a Provisional Council to consider, plan and establish the University of Mauritius along the lines suggested by Professor Leys. This Ordinance established its legal existence and corporate entity.

Some twenty meetings of this Council were held under the chairmanship of the Honourable H.R. Vaghjee, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly until 30th June, 1967. Major topics discussed were the planning and development of the University site, the establishment of personnel

and emoluments and an agreement was reached with the U.K. Government for a British Expatriation Supplementation Scheme for expatriate members of staff. Financial provisions were negotiated with the Government of Mauritius and fee structure was established for degrees and diplomas.

The University was formally opened on June 16, 1967.

The University of Mauritius Act, 1971 (Act no. 17 of 1971) came into force on May 31, 1971. This finally vested it with a permanent constitution and well-defined statutes as a legal and corporate entity. This Act defines "the objects of the University shall be to provide facilities for and to engage in teaching and research and thereby to promote the advancement of learning and knowledge and, in particular, to provide for a university education responsive to the social, administrative, scientific, agricultural and technological needs of Mauritius; to hold out on such terms as it thinks fit and within the limits of its resources, to suitably and academically qualified persons who in the opinion of the University are able and willing to benefit from the facilities it offers, the opportunity of acquiring education befitting a university of highest standing."²⁷

The University has three constituent schools of Agriculture, Administration and Industrial Technology. It is expected that their scope will widen to include further courses or even new departments of studies as the needs arise for the short- and long-term development of the country. Charts 3 and 4 (vide pages 110 and 111 of Chapter VII) give a succinct representation of the projections of this young university.

The University campus is at Reduit and all the three constituent

²⁷ Mauritius. The University of Mauritius Act, 1971. (Act no. 17 of 1971). Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1971, p. 3 - 4.

schools and the first phase of the library are already functioning. The School of Agriculture plays a preponderant role in agricultural education. It has link arrangements with the Faculty of Agricultural Science of Reading University. Some 101 students were awarded diplomas and certificates in October 1971. It offers a broadly based course; it runs a combined Agriculture and Sugar Technology Diploma, and a degree course at Honours level since May 1970. It is also contemplating the establishment of an MSc and a PhD course in Agriculture (vide projections of courses in Chapter VII pages 110+111).

The School of Industrial Technology had enrolled 148 students in October 1971. It offers a variety of technical and engineering courses to provide trained manpower for the growing industries of Mauritius. It seeks to provide technicians to sugar factories, new industries and other sectors of private and public firms. It will be instrumental in supplying the technical, scientific and mechanical manpower needs of Mauritius. It will also play a major role in supporting the industrial foundation of the island, and the more especially so as agriculture is being diversified and small industries and industrial centres are growing up.

The School of Administration has an equally important role: it trains management, the brains and leaders in different fields of the Mauritian economy. It has been actively organizing seminars, short courses and several projects to reinforce the various cadres of the public and private sector. It had 279 students in October 1971 following 'award' courses. It comprises four centres of studies, namely Local Government, Public Administration, Professional Studies and Economic Studies. It has

special links with the University of Birmingham and the University of Manchester in the fields of Local Government and Public Administration. The "Centre d'Administration des Entreprises" is run in cooperation with the University of Aix-Marseilles. This also forms part of the School of Administration.

The above surveys of the primary and secondary education including the various developments at the University of Mauritius, its course projections and enrollments are especially important (these will be discussed in the next chapters) for they will have important bearings on the development and programme planning of the future National and University Library of Mauritius.

CHAPTER II

BRIEF NOTE ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN MAURITIUS

Early Development:

For lack of adequate research on this topic it is difficult to be categorical about the origin of libraries in Mauritius, especially the early development before the nineteenth Century. However it must be assumed that individual collections of colonists and administrators accounted for some small private libraries, and a small but growing collection must have accompanied the foundation of the 'Ecole Centrale' and early schools founded by missionaries. Archival collections had been collected under the French Administration, and housed in many government offices,¹ and it should be noted that the Mauritius Archives Department was opened in 1815. The Mauritius College of Agriculture which started in the early twentieth Century had its own library which was taken over in 1968 by the University of Mauritius and greatly expanded in resources and subject fields with the university gradually widening its teaching programmes and research fields.

Public, Municipal libraries:

It should be however noted that Municipal Libraries along with some other public libraries which have grown in populated townships have played a prominent role in library service. When the Municipality Library of Port Louis was founded in 1851 by the Secretary of the Corporation, Jules Mallac, it was specifically meant to be used by its employees until 1858 when Mayor Arthur Edwards liberalized access to it. In the beginning even the Royal College restricted library consultation and other facilities to members of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. It is interesting to

¹ Mauritius Archives. Brief guide to the Mauritius Archives. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1970, p. 2.

note that before 1851 there were only three public reading halls known to exist²; two of them which were established separately in 1816 by Baron and Sauvignec were merged into one library later on. The third one was the "Librairie de Maurice" founded in 1828. These institutions ceased to exist some twenty years later.

The Port Louis Municipality Library continued to be under the direct custody of the secretary of the City. In 1869 this responsibility devolved on its first librarian Mr. A. Guimbeau. Most of its librarians were writers, journalists or poets. It is only fairly recently that professionally trained staff were appointed. By 1933 most of the "chains" attached to books were removed and the public allowed to borrow books. Except for a few commercial libraries it was perhaps the only library of its kind in Mauritius at the turn of this century.

The other well-established library is the one housed in the Mauritius Institute founded in 1880. This public library was opened in 1902 following a substantial donation of about 9,000 volumes by Sir Virgile Naz in 1901. This was a significant development as it rhymes with the general purpose of the Mauritius Institute "of promoting the general study and cultivation of various branches and department of Arts, Science, Literature and philosophy and for the instruction and recreation of the people"³. It implicitly acts as the National Library of the island.

² "La bibliothèque municipale de la Cité de Port Louis", Bulletin des Bibliothèques Municipales de l'Ile de Maurice, no. 1, mars 1969, p. 6.

³ Mauritius Institute. Annual report of the...1970. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1971, p. 1.

The Carnegie Library of the Cure Pipe Municipality was inaugurated in January 1920 by the Governor H.J. Bell. As early as 1912 the "Board of Commissioners" had voted an annual credit to be amalgamated with a Carnegie Foundation Grant. This library was fortunate enough to receive some valuable donations from local notables and started running its operations on a 2,000 volume collection.⁴

The Library of the Municipality of Beau-Bassin - Rose-Hill started modestly with a vote of Rs. 2,000⁵ when it was created in 1946. It was housed in one of the wings of the Municipality building. The British Council library used to be in the same premises for sometime. The library occupied its new building in 1966.

The public library of the Municipality of Quatre-Bornes was established in 1948 and access was limited to members of the Board of Commissioners and other staff.⁶ It was only on September 1 that it was opened to the public after the Board made a decision in this direction on May 19, 1949. Its stock stood at about 6,000 volumes at the beginning of 1969:

The Vacoas - Phoenix Municipal Council Library has a floor area of 1,100 square feet. It was created in 1966 and officially inaugurated in 1967.⁷ As the youngest of the five public municipal libraries, it will

4 "Bibliothèque Carnegie de Cure Pipe: réalisations et besoins actuelles," Bulletin des Bibliothèques Municipales de l'Ile Maurice, no.1, Mars 1969, p. 9 - 11.

5 "Bibliothèque de la Municipalité de Beau-Bassin - Rose-Hill", Bulletin des Bibliothèques Municipales de l'Ile Maurice, no. 1, mars 1969, p. 13 - 16.

6 "The Municipality of Quatre-Bornes: the Public Library", Bulletin des Bibliothèques Municipales de l'Ile Maurice, no. 1, mars 1969, p. 17 - 18.

7 "Municipal Council of Vacoas - Phoenix library", Bulletin des Bibliothèques Municipales de l'Ile Maurice, no. 1, mars 1969, p. 19 - 22.

take time to put on a healthy growth with its scant budget.

The British Council Library is one of the few dynamic public libraries in the island. It has a good all round collection of books on English, English literature, and other subjects. It also has a language laboratory. Its book stock on December 31, 1967 was 11,242.

Another public library, the St Joseph library is turning out to be popular as it is run on a subscription basis.

Other well-established libraries of noteworthy interest are the Mauritius Legislative Assembly Library, the Supreme Court Library, the Mauritius Police Library, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Library. They all serve their immediate institutions.

The Mauritius Legislative Assembly Library has a strong collection of laws and statutes, official papers, debates and proceedings, etc., relating to Mauritius. It provides a useful general and reference service to legislators and other users.

The Supreme Court Library is another well-documented institution. It has a fairly large collection of laws, statutes, government and other official documents which are constantly used by members of the legal profession of Mauritius.

The Mauritius Police Library is situated at Line Barracks, in Port Louis. It comprises legal books, general books, reviews and newspapers. It is open to members of the police force and to public subscribers. Its English and French books and other documents are circulated throughout the island and Rodrigues among the members of the police force. Its stock in 1967 numbered 9,377.

The Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Library has close

connection with the University Library of Mauritius. It comprises specialist literature on sugarcane and its technology, and various branches of agriculture. It has a fairly good collection of reports, circulars and research papers and projects. It also maintains foreign research reports and other documents through its exchange service with various international special research centres.

Some of the Ministries of the Government have a small collection for their immediate needs. Only the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has a stock of about 5,000 or so.

Educational Institution Libraries:

A circular dated 19th January, 1950 emanating from the Secretary of State for Colonies directed the Government of Mauritius to take steps to improve library facilities in the secondary schools. This is reported in the Sessional Paper no. 3 of 1951, "Report of the Library Committee". Government funds made available to Government and Approved Secondary Schools were the following for 1949 - 1950:⁸

Royal College*	Rs. 2,300
Royal College School*	Rs. 1,000
Training College *	Rs. 1,500
9 Approved Schools	<u>Rs. 3,600</u>
T O T A L	<u><u>Rs. 8,400</u></u>

⁸ Mauritius. Legislative Council. Report of the Library Committee (Sessional Paper no. 3 of 1951). Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1951, p. 1.

The government institutions marked with an asterisk received "considerable library allocations provided for in the General Estimates". The approved schools sometimes received small book grants in addition to their own.

However, the Library Committee decided that the existing organization of Mauritius libraries should provide among other facilities (a) a special room of English and French books for juveniles between 18 and 20, (b) the creation of a central reference library service with the help of Rs. 50,000 to start a printed catalogue of all useful books in all the libraries of the island and a system whereby they could be made available to any Mauritian students, (c) a compiled list of books read in secondary schools suited to principal age-groups of students attending these schools, (d) a suitable and quiet reading accommodation in such schools, (e) the improvement of library facilities and organization by sending an education officer for training in librarianship so that his expert advice could be made available to schools, and others, (f) increased financial grant to cover the above recommendations and an amount of Rs. ,4,500 to cover expenses of the "Junior Library and Reading Room to be housed at first in the British Council Centre."

Although the recommendations of the Library Committee were well-intentioned, the Central Library Catalogue has not been achieved and little progress has been made. Libraries are still plagued with lack of adequate funds for books, staff, training facilities and the good will necessary for their growth. A National Library Committee seems to be a most desirable necessity to make fresh recommendations to change the prevailing situation after the little measure of improvement obtained since

the 1950 Committee findings. This would be the only way to get libraries out of this sorry state.

The situation as drawn in the Triennial Report 1967-1969 could have been ameliorated and progress accelerated if more vigorous policy decisions were made. Except in a few cases the statistical data⁹ provided below do not favourably compare with the enrollment and growth of these institutions.

TABLE V
GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL LIBRARY STATISTICS

Institution:	Year Founded	No. of students, 1968	Book in stock, 1966	1967-69 Additions	Borrowers	Issues
Royal College Port Louis	1920*	736	5,678	823	2,250	37,025
John Kennedy College	1964*	597	4,137	2,496	1,966	29,484
Teachers' Training College	----	642	20,329	3,096	4,400	67,939
Queen Elizabeth College	1951*	589	6,653	1,477	2,090	29,056
Royal College Cure Pipe	1800*	640	14,008	899	1,927	25,183
Junior Library	----	---	6,608	1,027	1,230	24,303

* Date refers to the foundation of the institution.

It should be noted that the Royal College, Cure Pipe, the Royal College, Port Louis and the Queen Elizabeth College are grammar school type

⁹ Mauritius. Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs. Triennial Survey of Education in Mauritius, 1967-1969. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1970, p. 22.

of secondary schools which prepare students for the Cambridge 'School' Certificate and Cambridge 'Higher School Certificate examinations.' The John Kennedy College also prepares students for the above examinations, but its curriculum has a scientific, technical and commercial bias. These post-primary schools follow the pattern of English secondary schools in that they provide classes for Form I to Form VI, i.e. up to University entrance. The Teachers Training College generally offers a two years' training to would-be primary school teachers who are holders of the Cambridge School Certificate or Higher School Certificate or the London General Certificate of Education at Ordinary or Advanced Level. The Junior Library offers pupils of the lower forms of the Secondary Schools a reference and lending service.

In government aided schools and some of the private secondary schools, there is a library service, but it is not what could be considered a well-balanced stock. Some stock more fiction, because they are many a time cheaper than other categories of books. In other secondary schools, libraries are practically non-existent, except for a few volumes of reference works and some textbooks provided by the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs.

In primary schools, the Triennial Report 1967-1969 has pointed out the need for Parent-Teachers' Associations to provide for essential library service. But it is equally important that reading habits be created among students, audio-visual facilities be generously used and sufficient guidance be given to children in choosing the best reading materials. The endeavour and ideal should have been to circulate or rotate books and other

materials from school to school, with ultimate emphasis on independent library service, not to speak of the need for a certain number of trained librarians to organize and to run ably the services in the beginning for a group of schools and later the appointment of a teacher-librarian for each school. As it is the Standard VI library service started in 1964 with 30 schools reached only 73 in 1969. It is to be hoped that the growth of Library Centres should give way to individual libraries in schools, with a rotating stock of materials, etc.

CHAPTER III

WHY SHOULD THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY?

Inadequacies:

An analysis of the present library development situation in Mauritius and a brief look at the previous chapters would certainly lead to the following apparent conclusions:

1- Each library institution is growing apart, and thinking in terms of service in its own locality without much coordination of effort with neighbouring libraries.

2- Library institutions are not properly staffed, and the right kind of incentives like salary emoluments, in-service training, job-satisfaction and the climate itself not attuned to some reasonable fast developments which have taken place in advanced countries. The advances in librarianship in these countries have almost been as great as the exponential developments in many scientific subjects.

3- There is a need to increase professional consciousness, to unify the library profession under a Mauritius Library Association and to standardize as far as possible as well as coordinate some library procedures, service and strengthen the bond of library cooperation so that the limited resources available in Mauritian libraries could be put to maximum use and made available to any citizen in any corner of the island. In Mauritius, especially where money, staffing and other 'decisive' factors in library development and growth have much to be desired, it is expected that some 'prime mover'¹ or some one library authority should play the leading role and

¹ J.J. Guy Sylvestre. "The prime-mover: the role of the National Library." In Canadian Library Association. Proceedings. 25th Annual Conference, Hamilton, June 20-25, 1970. Ottawa, 1971, p. 12 - 19.

through its aegis and influence, set the pace for future development in all fields of librarianship. Such an institution should command, through its voice of professional integrity, directional wisdom and strong reputation, enough authority to shape the currents of library growth. This institution can be no less than a national library.

At present the Mauritius Institute Library is discharging implicitly the function ² of national library. This institution should hand over this function to the N.U.L.M. or the N.U.L.M. should supersede this institution in carrying out this national responsibility.

The Mauritius Archives is also in a way doing the work of both a national library and public archives. For the sake of efficiency and better service, some library experts believe that the Public Archives and the National Library must constitute two separate and distinct functional institutions, each having a somewhat different methodology and differing in their approach to their acquisition, cataloguing, classification of library materials or arrangement and description of record groups. Whereas in the Library, the methodology is much more standardized, the Archival Collections need a different treatment. There are many other differences, too. The National Library of Canada and the Public Archives of Canada are to-day two separate institutions, one under a National Librarian and the latter under a Dominion Archivist, although the Canadian Public Archives used to cumulate both the above-mentioned functions before 1953.

² Mauritius. Report...1967. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1968, p. 131.

The rôle of the N.U.L.M.:

A separate National Library would be more efficient, dynamic and capable of greater development in association with the University Library. It is therefore suggested that the University be made the seat of the National and University Library of Mauritius. This would help the all-round development of Library Service throughout the country. Growth in the National Collection and the Academic Library would continue to have the support of the government, the public and above all every type of learned societies, particularly 'Friends of the N.U.L.M.', with links with foreign University Libraries, National Libraries and other types of Institutions. Some of the obvious advantages of the N.U.L.M. to scholars would be:

- 1- A greatly enriched collection from which to choose.
- 2- A central service of all types of materials.
- 3- A great seat of research and advanced studies.
- 4- Specialist staff to provide specialized services to guide and foster research backed upon the possibility of consultation with members of the University teaching staff.
- 5- A well-balanced budget which will offset an anemic growth of literature, as this National Library will attract sufficient finance.
- 6- A centre for interloans - national and international, as well as for gift and exchange.
- 7- Professionally, it could become a centre for the coordinated growth of a complex library system in the country.

Thus we find that some of the above remarks lead us to believe that the University is best placed to shoulder the responsibility of the N.U.L.M. from the academic, professional, status and financial point of view. With its longer hours of opening, relatively large manpower and financial resources, it would be in an ideal situation to assume the leadership role. It would have the necessary incentives to provide for a healthy growth of institution connected with education, culture and the general self-development of the individual. Such an institution would crown it all as it would come in time to represent the true ideal of Mauritian learning, culture, and knowledge.

A good example of a National and University Library in the Middle East is the Jewish National and University Library. Other universities which fulfil the functions of national library as well are the Cambridge University Library, the Bodleian of Oxford, Trinity College, Dublin, and many others scattered throughout Europe.

Before making recommendations on the functions of the proposed N.U.L.M., it is essential to look at the important roles of similar institutions in other countries. Whereas the role of the University Library can be said to follow the general academic programme to support teaching, research and informational needs of the alumni, staff, and others, the National library plays a vital part in fostering the cultural ideals of the nation besides catering for a host of other functions. The next chapter will be devoted to a brief functional survey of National Libraries, with detailed accounts and references to the future functions of the National and University Library of Mauritius.

As for the University of Mauritius itself, the N.U.L.M. would be a welcome institution. It is not only because it would add immensely to its prestige that it should be accepted, but also for the benefits that this association would be likely to bring. It would result in an enriched general stock; more financial provision would be made for its ambitious programmes of acquisition, and a relatively large staff of a high calibre would be recruited to man different service points. Subject specialists, specialized services and a wide variety of facilities would be made available; these would second the academic programmes more efficiently than it would be possible, if the University Library were made to serve specifically its academic needs with a greatly reduced budget. With the N.U.L.M. duly installed, more subject areas could be added, fringe interests served, and academic staff and others would find nearer home what they would have to ask from foreign or outside sources, and be frustrated with delay and non-availability of the materials they need. The University Library could refuse to buy outside its fields of interest, but the N.U.L.M. would always have a sum ready for special or unusual purchase. Besides, the various schemes already touched upon and the various functions that it would accumulate would in fact be much more used by the academic population than the general public. It would be expected that the N.U.L.M. in the long run, would have won the heart of all its clientele including the university staff and students through its dynamic activities, flexible services and the general and specialized nature of its stock. With vast resources at its disposal, and more materials available from its book stock, the N.U.L.M. would turn into an encouraging seat of learning.

All this, however, means adding extra responsibilities on the N.U.L.M. It would thus result in an enlarged community, for its government would necessitate the advice and participation of various categories of people. It would have on its committees representatives of various government ministries, representatives of local townships, learned bodies, the local library association, and experts chosen from different fields. It would also have subcommittees for university services and use as well as for community services and use. An overall body should see to it that adequate provisions for finance, manpower and services are available for the smooth running of the N.U.L.M. Although much of the library space would be allotted to alumni and staff use, there would also be a separate reading room consisting of not less than twenty five seats for the general public. Thus the machinery of the N.U.L.M. would be properly geared to achieve its ultimate goals of specialist and general services dispensed efficiently, effectively, and economically to the satisfaction of everybody.

CHAPTER IV

THE SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF MAURITIUS

The scope of the N.U.L.M.:

The N.U.L.M. would be the apex of the system of a library network for the whole island. This idea will be fully enlarged upon in the next chapter on the development plan. It would reflect through its comprehensive collection a rich variety and selection of the most significant literature and record, both local and foreign. It would act as a National heritage centre. It would be the central institution on which the inspirational, directional, and experimental ideas which frame library development in Mauritius would rest.

It would be the sheet anchor¹ of diverse activities like national and international cooperation, bibliographic, and referral services, collection, preservation and dissemination of learning, culture and civilization which again intermingle with a host of socio-economic, scientific and technical factors to generate scholarship and knowledge like a powerful dynamo. As such within its limited budget and fields of activities, it should become a kind of repository, tracking station and transmitter of the sum total of human achievement. It would thus become a breeding ground of scholars, scientists, philosophers and the intelligentsia who are in turn the product of the total interaction of zeitgeist, society, cultural environment and civilization. Thus, it would provide a continuum of human

¹ Arundell Esdaille. (ed. by F. J. Hill). National Libraries of the world. 2nd ed. London, Library Association, 1957.

enlightenment and genius. It is for these reasons that the National and University Library of Mauritius should become the "focus of leadership"² in the national system of libraries.

Before discussing in details the various specific functions to be carried out by the N.U.L.M., it would be pertinent here to touch briefly on the functions of national libraries in other countries.

Functions of National Libraries in other countries:

Almost encyclopedic in scope and function, these arch institutions show no unanimity of purpose in countries with long traditions like the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France, Russia and others. National Libraries in these countries perform a wide spectrum of activities through their multi-media and departments of printed books, prints and drawings, manuscripts, oriental, slaviv and other specialized collections, newspapers, periodicals, incunabula, tapes, maps, charts, etc. In Switzerland the national library is the sole repository of Swiss culture, while other Swiss libraries look after research, teaching and informational materials and needs. As a contrast, the National Library of Holland collects a representative stock of the best literature of research value published throughout the world, while other libraries look after the preservation of Dutch Culture and Literature.

In the United Kingdom, various libraries perform the functions of national libraries, namely the British Museum (with the Science Museum Library, the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, the National Reference Library for Science and Invention, all acting as links in the chain), the National Libraries of

² G. T. Alley. "The national library in the social process", New Zealand Libraries. 30(5), Oct. 1957, 141 - 156.

Wales, Scotland, and the University Libraries of Cambridge, the Bodleian and Trinity College, Dublin. They function as "self-contained entities"³ and more recently the Dainton Report⁴ has suggested a new pattern of relationship among the National Libraries and deposit libraries, whereby the British Library will seek an integration of the British Museum within the National system of libraries. This will help the coordination and rationalization of the services of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, the National Central Library and the Science Museum Library with the British Museum.

The **Library** of Congress represents a well-structured National library system with a preponderant role, although it forms a trilogy with the United States Library of Agriculture and the National Library of Medicine. However, it works with some sixty specialized and university libraries⁵ for the acquisition of representative fields of literature under various husbandry schemes.

The Lenin Library in Moscow is one of the most fully integrated libraries in the National System. It provides bibliographic facilities, loans, a widely-used classification scheme, acts as a clearing house and houses a large library school. On the other hand, the 'Bibliothèque Nationale' of France stands mid-way between the British Museum and the Lenin Library. Besides carrying out other functions, it also acts as a

³ Donald Davinson. Academic and legal deposit libraries: an examination handbook. 2nd ed. fully rev. London, Bingley, 1969.

⁴ F.S. Dainton. Report of the National Libraries Committee. London, H.M.S.O., 1969.

⁵ Edwin E. Williams. "Farmington plan", in T. Landau, ed. Encyclopedia of Librarianship. (2nd rev. ed. London, Bowes and Bowes, 1967). p. 138.

centre for international exchange, interlibrary cooperation and a clearing house for bibliographic information.

In India the National Library has expanded its activities considerably after the country became independent in 1947. Under the Delivery of Books (Public Library) Act, 1954, as amended in 1956, it collects books, periodicals, newspapers and other categories of documents throughout the country. It maintains an oriental collection, catalogues of periodicals, newspapers, gazettes, a printed card catalogue, an official section, the Bihar Library, and an Indian language collection. One tradition which it has inherited from the Calcutta Public Library and the Imperial Library, its precursors, is the maintenance of a lending section. In 1950, it also added a children's library. It participates in international and national loan service, gift and exchange activities, contributes to library planning and gives advice in library planning, equipment and administration to other Indian Libraries.

One of the goals of National Libraries, i.e. comprehensiveness⁶ has turned out to be elusive and almost a myth. No national library can boast to be a self-sufficient and self-contained island. The sheer volume of printed matter and other forms of documents produced by world presses and other sources, proves to be a stupendous and staggering financial manpower, energy and space load on their moderate resources. So, most of them concentrate on these twin functions:

- 1- To collect all the record of national culture. To fulfil national

⁶ F.H. Hill. "National Libraries", In Five Years' Work in librarianship, 1956-1960. ed. by P.J. Sewell. London, Library Association, 1963, p. 3 - 29.

needs, the multi-lingual and multi-racial literature forms the basis of a sound national legacy and collection.

2- They also cover selectively within their limited budget international literature of general scholarship and research value.

Some of the functions for national libraries succinctly divided into three categories by K. W. Humphreys⁷ could be applied as basic functions for the N.U.L.M.

I FUNDAMENTAL FUNCTIONS:

- a) The outstanding and central collection of the nation's literature.
- b) Coverage of foreign literature.
- c) Legal deposit.
- d) Publication of national bibliography.
- e) National bibliographic centre.
- f) Publication of catalogue.

II DESIRABLE FUNCTIONS:

- a) Inter-library lending
- b) Index to the location of manuscripts.
- c) Research in library techniques.

III FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE NOT STRICTLY THOSE OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY

- a) International exchange service.
- b) Distribution of duplicates.
- c) Books for the blind.
- d) Professional training.

⁷ K. W. Humphreys. "The role of the national library: a preliminary statement. Papers read to the section of the National and University library at the I.F.L.A. Council Meeting, Rome, 1966," Libri, 14(4), 1966, p. 356-368.

e) Assistance to other libraries in library techniques.

f) Library planning.

Some of the criticisms that can be levelled at the third category of functions are that they are more relevant to advanced countries where resources and trained manpower are available to take up all those special activities. However, in a developing country like Mauritius, it would be a wise decision to have well-qualified, mature and experienced librarians. This would constitute the logical sequel of the N.U.L.M. to its vital central role as the guiding and inspiring mastermind in the development of a local network of libraries. In this capacity, the N.U.L.M. should assume and carry out its additional responsibilities of library planning and assistance in library techniques if it is to become the prime-mover in every innovational field.

The Parry Report ⁸ has made recommendations along the lines proposed by K.W. Humphreys. It also suggested that the British Museum should become the National Library so that an array of responsibilities and policies could be coordinated and worked out by setting up an Advisory Committee of National Libraries. In Mauritius an Advisory Committee for setting up National and University Library should be instituted to formulate recommendations to make this a reality. A reasonable number of objectives suggested by the British Museum Trustees in their report submitted to the Dainton Committee mention the following five:

1- To ensure complete coverage of every book or every periodical published in the country and all foreign publications of informational or research value.

⁸ Thomas Parry, (chairman). Report of the Committee on Libraries. London, H.M.S.O., 1967, Chap. VII, p. 81 - 88.

Applied to the I.U.L.M., this would have to be selective within its limited budget especially for foreign publications. However, publications much needed locally should be purchased.

2- To give information as to location, existence and contents of such documents.

3- One copy of each document should at least be conserved permanently.

4- To allow access to such documents after they are organized in collections so that they can be consulted separately or in any other desired combination.

5- To facilitate loan of documents to people away from the centre, by interloan, photocopies and other means, for example by supplying information extracted from the documents.

The functions of the N.U.L.M.:

From the above, it becomes clear that National Libraries have acquired a high status and a prestigious role as the symbolic representation of the social, cultural, economic and scientific heritage of a nation. Thus functionally the N.U.L.M. could also be called upon to carry on key roles of guiding, directing and inspiring the search for knowledge, truth, research and scholarship.

If the N.U.L.M. is to assume the task of a truly representative national and international institution, it must as far as possible carry out the following important functional roles.

1- The Central Agency to collect Mauritian literature:

The N.U.L.M. should collect all important documents published local-

ly or abroad on or about various facets of Mauritian life. It should have enough fund to acquire costly local or foreign materials whether published or unpublished manuscripts, private collections sold by auction and rare materials bearing on Mauritian life and culture. For example, it should contact notable Mauritian writers in various fields and make arrangements to buy or acquire through gift or donation their manuscripts. It should equally try to secure some rare books and other precious documents presently in the custody of certain Mauritians. Certain types of ephemera, precious literary, historical and other source materials of which there exist only a few copies or unique copies, and certain pre-1800 documents which fall under rare book categories, should be controlled by the government, so that they do not leave the country (except for some special reasons, like loans to international bodies, foreign centres, etc. for which official sanction will be required) so as to constitute a permanent national loss. The necessary legislation should be brought in the Legislative Assembly to protect such a national interest. This bill could be called the Precious Artefacts and Rare Books Act. All work of arts, and other categories of materials and precious documents discussed above should require the sanction of the 'Precious Artefacts and Rare Books Committee' before any such item is allowed to leave the country. Custom officials would be empowered to check any fraud of this nature. The Precious Artefacts and Rare Book Committee may consist of representatives of the National Library, the Mauritius Archives, the Mauritius Institute and others specially appointed by the government. The Government of Mauritius would have priority of purchase of such material before it decides to dispose of it otherwise.

Here it should be pointed out that archival materials could still be copied or hunted from various sources and from former rulers of Mauritius;

the Mauritius Institute should continue to collect Museum pieces and other artefacts, besides carrying out other functions assigned to it. There should be perfect understanding on the type of historical materials and other documentary evidences which each institution should consider its proper function to collect. A Library and Archives Council should be appointed to demarcate responsibility for the collection of the proper type of materials for each category of institution.

2- Legal Depository:

Legal deposit is one of the most economical means of collecting locally published materials. There should be a clear provision in the Copyright Act or the Legal Deposit Act as to the number of copies of each publication that should be deposited with the N.U.L.M. Here again the necessary piece of legislation ~~should be passed to make the deposit of two copies of~~ each publication mandatory. It is considered wise to keep one copy for permanent deposit and another copy for interlending purposes. Side by side, this helps the quick compilation of the national bibliography.

3- Selective Purchase of Foreign Literature:

It would be difficult, impracticable and inadvisable for the N.U.L.M. to act as a monolithic structure for the purchase of all foreign literature of research value, because of its limited budget. However, it could in conjunction with other well-established libraries which could afford to do so, participate in a well-knit scheme of library cooperation and acquisition policy. It could act as the centre for the planning and coordinating of the "best buy" of foreign literature. It can thus allocate the responsibilities of the purchase of publications countrywise or subjectwise so that a rational foreign book acquisition policy could be worked out. Thus, the whole nation could

share in its common resources.

4- Publication of National Bibliography:

Under the provision of the legal depository Act, the N.U.L.M. would find itself in an apt position to record all publications as they are received in a national bibliography. However, it should also issue from time to time special supplements of maps, charts, musical notes, folklore, recordings, government and other publications.

At present in Mauritius, the N.U.L.M. would also be able to provide entries for Mauritian material in the Library of Congress Classification Scheme as well as in the Dewey Decimal Classification, besides providing duly catalogued entries with full descriptive details including price marks.

5- National Bibliographical Information Centre:

One of the most important tasks that the N.U.L.M. would have to consider seriously would be the compilation and publication of bibliographies as well as the coordination of bibliographical work in general. In this context some four recommendations¹⁰ of a conference of UNESCO in November, 1950 are worth mentioning, namely that national bodies should (a) promote research in bibliographical methodology; (b) act as a clearing house for research completed or in process; (c) coordinate various tasks and determine priorities; and (d) act as a link with international bodies which are engaged in referral and bibliographical information services.

¹⁰ UNESCO. National Libraries: their problems and prospects. Paris, Unesco, 1960.

Here, it should be stressed that since the volume of annual publication in Mauritius is just a trickle of what is found in European countries, the best service that the N.U.L.M. could give to its clients and other public is to have a team of bibliographers and specialists who could: (1) abstract articles from learned journals and provide a regular service to people with interest in a particular subject field, (2) compile an index to Mauritian daily newspapers, (3) and compile a bibliographic index of Mauritiana as well as perform other related activities.

This could also form the basis of an Information Retrieval System which could be computerized later on. A Selective Dissemination of Information Service could be started with various readers' profiles and interests.

The bibliographic indexes and abstracts should not only document recent materials but bibliographers and documentalists should go to retrospective files and survey every field of subjects right when activities started in the island. Thus the N.U.L.M. could become a very important documentation centre.

6- Publication of catalogues:

In its endeavour to serve a growing number of researchers, the N.U.L.M. would have to undertake the publication of special catalogues of printed books, maps, music, charts, manuscripts, periodicals, newspapers and other materials.

Perhaps the most important realization would be the compilation of a National Union Catalogue of Books and Periodicals in Mauritius. This could be a joint venture of many important libraries of the island under the direction of the N.U.L.M. A special room for the National Union Catalogue cards could be maintained next to a large

interlibrary loan room adjoining which a reference and bibliographic staff could be housed. A more comprehensive plan for a network of library cooperation system is outlined in the next chapter.

7- Interlibrary loans:

As a corollary, the N.U.L.M. acting as the Bibliographical Centre should become the national and international loan centre. By means of its Union Catalogues and other specialized tools, it would easily become an initiating, sponsoring, coordinating agency-body responsible for interlibrary loans.

8- Professional Training:

The N.U.L.M. would enjoy a unique position in the island as it would house under one roof both the national collection and the academic stock. With a fairly good number of specialists and experienced librarians, a programme to train local librarians and others could be started. The rich resources of the N.U.L.M. and its modern facilities would be the best breeding ground to expose local librarians to new fields in librarianship. It would not be difficult to provide orientation courses for in-service trainees. This would also help to create professional **consciousness**, increase the skill and ability of local librarians to carry on their work efficiently, competently and productively. Professional staff could be expected to include subject librarians like lawyers, historians, philologists and scientists. These people could act as specialist lecturers to the uninitiated as these experienced people would be busy working on the "encyclopedic" ¹¹ collection of the N.U.L.M. A library school would

¹¹ P. Havard-Williams. "Education and training for National and University Libraries". Libri, 19(3), 1969, 204 - 215.

be an essential part of the contribution which the University of Mauritius would offer towards the professional development of librarians.

9- Assistance in library techniques:

As the N.U.L.M. would be expected to become a centrally organized library system, it should become a strong institution that would set the "tone to the whole library system of the country"¹². However, it would not be able to do everything unaided. It would usually offer bibliographical guidance and methodical assistance to public libraries. It would also issue booklists, bibliographies, classification and cataloguing standards and other specialized services. It would also have to give the lead in technical aspects of library work, e.g., binding, photography, duplication and use of mechanical aids. It would seek out the most effective, efficient and economical way of doing all these things in the context of conditions in Mauritius.

10- Library Planning:

As the apex of the library system, the N.U.L.M. would wield enough influence as to be able to guide library growth and to give its ideas and opinions as to how best library services, interlibrary cooperation and library growth could flourish. So, it would come to play a vital role in moulding the organizational as well as the planned and rationalized growth of libraries throughout the island. There would be need to advise on building planning, site selection and location of buildings in various areas. Library planning would henceforth go hand in hand with the democratization of education. Knowledge will not be denied to anybody, nor would library service and facilities.

¹² P. Havard-Williams. "National and University Libraries - special libraries for special readers", Libri, 18(3-4), 1968, 173-181.

11- National Coordination Centre for Library Service:

Of capital importance would be the ability of the N.U.L.M. to appoint committees to study and recommend the best way in which libraries of the island would work, co-exist, interdepend and rationalize their services for the optimum utilization of their resources. This would help the healthy growth and development of various libraries which would have assigned responsibilities to collect in the fields of humanities, social sciences, pure and applied science, and other specialized subjects.

Thus, the N.U.L.M. would be acting in the best interest of the social, economic, cultural and educational needs of the island. All this would result in the maximum and effective utilization of its resources. A rationalized system of library development under the aegis of the N.U.L.M. would advance the cause of research and scholarship; knowledge would be quickened and this in turn would lead to the flowering of the human mind. The N.U.L.M. would in time become a deep reservoir of experience and extensive specializations. With its forward-going policy to help the public in and outside the island, it would turn into a "gregarious" and "extrovert" library. It would be dedicated to truth. In the words of D. C. Mearns "when a national library contains truth and discloses truth, it fulfils its purpose and confirms its power".¹³

Its functions as a University Library:

The twin function of the N.U.L.M. would promote the growth of monographs, periodicals and research materials of all kinds rather than create

13 D. C. Mearns. "Summary". Library Trends, 4, 1955, 96 - 156.

a lop-sided development in the stock, if a well-balanced acquisition policy is promulgated.

The responsibility of the librarian would become extensive, with services ranging from public to academic fields, and himself involved in the vortex of national, international, academic, public and multi-sided activities.

The resources of the national collection would supplement and complement that of the academic section, and this enrichment would further strengthen library support for the academic programme.

However, there is still the danger of the university being caught in either giving one of its sections more attention, a fact which tends to result in a deteriorating service. This can be cured if a sufficient number of well-qualified staff are given delegated responsibilities to carry out the various functions efficiently; much more important would be the provision of adequate finance without which interest and enthusiasm for the multiplicity of service would evaporate, the staff would be overworked or in poor morale, and the book stock would put on an 'endemic' and anemic growth. The body responsible for its administration, budgeting, staffing and policy should see to it that no such situations are allowed to develop.

The N.U.L.M. would be a costly proposition, but a rewarding institution if the resultant service that it would give is analysed. A look at its functional scope will reveal the national and international importance of its role and should be able to convince planning authorities of its practicable nature and sound principle.

If the academic library is the heart that feeds the pump-lines of research, teaching, information and university curriculum, it is no less vital to its goals. In this context it should be realized that its collection should actively support the undergraduate, graduate, research and doctoral programmes to be arranged at the University. This means that it would have to acquire materials in depth and breadth in many subjects. It would not be out of place to repeat the famous words which appear in the 1921 report of the University Grants Committee of England: "The character and efficiency of a university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ-the library. We regard the fullest provision for library maintenance as the primary and most vital need in the equipment of a university."

The resources of the N.U.L.M. would be extensively utilized as the general public and the university population would go on increasing. The University enrollment Projection is a changeable factor and new courses and schools will add major responsibilities for a varied collection. These factors will be discussed in appropriate sections of the building programme.

Information explosion, the endless flow of articles and books in all types of media ¹⁴, forms and variety of languages really present a challenge to every university, especially since the needs of the general student and the specialist vary.

Another factor taxing University Library resource is the shift from 'lecture and textbook' method of teaching to discussion and tutorial method where individual work and research are stressed, and to the student

¹⁴ W. L. Saunders. "Humanistic institution or information factory", Journal of Librarianship, 1 (4), October 1969, 195 - 210.

it is 'of value in training him to work on his own, and to read literature of the subject with an alert and critical mind'. The Hale Report on University Teaching Methods stresses the needs for the beginning undergraduate study to be the "development of a mind and its training in method and attack", with specialist teaching concentrated on a progressive level at the undergraduate stage.

The continued use of periodicals mainly by researchers, the rise of interdisciplinary subjects and the considerable amount of written works reports and research projects being carried out in universities have led to substantial pressure being brought upon the University Library and its stock.

In fine, the N.U.L.M. should strive to create conditions which would activate the maximum use of library facilities. It should not only be concerned with providing an all-round and balanced collection of general literature but it should also acquire selectively all the significant materials relevant to university teaching needs, faculty research and student courses, while at the same time creating an efficient information and bibliographical apparatus.

It should be able to adapt itself to changing technology, adopt audio-visual materials and other equipments such as teaching machines.

This it could achieve, besides its other functions, by an adequate provision for finance, staffing, and a rational planning of its services. It should, therefore, be able to achieve both the national goal of service and the institutional goal of supporting higher studies and in this way promote in a better way the growth of scholarship, knowledge and the dissemination of information.

The above division into national collection and university collection is only a technical one. In practice all the books could be called the National and University Library Collection and this would be generally used by all sorts of readers; the library would also have a general collection, specialized collections and a reference section. Schofield and Urquhart have shown in the Cambridge readers' failure at the shelf survey¹⁵ that no one kind of reader uses particular sorts of books. This would imply that general access to, and use of the library would be frequently made by the academic and general readers as well as by outsiders. However, in order to satisfy all types of clientele, the services would be organized in a way that would basically answer the needs of its university population and its general readers, too.

¹⁵ John A. Urquhart and J. L. Schofield. "Measuring readers' failure at the shelf", Journal of Documentation 27(4), Dec. 1971, 273 - 286.

CHAPTER V

DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE PROJECTED N.U.L.M.

Legal Basis:

To recommend the programmes of the N.U.L.M., an Advisory Committee of the N.U.L.M. should at first be established with members drawn from all major libraries of the island, the University of Mauritius, representatives of learned bodies, representatives of the Government Ministries, especially the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Local Government, municipality and district council representatives and others.

Some select committees could also be created to recommend and advise on particular aspects of various services, their financial, staffing, development needs and other implications involved.

As already discussed, the University of Mauritius is likely to play an important part in its development. For reasons already discussed, it could accommodate the N.U.L.M., if the Government of Mauritius gives its full backing to such a project. It would be a step in the right direction and the necessary piece of legislation should be brought about to vest the University and its library with national status. This would also constitute a recognition by the Government of the central and important role of this institution in the developmental, intellectual and manpower training needs of the country. Such a step would be a justified and sound endowment of the University of Mauritius. In a way, the University is a 'national' institution as it is the only institution of its kind in the island.

The creation of the N.U.L.M. would make it receive automatically a copy (preferably two copies) of each publication published in the country.

This would save its local expenses on books and other publications. It would further strengthen its resources, and make interlibrary cooperation easier with other libraries, local and foreign.

Need for library cooperation:

In some existing libraries, space for expansion is at premium. For example the Carnegie Library had to build a tower stack system along the walls to accomodate more books and to create better access. With all the inconveniences that this involves, it can at best save the situation for a few more years when a new building or extension would seem to become inevitable. Some of their shelvings are old, but there is room for modernization. Luckily some of the old established public libraries have accumulated a stock of about 50,000 volumes or less. But their annual rate of acquisition is hardly a few thousand per year. For example the Mauritius Institute Public Library will reach in a few years 50,000 volumes; in 1970 only 1,200 volumes were added to the book stock of the library to bring the total to 48,140 volumes.¹ The additions included about 100 volumes of Mauritian and a few hundred donations. Were it not for gifts from and exchanges with foreign libraries and foreign governments, these libraries would have even grown more slowly. Some of the gifts are of doubtful value, and an occasional grant from some external sources does not materially increase the quality of the stock. Meanwhile their clientele is increasing, its range of interest varied and its demand more specific.

As for educational libraries, the Government Secondary School Libraries have much to be desired, and they also face the chronic problems described.

¹ Mauritius Institute. Annual report...for the year 1970. Port Louis, Govt. Printer, 1971, p. 2.

above. The same is the case with the government primary school libraries. In this respect only a handful of schools have libraries.

Some private secondary schools and some state-aided schools have a minimum of library service. But the majority of secondary schools need a second look, for they do not have a library service, except for a few handful of dictionaries or encyclopedias. Most of the students whose college is lucky enough to be near some town libraries or only those who can afford to pay subscription register with public libraries. Many are not appropriately motivated, or have never known the use or have never been induced or initiated to use public libraries except for the few texts prescribed for course study. Even some of the texts studied at schools are being pumped into these schools by the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, and the 'Union Culturelle Française' which supplies certain French books for lending to students and others. These books are usually kept in some secondary schools and serviced from here.

The villages have few centres where some reading materials are available. The British Council is supplying funds and some books to some outlying areas and community centres.

The following were the population statistics of the main municipal townships in Mauritius, and the book stock of their libraries.

Region	Year founded (library)	Population ² (1970)	Book stock of Municipal Libraries
Port Louis	1851	139,681	less than 50,000 volumes
Beau Bassin & Rose-Hill	1946	71,285	25,000 volumes
Cure Pipe	1920	50,010	25,000 volumes
Vacoas & Phoenix	1966	49,045	about 5,000 volumes
Quatre Bornes	1948	45,525	7,000 volumes

² Whitaker's Almanach, 1972, complete ed. London, Whitaker, 1971, p.702.

It can be easily observed that the per capita ratio of books is small indeed, and in the case of the last two unsatisfactory. The situation becomes much more critical as a large body of secondary schools concentrated in these areas, and people living outside the municipality zones do make heavy demands on their resources. Professionals, and people following higher academic programmes can obtain little that is useful to their immediate interest.

In library situation like this the N.U.L.M. would have a positive role to play. It could stretch its hands to other libraries and help them as well as itself by initiating a national network of library systems or initiate a cooperative scheme that would work for the entire island.

Subject specializations, even if created, with the scant budget of some local libraries would still result in a poor collection; many of the municipality libraries (there is one main municipal library in each of the five municipal areas) and the two other important public libraries in two of the municipal areas of Port Louis and Beau Bassin - Rose Hill are keen on supplying reading materials of a general nature so that subject specialization is a long way to become a success. However, some special libraries could be relied upon to provide a deeper collection in their field of interest.

Library cooperation would also reinforce library movement, create national consciousness on the crying needs of various areas of the island which are deprived of library facilities, not to speak of non-existent facilities in areas lying away from the main towns and city conglomerations.

A close look at the situation described in chapters one and two would reveal a lack of library resources and all its attendant benefits to the majority of the population. It would take a long time before the island is dotted at main points by libraries in the villages, towns and the city. Some of the deficiencies lie in these following areas:

- 1- Lack of professional consciousness.
- 2- No local facilities for training.
- 3- Understaffed libraries.
- 4- Poorly equipped and stunted growth of library institutions.
- 5- Little financial incentives and poor financial support.
- 6- Lack of a proper agency to coordinate and rationalize library services in the country.

Map no. 2 on the next page shows the present concentration of library facilities in Mauritius. The boundary of this area enclosed in a rectangle is within ten miles or so from the present University Library, which will be termed for convenience the N.U.L.M.. All these libraries are connected by telephone and the N.U.L.M. bus or van can take any book to and from any library within half an hour or so.

All these established libraries are marked by a black dot. Library cooperation with these town area libraries will not be difficult to establish. However, the smaller outlying town areas and villages in other districts where library facilities are practically non-existent will have to be seriously considered.

Creation of library network and cooperative schemes:

A proposed solution could be to ask the Government of Mauritius to

(continued on page 81)

Map no. 2 on page 80 shows the approximate location of the main established libraries in Mauritius.

- L •Main established libraries
- +Future District or Main District
Regional Libraries
- ΔFuture rural libraries

(All location points are approximate for main established libraries; other location points are tentative and need be re-corrected when a final decision is taken by local authorities to situate the future district and rural libraries.)

MAURITIUS

TRUNK ROAD

ARTERIAL ROADS

VALE ROADS

CABLE TELEGRAPH STATIONS

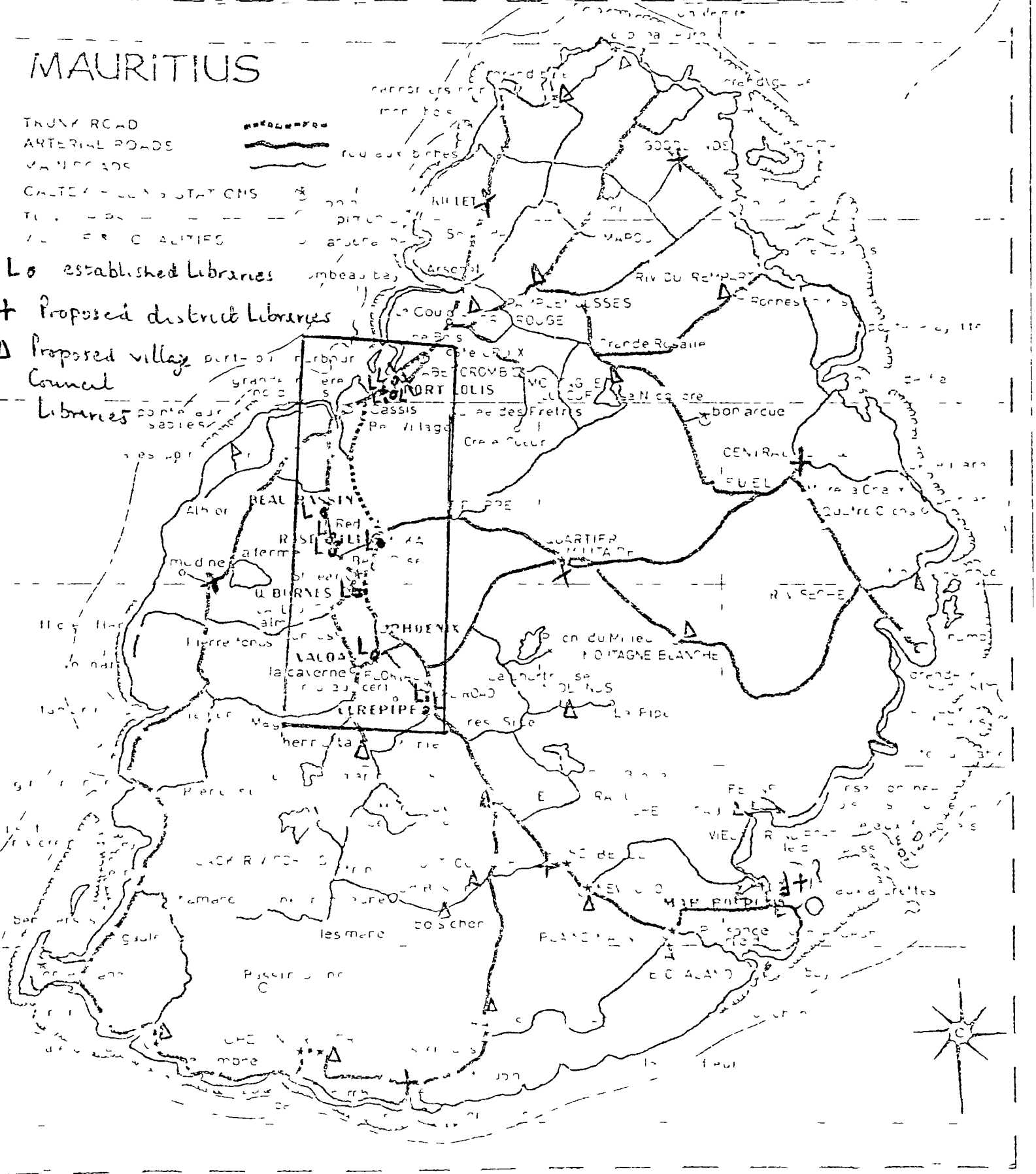
RAILWAYS

POPULATION DENSITIES

o established Libraries

+ Proposed district Libraries

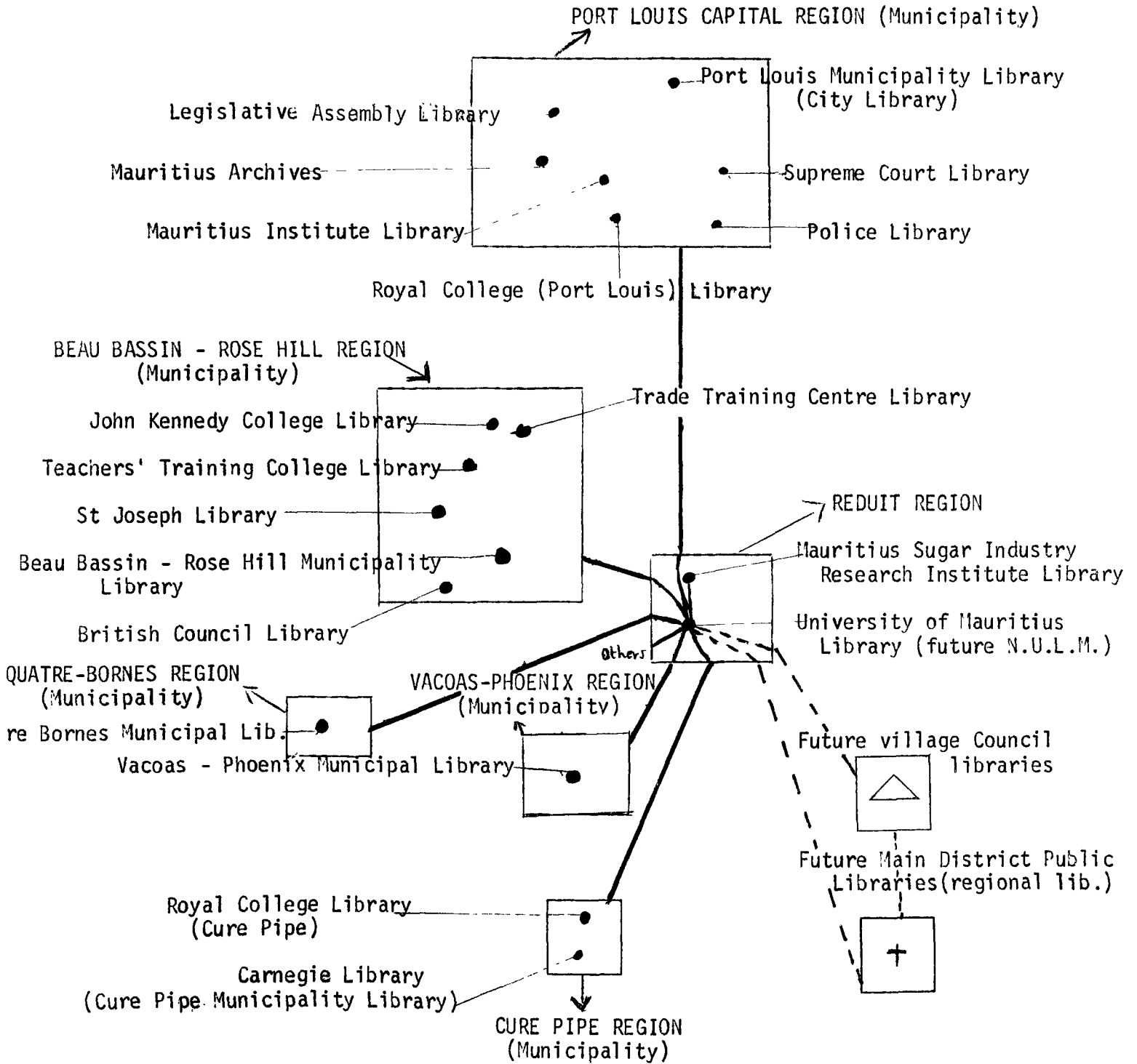
△ Proposed village Council Libraries



encourage and foster library development plans in these areas in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Education and the various district and village councils. A feasible suggestion could be the establishment of a Main or Regional District Library with a minimum target volume of 15,000 and smaller village libraries to reach a minimum of 5,000 volumes in well-populated conglomeration. However, if this is not possible, the villages could in the beginning be serviced by one bibliobus for each district, irrespective of districts with existing library facilities. This would also help extend library facilities to primary and secondary school children, community centres, villagers and others. In each district, the Main Regional Library could act as the coordinating Centre. Centralized classification, cataloguing and acquisition services as well as selective specialization could also be started.

The location of the dots is approximate and the triangles \blacktriangle (representing future village libraries) and the crosses \blackplus (representing future Main Regional or District Libraries) do not necessarily indicate ultimate location of these institutions, but it is only after a thorough and deep study of the various factors of each region could a more elaborate and realistic network of libraries be planned. As they exist in Map no.2, they only serve to illustrate a proposed blue print or lay-out of an important network of library development.

Chart no. 1 on page 82 illustrates the various possible links of the network of library system visualized if the N.U.L.I. is created and made to act as the central nerve or coordinating and directing agency behind the system.



PROJECTED REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND THEIR RELATION TO THE N.U.L.M.

Links could be established by the N.U.L.M. with the following libraries either separately or in regional groups.

1- Reduit Area: Links with the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Library which has a fairly good collection of books and periodicals on agriculture, sugar, technology, cane cultivation, etc.

2- Port Louis Capital Region: Cooperation with the following:

(a) Port Louis Municipal Library (City Library). It is a general public library (with Mauritiana Collection), with a stock nearing 50,000 volumes.

(b) Mauritius Institute Public Library which has a comparable stock and collection (with some small specialized sections) as the above library.

(c) Mauritius Archives which is especially strong in Mauritiana local records, and archivalia. Its library collection could possibly be transferred to the N.U.L.M.

(d) Royal College Library, Port Louis. It has chiefly higher secondary school books, about 7,000 volumes.

(e) Supreme Court Library (Special Library). It possesses a valuable collection on legal topics and laws of Mauritius. Cooperative potential will be limited to interloan, etc.

(f) Police Library (Special Library). It has special legal collections, materials serving the different branches of the Police department and other administrative documents. Cooperative potential will be limited.

(g) Legislative Assembly Library (Special Library). It is especially valuable for its law collections, parliamentary debates, etc.

3- Beau Bassin - Rose Hill Region: (a) Beau Bassin - Rose Hill Municipality Libraries (Public Libraries). They have a general collection

collection of about 25,000 volumes.

(b) British Council Library (Public Library). It has a wide variety of books on different subjects, mostly on English and English literature.

(c) St Joseph Library (Public Subscription Library). Its stock comprises mainly of English and French literary books and fiction.

(d) Teachers' Training College Library. Books and periodicals about 25,000 volumes, most of which dealing with education and related subjects are shelved here.

(e) Trade Training Centre Library. It has a small stock of books on technical subjects.

(f) John Kennedy College Library. It consists of about 6,000 volumes mostly made up of academic, scientific, technical and commerce books.

4- Quatre-Bornes Municipality Library (Public Library). It holds about six to seven thousand volumes of general interest.

5- Vacoas-Phoenix Region: (a) Vacoas-Phoenix Municipality Library (public Library). It is the smallest and perhaps the youngest of the municipality libraries. It has a small general collection of books, mostly fiction.

6- Cure-Pipe Region: (a) Carnegie Institute Library (Public Library). This municipal library has a good number of English and French books on various subjects, especially on English and French Literature, fiction, with some specialized collections and Mauritian. It has about 25,000 volumes.

(b) Royal College Library, Cure Pipe. It comprises a fairly good collection of academic books and journals of about 15,000 volumes.

Proposed District and Village Libraries:

This topic has already been discussed and the sooner such libraries make their appearance the better. They could fit in this very useful scheme of library cooperation and until their formal creation, the pace of library consciousness, professionalization and library service to the whole of Mauritius would be slow and frustrating.

Benefits of library cooperation:

With all these libraries, the N.U.L.M. could confidently start a scheme of formal cooperation to increase library resources, and interdependence. This would help reduce unnecessary duplication of resources, cut low the high cost of staffing and processing while at the same time rendering efficient service. It would be able to help other libraries from its ample resources in Agriculture, industrial technology, public administration, **economics**, business management and other technical, commercial and special fields. It would be able to share with others its valuable experience. Its leadership role could also result in the following:

- 1- Standardization of library procedures, cataloguing, classification, etc.
- 2- Help or guidance in professional matters.
- 3- Advice on library service and modern methodology.
- 4- A standard interlibrary loan form or practice.
- 5- It could also **act** as a clearing house for duplicates and a centre for exchange with local and international centres.
- 6- Before long, the N.U.L.M. could also start a special course on librarianship and thus reinforce the quality of personnel and service offered to the public.

- 7- Subject specialization with some well-established libraries could become a reality.
- 8- This could also give rise to commercial, industrial, medical and other category of library service.
- 9- With public libraries developing fast in the island, inter-availability of tickets could be contemplated.
- 10- With libraries under the same regional group run by a common agency, greater centralization of technical processes and book orders will result.
- 11- Special short courses, seminars, in-service training, and frequent meeting of local librarians could take place under the aegis of the Mauritius Library Association with different sub-groups like Public Libraries, Academic and College Libraries, etc.
- 12- Of immediate importance would be the coordination and rationalization of library service. A National Union Catalogue of book and serials in Mauritian libraries could also become a practical reality. This would be of the greatest moment as it would immensely help all participating libraries. The N.U.L.M. would also house the National Union Catalogue of Mauritius in its premises. Thus it would become the central bibliographical, referral and informational centre in Mauritius, too.

The N.U.L.M. and the Mauritius Archives:

A brief note should be added here about the relationship of the N.U.L.M. and the Mauritius Archives. If the N.U.L.M. is to play effectively

the role of National and University Library, it would be necessary for it to have the library stock and some relevant Mauritiana Collection from the Public Archives (except its record groups and other archival materials). However, if this agreement does not materialize, the N.U.L.M. could leave all retrospective Mauritiana materials in the custody of the Mauritius Archives, provided the latter institution accepts to provide bibliographical or catalogue card for each copy of its stock (not archival materials) to be incorporated in the National Union Catalogue to be kept at the N.U.L.M.. The N.U.L.M. could then content itself with the collection of local materials from other sources and to keep a regular up to date file for new Mauritiana entries received under its depository right. Otherwise the N.U.L.M. could act in the same way as the National Library of Holland does, i.e. it would collect the most significant foreign documents of research and informational value, and leave the other libraries the responsibility to collect local materials. If the N.U.L.M. follows such a principle, it should be logical that a substantial budget be allocated to it, and other libraries should not as far as possible duplicate foreign materials (unless necessary) by competing with the N.U.L.M.. Other libraries would have to keep in close touch with the N.U.L.M. and keep on sending it regularly cards for the local N.U.C.

The N.U.L.M. and the Mauritius Institute Library:

As outlined in the previous chapters, the N.U.L.M. would possess a large machinery to carry out the burden of national and international collection. It alone in association with the University of Mauritius would be in an ideal position to carry out most of the functions generally attributed to a National Library. If legislation is brought in to give the N.U.L.M. its national status, it would be equally desirable to remove

the implicit quasi-national status from the Mauritius Institute Library. However, if it is considered desirable to keep the "status quo" of the Mauritius Institute Library, then this library would have equally to contribute one card for each Mauritiana and other publication received by it for the N.U.L.M. National Union Catalogue. A committee could be instituted to go into the working relationships of the N.U.L.M., the Mauritius Archives and the Mauritius Institute Library.

PART 2

LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAMME

AND

BRIEF TO THE ARCHITECT

OF THE

NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

OF

MAURITIUS

1970 - 1995

CHAPTER VI

PRELIMINARY ASSUMPTIONS AND FACTS

This library programme for the N.U.L.M. covers the period .
1970 - 1995.

The site of the N.U.L.M. would be the University of Mauritius Campus in Réduit.

The University of Mauritius Library would be the natural and logical extension of the proposed N.U.L.M..

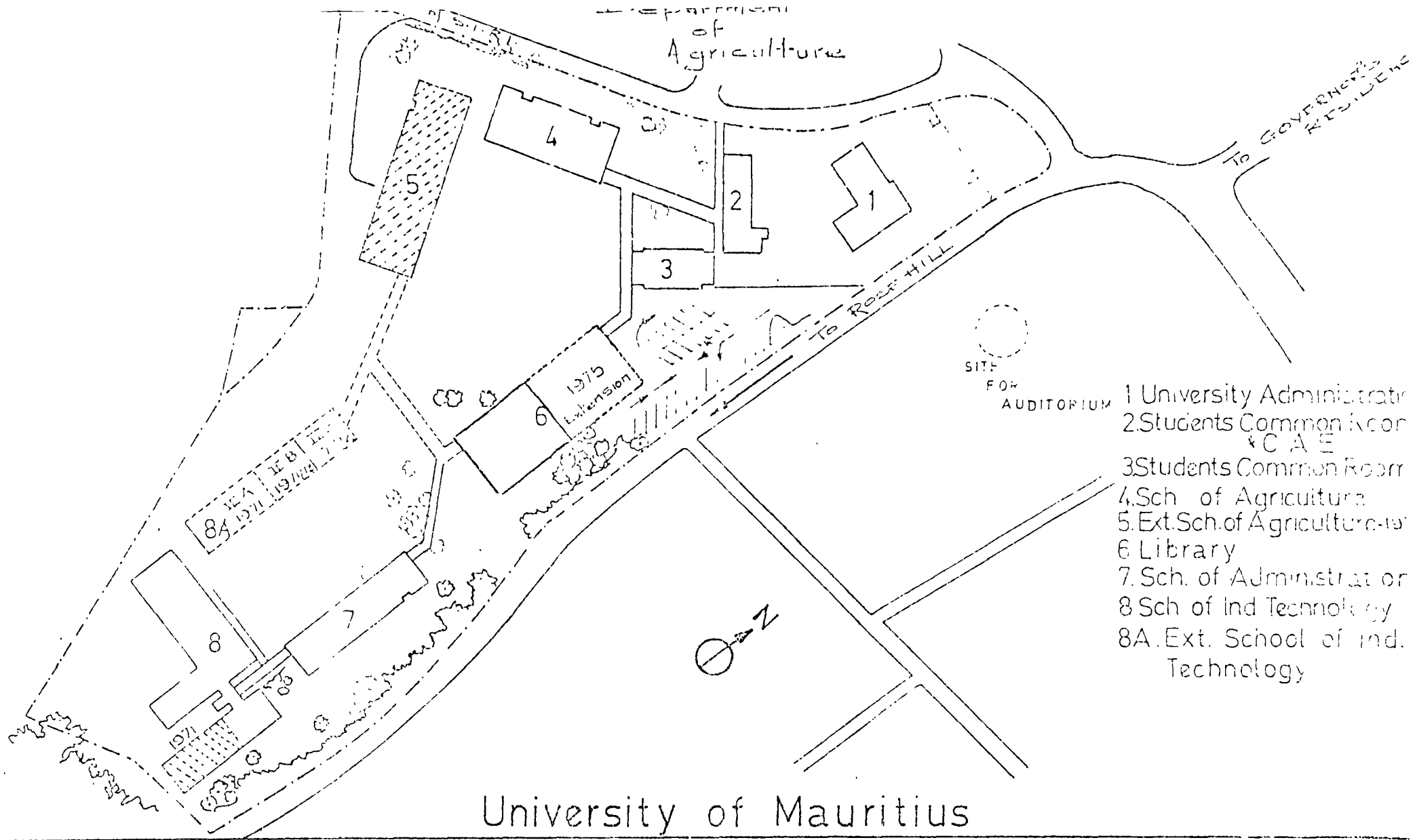
The University of Mauritius Library is expected to enroll a full-time student population of about 3,000, besides providing facilities for part-time students, visiting scholars and members of the general public.

Its seating capacity would be 1,000 by 1995.

Its collection would consist of materials of the National Library, documents to support the academic programme and specialized materials from particular institutions such as the various agencies of the United Nations.

The present University Library occupies a floor area of 10,208 square feet, and it would be able to house about 50,000 volumes and provide 100 seating. It would also be able to provide work space for about 17 staff and room for 12 faculty carrels.

It is a two level structure, and has room for horizontal expansion to its northern side for its second phase. This extension which would be built in about 1975 would be a structure almost similar to its present first unit in outward shape, size and area.



- 1 University Administration
- 2 Students Common Room & C.A.E.
- 3 Students Common Room
- 4 Sch. of Agriculture
- 5 Ext. Sch. of Agriculture
- 6 Library
- 7 Sch. of Administration
- 8 Sch. of Ind. Technology
- 8A Ext. Sch. of Ind. Technology

Chart 2

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS SITE PLAN

The present Library Building:

Before detailing the factual needs of the N.U.L.M., it is pertinent to give a brief history of the present university library, its site, reader-book space and other facilities.

The total area of the present university library is about 10,208 square feet. It was designed by Messrs. Norman and Dawbarn, and built by Messrs. Building and Engineering Co. Ltd. It is a compact library with a capacity of more than 50,000 volumes and 100 seating. In its second phase of expansion in 1975, it will attain an overall area double the present one.

The library faces on its shorter rectangular sides North and South (almost a little to the North West and South East. ~~Vide~~ site plan on page 91). Its ground floor occupies an area 88' x 49' i.e. 4,312 square feet. There is an overhang on both its longer sides to allow for covered walking, aesthetic and other considerations. This results in a loss of about 1,584 square feet. The overhang facing the East can be closed as it is generally not used; it could mean an extra gain of 792 square feet for book, reader or staff space.

The ground floor houses technical, administrative, circulation and staff area. It has got a Mauritiana Room, a bindery, an audio-visual room, a staff room and some utilities areas.

The first floor is 88' x 78' square feet. It is an open area with the following sections: reference and bibliography, the main stack, current periodicals and back issues, a reserve area, Unesco depository library and documents of other specialized United Nations agencies and a seating capacity of seventy five including twelve faculty carrells.

Approximate staff space in present library:

No. (actual)	Maximum	Staff	Area
1	-	Librarian	170 sq. ft.
2	-	Secretaries	170 sq. ft.
1	-	Deputy librarian	170 sq. ft.
2	4	Asst. librarians (including 2 steno-typists)	585 sq. ft.
3	-	Binders	255 sq. ft.
1	-	Counter staff (+service area)	267 sq. ft.

(Messengers and cleaners also provided elsewhere)

The present 14 staff have more than about 1,800 square feet. In fact, there is room for about seventeen staff in the present building.

Site plan and building location:

The present library building (no. 6 on site plan page 91) has a total usable area of 10,208 square feet on a ground area of 5,896 square feet.

- 1- When the first extension to be started in 1975 is completed, the whole building will then have a usable area of 20,416 square feet, if the overhang on both sides of the building remains.
- 2- If the overhang on one side of the library building and its 1975 extension is filled, then the resultant structure will have a total usable area of 22,000 square feet.
- 3- If the overhangs on both sides of the present library and its 1975 extension are filled, then the library building plus its

1975 extension will have a floor area of 23,584 square feet.

4- As it is, space for expansion is available or even possible on the two longer sides of the present library building (called unit one here) and its 1975 extension (called unit two here). On the Western side of the building there is an unoccupied area of more than 104 x 200 square feet. Along its eastern side there is a usable area of approximately 40 x 176 square feet, which can also be utilized for future expansion on the present site. Some of the parking space will be lost on this side to the north.

If the university campus is going to expand on the Eastern side of the present library building, that is on a site bordering the eastern side of the main Redit-Rose-Hill road, then it would be desirable or even advisable to have future extension of the library to the East. This would be ideal if the Redit - Rose-Hill main road is closed or re-directed. Then the extension or future expansion of the N.U.L.M. could be towards the east preferably along a parallel line with the present structure and its proposed 1975 extension.

In this programme all the suggested structures of varying levels or areas could even more appropriately apply to possible extension programmes or even for the need to have a separate building on the east, joined with the present one by a covered functional area on the Southern end. The present library entrance which is on the West side nearer to the southern end will then have to be shifted to this functional covered area. This could provide a more convenient lobby, vestibule and entrance area of about

3,000 square feet, which constitutes an ideal space requirement for the entrance area of any university library of moderate size.

Such an entrance will have the added advantage of being on the covered way and on the main traffic flow and located at a reasonable and convenient distance from the present schools or departments of studies likely to be erected on the eastern side of the Rose-Hill - Redit main road.

Such a site for the N.U.L.M. will meet the approval of the majority. There will be enough parking space all around, even if some utilize school parking areas. In this compact campus, the central location of the N.U.L.M. would enable traffic access to and fro schools and the N.U.L.M. within a ten minute walking distance.

For the purpose of this programme all useful area around the present library building can be put to use, unless the planners of the University campus think otherwise. This programme will therefore attempt to give an approximate area for the N.U.L.M. and its site plan, but all these details are merely suggestive and at best an exercise in the promulgation of various optional plans which may or may not be what the architects, planners, and university administrators desire. However, the different space requirements and N.U.L.M. building area are given, and it would be left to the architects to draw out the plan and floor area lay-outs while the librarian would provide the functional details and library service requirements as guidelines to the architect in planning the N.U.L.M. building.

However, to elucidate the growth and expansion of the N.U.L.M. and even the need for a separate building, this programme will attempt to work on different formulas and plans. This is necessary given the following

factors existing on the site plan.

- 1- The university campus does not indicate any future library building site, apart from the locale of the present library and its proposed 1975 extension.
- 2- The present library and its future 1975 extension building will be a two-level structure. This would mean that this structure will only be expansible on its lateral sides, if the architects make provision for it; otherwise, the building will result in a 'simple jewel' that will be spoiled by ungraceful additions.

It seems that campus symmetry, aesthetics and financial limitations have been too much a 'stress' on this library building so that it could be fated to stay as originally planned.

An addition of another level right when the building was conceived (or even a basement) could have equally rhymed with general campus symmetry and aesthetics, although it would have proved somewhat costly in the beginning, but economical in the long run for the following additional reasons:

- 1- Building costs and fees will tend to rise if the structure is built later on.
- 2- The present site would have been able to hold a three level building, approximately three times the area of unit one of the present building with a compact housing capacity of about 250,000 volumes or more with room for about 300 - 400 readers.

The other way to improve the capacity (unless done by lateral expansion or extension) of the present library building and its 1975

extension by vertical expansion will again result in some lack of symmetry and other awkwardness.

The present library building cannot be vertically expanded by one level because the foundation is not strong enough and even thinking of providing non-load bearing offices, seminar rooms and classes is not likely. The only advantage that the second level has is that it has skylights which are good on clear days. Many library experts believe that skylights constitute a hazard in that they develop leaks, and in Mauritius with a cyclonic climate, they are reprehensible since any foreign flying object might land on them and break them with catastrophic results to the 'occupants' of the library.

However, if a third level is added only to the 1975 extension (i.e. to unit two), then the structure would result in a kind of a two-level stair step or like a stepping stone one on a higher level than the other. Then this three level structure could be joined with or provisions made for its being joined with another three level structure to be built on its east or west side or on both its west and east sides.

If the three level structure suggested above for the 1975 extension is not accepted, then a three level 1975 extension is still possible as well as the symmetry and aesthetics of the building kept intact, if a basement is added. This basement will be able to house comfortably a photo-litho-offset printing machine in an area of about 1,500 square feet, a bindery of about 500 square feet and additional space for book storage, university archives, etc. This basement will keep its functional advantages, too. However, the architects should make sure whether a basement could be added

if the ground conditions permit, and that problems of water drainage or seepage would not affect it.

Total space requirement for the N.U.L.M.:

Book collection

(250,000 volumes at 15 volumes per square feet) 16,666 sq. ft.

Seating

(1,000 seats at 25 square feet per reader) 25,000 sq. ft.

Entrance area, circulation desk, etc. 3,000 sq. ft.

25 Library Staff (full-time)

at 100 square feet per staff 2,500 sq. ft.

T O T A L 47,166 sq. ft.

10% Contingency of above total 4,716 sq. ft.

Total assignable space 51,882 sq. ft.

Non-assignable space at 33 1/3% of T.A.S. above 17,294 sq. ft.

Total provisional space 69,176 sq. ft.

Area already utilized in present library 10,208 sq. ft.

Area already earmarked for 1975 extension

(unit two) to the present library 10,208 sq. ft.

A- N.U.L.M. (A)

Additional area required for N.U.L.M. (A) = 48,760 square feet (N.U.L.M. (A), (B), (C), etc. will be used to differentiate between various buildings of different area, floor lay-out, etc.). This additional area for N.U.L.M. (A) can result in a structure added to the lateral sections of the Unit one and Unit two, or in a separate building at some distance

away from the present one, preferably joined by a covered functional area on the Southern side and which could be used as the future main entrance. This separate structure could be any two numerical factors that could provide a functional and modular building within the area available for expansion on the West side.

Suggested rectangular areas for each floor could be 90 x 180.6 square feet (approx.) or 85 x 191.2 square feet (approx.) and the structure will be on three levels. Again it should be noted, it is up to the architects to make all such decisions and other calculations. Many other such factors will still be the province of the architects.

B- N.U.L.M.(B)

Another floor area for the N.U.L.M., here referred to as the N.U.L.M.(B) could be 47,176 square feet, if one of the overhangs is filled both in unit one and unit two. This will again result in a three level structure if a separate building is erected as specified for N.U.L.M.(A).

Suggested rectangular areas for each floor could be approximately 85 x 185 square feet, 80 x 196.6 square feet or 90 x 174.7 square feet.

C- N.U.L.M.(C)

If overhang on both sides of the present library and its proposed 1975 extension is filled, then as with the above separate structure on a three level, N.U.L.M.(C) would require 45,592 square feet.

Suggested rectangular area for each floor could be approximately 80 x 189.975 square feet, or 87 x 175.7 square feet or 78 x 194.6 square feet.

D- N.U.L.M.(D)

If overhang is closed on both sides of the present library and unit two is built on three levels (with or without basement) then the additional area for the separate building on the west side would be 39,696 square feet for N.U.L.M.(D). Each floor of the three level structure would require approximately one of the following areas 67 x 182.5 square feet or 78 x 156.8 square feet.

E- N.U.L.M.(E)

If overhang is closed on both sides of unit one and unit two, and an additional structure 40 x 176 square feet is added or joined to its Eastern side, thus resulting in a two-level structure, then N.U.L.M.(E) would require an additional floor area of 31,521 square feet to the west side of the building.

This may result in a two storey building on the west, with each floor having one of the following areas approximately, 67 x 156.7 square feet or 72 x 145.8 square feet.

F- N.U.L.M.(F)

If overhang is closed on both sides of unit one and unit two, and an additional structure 33½ x 176 square feet is added or joined to the east side of the resulting two level building, then the additional area required for N.U.L.M.(F) would be 33,820 square feet, a building to be possibly erected on the western side of the present library. If this structure is to be a separate one, then it would have to be on three levels, each floor measuring approximately, 67 x 163.2 square feet, or 81 x 139 square feet, or 78 x 144.5 square feet.

All the above options for N.U.L.M. are meant as guidelines rather

than as any mandatory requirements. There are various ways of arriving at other figures, with different formulas for modular building requirements with different floor lay-outs and various combinations. However, all these structures, whether additions to the existing one, extensions of separate buildings proposed for the N.U.L.M., must possess the best features of a modular, functional, simple, expansible, practicable and least costly of structures, which will be centrally situated in the campus as far as possible while fulfilling the real purpose for which it is destined.

The basic provisional total space requirement can be lowered if the university authorities feel that it would prove too costly. However, no true saving would eventually result, except for building compactly or even using compact shelving, as the area has been planned for one third of a student population of 3,000, i.e. for one thousand seating. This would of course provide adequate room for faculty and members of the public or even outsiders with special privileges to use the National Library, the University Library Collection, and the depository collections of various specialized agencies of the United Nations. It is therefore reasonable and quite convenient for library users to be given ample seating and a library atmosphere conducive to study and research.

If only 750 seats are to be provided, this would represent reader stations for about one quarter of the proposed student population. Then the area of 6,250 square feet can be subtracted from all the above area calculations with proportionate reductions in the contingency and non-assignable space ratios.

If twenty percent of the seating is provided, only 600 seats will

be made available and an area approximately 10,000 square feet will have to be subtracted from the above space requirements for the N.U.L.M. contingency and non-assignable space ratios. All these would result in re-adjustments and different types of modular and functional requirements, with a consequent reduction in cost. However 20% is the minimum seating requirement, and it will again prove hopelessly insufficient at peak periods of use.

Some universities provide up to 40% or even more for libraries. A modest seating capacity of 25% would suffice for the University of Mauritius 3,000 projected full-time enrollment for this programme, but as it is going to play a national role, and have the custody of various collections which should be made available to the general public, the seating capacity of 33 1/3% becomes essential, although this, too, might prove inadequate in the long run. It would thus cater to the needs of researchers, visiting fellows, provide for staff studies and others for whom rooms will have to be allotted on a quasi-permanent basis. Moreover, if this seating percentage is not fully occupied, it could be turned to other uses, such as temporary offices, additional stacks, specialized book collection and for other unforeseen needs.

CHAPTER VII

PROJECTION OF BOOK COLLECTION, STUDENT ENROLLMENT COURSES, UNIVERSITY STAFF AND N.U.L.M. STAFF

A- Book Collection:

The N.U.L.M. is projected to reach a capacity of 250,000 volumes by 1995. The calculation for the book collection is as follows:

YEAR	ANNUAL ADDITION	TOTAL
1969	-----	13,000
1970	7,000*	20,000
1971	5,000	25,000
1972	5,000	30,000
1973	5,000	35,000
1974	7,000	42,000
1975	8,000	50,000

* In 1970 the library added back sets of periodicals and books kept in the old College of Agriculture, besides new accessions.

During the period 1976 - 1995 it is expected that the University of Mauritius will have a greater student enrollment, staff and more courses and degrees introduced which will necessitate an average accession of 10,000 volumes per year. This will come up to about 250,000 volumes in 1995.

However if a geometric increase of 8% is estimated as from 1976, then the stock will rise slightly more than 250,000 volumes in 1995. A few thousands which will be kept in the laboratories of different schools will not be counted here.

As noted above, the first phase of the library building will have attained its maximum working capacity in 1975. Usually librarians estimate that when 75% of their shelves are filled (in this case shelves of 36" wide and 7'6" high), they are considered to have attained their maximum working capacity, "whether this will provide for 125 volumes to a standard section or a smaller or larger number will depend on the subject field, the type of library, binding practices, and counting procedures"¹.

The 1975 extension will also reach its full working capacity if compactly filled by 1985, or even before should the seating capacity and space demands be increased considerably. The third phase of expansion will be a separate building on the West side (or preferably on the Eastern side if the Redit - Rose-Hill road is redirected) and this should provide the rest of the square footage as already described in any one of the various N.U.L.M. optional areas.

It is assumed that this library would be the Central or Main Library with no branch libraries until 1995. This would be convenient for the sake of economy, better service and would have the biggest concentration of staff, faculty and student services. Since the University would restrict the growth of departmental libraries, a centralized service point would become essential. This would be a workable proposition as the campus will be a compact one, and schools and departments cropping up would be at a reasonable walking distance from the library. Moreover, certain facilities for seminars, staff studies and student carrels all conducive to longer hours of sustained study would be available. It would be even desirable to include certain audio-visual aids, and a language laboratory which would be expected to be heavily

¹ K.D. Metcalf. Planning academic and research library buildings. New York, McGraw-Hill, (c1965), p. 262.

utilized by the future Institute of Education. The above research facilities for staff need not be interpreted as carving out small "offices" for the university academic staff, but rather as the provision of a study facility to help **them** carry out undisturbed and at a stretch **their** research and other assignments.

As for the book collection, it has been estimated to grow by geometric progression of about 8% by 1976, and the maximum seating by 1995 would reach 1,000 reader stations. For the sake of comparison tables VI and VII are included from the data collected from the building program of the University of Guelph.² These show the planned and existing enrollment, volumes of collections and percentage of seats of some Canadian Universities.

For the N.U.L.M., there is reason to believe that the projections detailed above would prove realistic and workable. However, should the enrollment, staffing, library demands and collection exceed the projected estimates, more library space would be required, and if these fall short of the above projections, less library space would be needed. This would be revealed by the actual quinquennial or triennial projections of the University of Mauritius and the trend of future projections and factors governing it would be clearer and fairly accurate when the University reaches maturity.

The University of Mauritius library is spending about Rs 100,000 on its book budget and about Rs 10,000 per year on binding. At the University of Tennessee and the University of North Carolina, W. H. Jesse in 1962 estimated that "one volume is acquired for each \$6.00 spent for books,

(continued on page 108)

² University of Guelph. Library-building programme and brief to the architect. Guelph, University of Guelph, 1965, p. 16 - 17.

TABLE VI

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES - GENERAL DATA

University	Enrolment ¹		By	Volumes		% Seated	
	Existing	Planned		Existing	Planned	Existing	Planned
Alberta	9,000	-	-	375,000	-	21	-
British Columbia	14,925	22,000	1975	650,000	1,600,000	20	38
Carleton	2,400	6,000	1970	122,000	300,000	40	25
Dalhousie	2,215	6,000	1970	200,000	500,000	15	30
McGill	9,171	20,000	1980	880,000	1,500,000	13	25
New Brunswick	2,738	5,000	1985	131,000	500,000	10	25
Queen's	3,412	4,600	1975	400,000	1,000,000	20	33
Saskatchewan	6,473	10,000	1982	265,000	1,000,000	10	33
Sir George Williams	4,688	10,000	1980	64,995	750,000	10	40
Toronto	15,011	22,000	2010	2,050,000	6,000,000	20	25
Waterloo	1,655	3,250	1970	85,000	200,000	10	35
Western	5,732	10,000	1970	335,000	800,000	25	25
Windsor	1,859	5,000	1970	174,580	325,000	30	35
Guelph	1,770	15,000	1980	100,000	1,000,000	27 ²	25

Notes

1 Data collected September, 1964.

2 This percentage represents the approximate amount of seating in the existing libraries and departmental libraries.

TABLE VII

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES - VOLUMES PER STUDENT ¹

<u>University</u>	VOLUMES PER STUDENT		<u>Target Date</u>
	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Planned</u>	
Alberta	42	-	-
British Columbia	43	73	1975
Carleton	51	50	1970
Dalhousie	91	83	1970
McGill	96	75	1980
New Brunswick	49	100	1985
Queen's	118	217	1975
Saskatchewan	41	100	1982
Sir George Williams	14	75	1980
Toronto	137	273	2010
Waterloo	50	62	1970
Western	59	80	1970
Windsor	93	65	1970
Guelph	56	67	1980

Note

¹ Data collected September, 1964.

periodical and bindings."³ The N.U.L.M. target for annual acquisition would be 10,000 volumes by 1976, then about £2-10-0⁴ could be counted as the average spending on a volume, or about Rs 35/- to Rs 40/- a volume.

The other way the N.U.L.M. could increase the efficiency of its resources is to work in close collaboration as the present University Library is doing with the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Library, the Mauritius Institute Library, the Mauritius Archives and other well-established libraries of the island. Besides gifts, donations, exchanges and duplicates from other sources would add to its stock.

B- Student enrollment projections and book ratio:

Table no. VIII on page 109 shows the projected intake of students over periods of several decades. The figure for 1968-1969 and 1974-1975 are taken from "La Revue Agricole et Sucrière de l'Ile Maurice, vol.50, no. 3, 1971." (Vide the two charts on pages 110 and 111.) This programme also offers an approximate projection for 1985 and 1995.

For the purpose of this programme, the award courses would be interpreted as full-time courses and the non-award courses generally given on a part-time basis as part-time courses. According to the projections of table no. VIII, there would be about 3,000 full-time students and 2,500 part-time students by 1995. This means that the N.U.L.M. would be able to provide by 1995, 83 books per full-time student or 45 books per university enrollment, if the part-timers are also included in this ratio.

(continued on page 112)

³ William J. Jesse. The University of Concepcion, Concepcion, Chile; a programme for the planning of a new library building. Knoxville, University of Tennessee, 1962, p. 20.

⁴ Thomas Parry.(chairman). Report of the Committee on libraries. London, H.M.S.O., 1967, p. 267, para. 8.

TABLE VIII

STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS:

Year	1968-1969	1974-1975	1985	1995
Award courses no.	7	54	-----	-----
Students no.	189	1,348	2,000	3,000
Year	1969-1970	1974-1975	1985	1995
Non-award courses (36 for 1968-1973)	-----	-----	-----	-----
Students no.	515	1,422	1,900	2,500
Total no. of students in award and non-award courses	-----	2,770	3,900	5,500

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS " AWARD " COURSES

HIGHER DEGREES

As from Academic Year

M. Sc. Agriculture, Univ. Mauritius		1973/74
Other Universities		1972/73
Ph. D. Natural Science, Univ. Mauritius	-	1972/73
Other Universities		1972/73
M. Sc./Ph. D. Sugar Technology, Univ. Mauritius		1972/73
Other Universities	-	1972/73
M. Sc. Food Technology		1972/73

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1st DEGREE COURSES

B. Sc. Agriculture		1970/71
B. Sc. Sugar Technology	-	1970/71
B. Tech. (Engineering)	-	1973/74
C.E.I.	-	1970/71
A.C.C.A.	-	1968/69
C.I.S.	-	1972/73
B.A. Development Studies	-	1975/76
B.A. Public Administration	-	1975/76
B.A. Economics	-	1974/75

DIPLOMA COURSES

Agriculture	--	1968/69
Sugar Technology	-	1968/69
Agriculture (New Dip. combined with Sugar Tech.)	-	1970/71
Mechanical Engineering	-	1970/71
Civil Engineering	-	1973/74
Marine Engineering	---	1971/72
Electrical Engineering	-	1970/71
Valuation Surveying	---	1970/71
Public Health & Works Engineering	-	1971/72
Land Surveying	-	1971/72
Health Inspection	-	1971/72
Banking	--	1969/70
Personnel Management	-	1973/74
Co-operative Studies	-	1969/70
Public Administration	-	1972/73
Social Work	-	1972/73
Economic Studies	-	1973/74
" Gestion d'Entreprises "	-	1970/71
" Préparation aux affaires "	-	1973/74

CERTIFICATE COURSES

Sugar Cane Agriculture		1968/69
Sugar Analysis		1968/69
Tea Agronomy & Technology		1972/73
Applied Agriculture		1972/73
Advanced Drawing & Principles of Design	-	1972/73
Civil Engineering (Concrete Technology)		1972/73
" " (Site Organisation)	-	1972/73
" " (Applied Hydraulics)		1972/73
" " (Road Construction)		1972/73
Industrial Management		1972/73
Telecommunications (City & Guilds)		1970/71
Electrical Engineering Practice (City & Guilds)		1970/71
Mechanical Technician (City & Guilds)	-	1974/75
Motor Vehicle (City & Guilds)		1973/74
Land Surveying		1972/73
Legal Studies	-	1971/72
Secretarial Studies		1970/71
Office Management	-	1973/74
Marketing		1973/74
Labour Union Management		1973/74
" Gestion Hôtelière "	-	1973/74

CHART 3

1968/69 1969/70 1970/71 1971/72 1972/73 1973/74 1974/75

Number of courses	7	15	20	35	49	52	54
Number of Students	189	309	502	923	1133	1245	1348
<i>Output</i>							
School of Agriculture Degree/Diploma			16	18	26	24	24
Certificate			37	56	55	67	67
School of Ind Tech Degree/Diploma			--	52	36	111	123
Certificate			80	245	260	260	310
School of Administration Diploma/Certificates			76	197	255	228	303
TOTAL			---	200	268	662	690
			---	---	---	---	---

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS "NON AWARD" COURSES

(Short Courses of about 50 hours lecture)

As from Academic Year

POST DIPLOMA AGRICULTURE

Tea Cultivation	}	1972/73	111
Pasture Agronomy (a)			
Crop Protection (b)			
Horticulture (b)			
Soil & Water Conservation (b)			
Irrigation & Drainage			

EXTENSION

Cane Cultivation	}	1971/72
Tea Cultivation		
Animal Production		
Horticulture		
Extension Methods		

(a) - Every third year (b) - Every second year

TECHNOLOGY

Sugar Manufacture (Post diploma Agric/St)	}	1972/73
Production Engineering		1971/72
Refrigeration Technology		
Radio for Amateurs	}	1972/73
Transistor Technology		
Foundry Practice		
Steam Equipment		
Engineering Storekeeping		
Electronic Inspection		
Textile Technology	}	1970/71
Building Drain & Pipe Work Planning		1972/73
Building Installation Design & Inspection		

ADMINISTRATION

Computer Programming	}	1968/69
Computer Systems		
Staff Development Clerical Officers		
Executive Officers		
Administrative Officers		
Departmental		
Local Government		
" " Finance		
" " Food Hygiene		
Central Government Finance		
Extra mural development studies		
Co-operative Societies Secretary		
Co-operative Societies		

	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	515	975	1378	1422	1402	1422

Reproduced from «La Revue Agricole et Sucrière de l'Île Maurice,
Vol. 50, No. 3, 1971» — in press.

The following is the size of the collection needed for a state college and a university as enumerated by K. D. Metcalf: "State College : 30 volumes per full-time student for the first 5,000 students, plus 20 volumes per full-time student beyond 5,000 students. University : 100 volumes per full-time student for the first 10,000 students plus 50 volumes per student beyond 20,000 students".⁵

This would imply that the N.U.L.M. should aim at increasing its ~~stock target~~ up by an additional 50,000 if it would wish to reach the average university ratio. Moreover, it should be noted that some of its collection would be of a general nature, meant for the national book stock. So the 83 volumes per full-time student given above does not really represent a true academic ratio. However, as noted previously inter-library cooperation schemes and other acquisition or gift and exchange sources would be tapped to remedy some of the deficiencies of the N.U.L.M. in this respect.

C- University and Library Staff Projection and Space Need:

In December 1971, the three present constituent schools of Agriculture, Industrial Technology and Administration had a total of about 50 full-time teaching staff and 106 part-time staff. Vide chart no. 5 on page 113, which outlines among other details the 'University of Mauritius Structure and Organisation (December 1971)'. This programme projects keeping in view the addition of new courses and new schools or departments besides the already existing schools, about 155 full-time and 235 part-time teaching staff by 1995. This would mean that the N.U.L.M. would have to provide about 50 faculty studies, that is, carrells for about one-third of

(continued on page 114)

5 K. D. Metcalf...Op. Cit.... p. 398.

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

(December 1971)

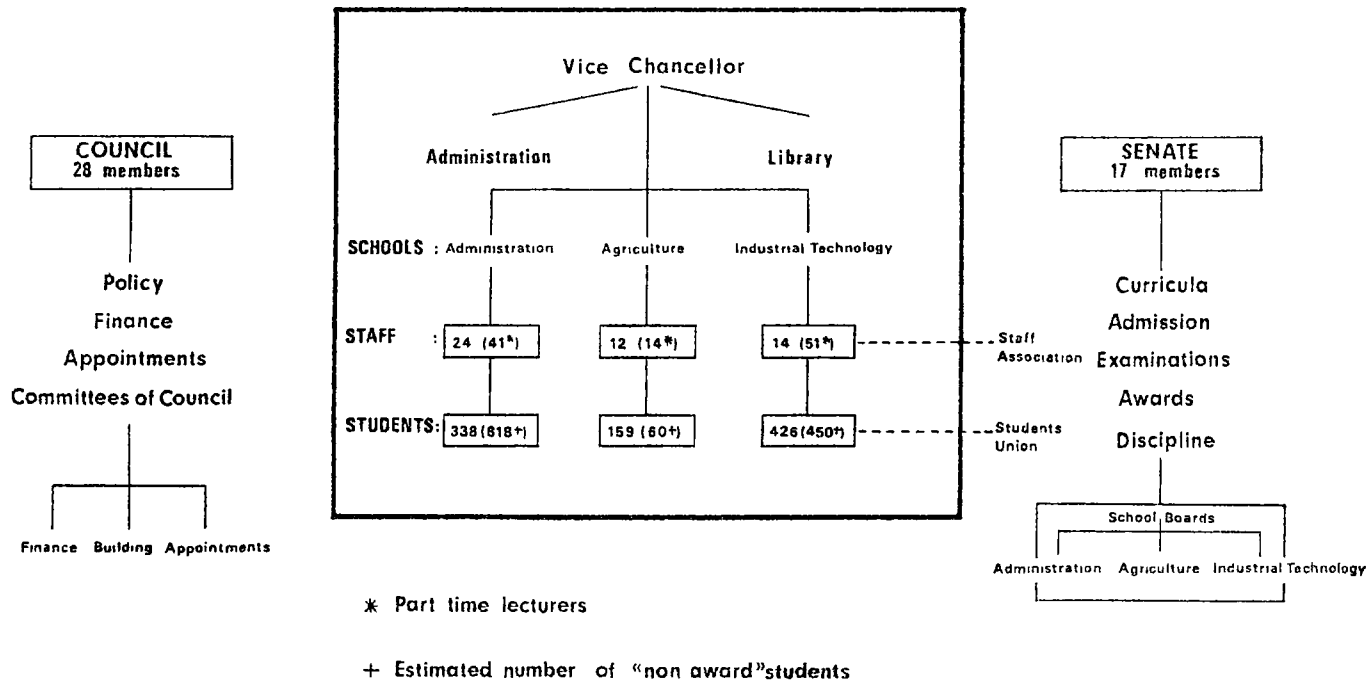


CHART 5

its full-time teaching academic staff.

The present university library has twelve closed study carrels for academic staff, with each carrel about 24 square feet. This type of carrels will preferably suit graduate students. Faculty Carrels in the 1975 extension and the new proposed building for the N.U.L.M. should be each made between 40 - 80 square feet. There should be about 10 closed faculty carrels of 80 square feet each, 10 others in closed carrels of about 60 square feet each and 30 closed faculty carrels 40 square feet each. They should preferably be provided each with a window, some chairs, a desk, a book case, a file cabinet and coat hangers. A suitable description of these types of faculty study carrels is given on page 102 of Metcalf's 'Planning academic and research library buildings.'⁶

D- Library Staff:

The N.U.L.M. is projected to have a full-time staff of twenty five (and many other part-time workers or an equivalent of forty full-time staff). There will be one librarian who will be the administrator of this academic and national library. He will be supported in this task by the deputy librarian who will be responsible for its general administration and supervision. Three assistant librarians will act as divisional chiefs of cataloguing and classification, reference and circulation. Some five library assistants will perform various jobs like filing, interloan, gifts and exchange, microfilm and audio-visual aid services, book order and periodical listing and other services. One of the divisional chiefs will be responsible for the National Union Catalogue of books and serials in Mauritian Libraries.

6- K. D. Metcalf...Op. Cit.... p. 102.

They will be supported by three or four steno-typists, and one administrative assistant or clerk. The bindery will be run by four binders (or more when the photo-litho-offset machines are installed in the basement of the library, unless separately provided by the University, in which case a separate bindery would be needed, or if the library bindery is to handle centrally all binding, then it would have to be housed in a bigger room with a proportionate staff increase). The services of two messenger-cleaners would be required and one entrance or exit security guard. Although the projection is for twenty-five full-time staff, it would be expected that more part-time student services would be needed and more part-time workers would be called in off and on (say an equivalent of forty-full-time staff) to beat the pressure of work. The N.U.L.M. would continue to purchase Library of Congress printed catalogue cards. This would appreciably cut down on cataloguing personnel. Some 2,500 square feet in area is also allotted to the twenty-five staff.

CHAPTER VIII

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY AND BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

FOR THE N.U.L.M. PROGRAMME

The N.U.L.M. would be an extension of the present University of Mauritius Library. It would attain a book collection of 250,000 by 1995, providing 1,000 seating for a full-time student population of 3,000. Its average annual accession is expected to be 10,000 volumes by 1976 or a growth rate of about 8% by compound interest.

The first unit of the N.U.L.M. is the present University of Mauritius Library (Vide appendices I - IV) occupying an area of about 10,208 square feet and its 1975 extension would be the second unit of an equal area as the first one. The third unit will therefore have an area of about 48,760 square feet as enumerated for N.U.L.M.(A), unless other ways of expansion or one of the various optional N.U.L.M. area requirements is chosen as described in Chapter VI.

For discussing the general philosophy and considerations of the N.U.L.M., the plan worked out here is for N.U.L.M.(A), although many of the relevant details would also apply to any other optional N.U.L.M. area as discussed in Chapter VI. Some of the general requirements may also be repeated here, as they constitute essential guidelines from the librarian to the architect. However, the architect will have much more leeway to work on a better modular norm and design, with regards to functional, expansibility, aesthetic and other considerations.

As it is, the present library has room for about 100 readers and about 50,000 volumes. This would mean that the architects would have to

figure out accomodation for another 900 readers and 200,000 volumes. Some of the existing facilities would have to be relocated from the second level, e.g. referénce, current periodicals. On the first level, some of the lay-out will have to be changed or widened to make room for the greater space requirements urged by this programme. One of the possibilities is to relocate the toilet facilities, the locker area and the issue desk with provision for the addition of other areas not already provided.

As noted for N.U.L.M.(A), if the entrance area is located on its southern side facing the School of Administration it would solve the problems of siting and accesibility. However, the site chosen here is one that presupposes that the area to the East and West side of the present library and its 1975 extension would be left unoccupied for future library building purposes. This would at best be a compact space for development and would at least ensure a central location for the main library till the time is ready for building departmental libraries to alleviate the problems of fast growth.

It would therefore imply that the principle of functional expansibility would be stretched to its maximum before another structure or departmental library becomes essential and practicable from other points of view. Expansion could be in part vertical but should be primarily horizontal, and keeping this in mind, the problem of interior functional traffic access and the location of essential services should be well-planned. This is what W. H. Jesse has to say about this principle: "A university library may well face the interior of the academic campus for free expansion to

the rear (and quite possibly to the sides)"¹. Jesse also pointedly brings out the importance of expansibility that librarians hold dearly. He quotes in one of his library programmes the following words of Dr. David Kaser, director of Joint University libraries: "I would hold out to death for expansibility".²

With growing fields of studies, new teaching requirements, and the uncertainty of changes to come, flexibility in building and adaptability in equipments are essential. There should be a minimum of built-in objects with collapsible partitions and very little if any load-bearing walls at all. This should give room enough for the library to expand in various stages, with each unit keeping a pleasant and an architecturally well-knit proportion. It should at the same time allow smooth and easy addition or expansion as the need, financial means, site area, total campus effect or university policy warrant.

This growth factor should at least be envisaged for a period of twenty-five years, and expansion stages whether vertically or horizontally on sides be decided in order to avoid arresting or stunting future growth by short-sighted decisions or policies. The following ugly situations can be avoided:

- 1- Other university buildings clustering around the library, thereby ~~ch~~oking its future expansion. Thus, the Central location site

¹ W. H. Jesse. A statement of programme for a library building for Oral Roberts University, Tulsa. Knoxville, University of Tennessee, 1963, p. 6.

² W. H. Jesse. A statement of programme for a new library building for Scarritt College for Christian workers. (Knoxville), University of Tennessee, 1964, p. 4.

of the library will be lost, and another library would have to be built to the farthest end of the campus, with all the disadvantages it entails.

- 2- The library might have to be abandoned if previous spending on the library foundation were so little that vertical expansion is impossible, while there is no room around for horizontal expansion, a factor which usually affects low cost building of two levels. It is a fact that university libraries outgrow other university buildings for it accumulates and stores books and goes on building its stock by geometric progression. By the time the university realizes this, campus space would be at a premium and cost for site, new buildings and equipments would have gone up several times. The future can only help us save (this is even doubtful) should books become obsolete and microforms replace them. Even if such a situation were to arise, the growth rate of microforms would increase, and additional space and special equipments to handle and to service them would be needed, besides the greater use of electronic data processing machines. Some library experts even so believe that library building growth rate would be a factor to be reckoned with. It is therefore a sound policy to invest more on libraries and library buildings. Such a step will help the university to economize, for a central library is considered essential to forestall the enormous cost of duplication of staff, books, space and service in departmental libraries in a small university

campus in the early years of its development. Even when a decision for building departmental libraries is taken, it is essential to have centralized technical processing and ordering in the main library. Much will therefore depend on the role and importance of the Central library or the family of libraries in the University Campus.

Atmosphere:

The intellectual atmosphere of the library should aim at providing an attractive, pleasing and inviting interior with emphasis on independent study. The exterior should be simple and handsome. The library should, therefore, combine the best features of maximum flexibility and accessibility in a building of simple, pleasant, functional and modular design. It should be adaptable to new methods of instruction, study, communication and should possess features that will readily take programmed learning or teaching machines "without sacrificing any of the relevant features found in traditional libraries".³ It should be the centre of many curricular and faculty studies. Such a library would actively follow technological trends which accompany scientific change. Besides conventional print forms, non-book materials such as maps, manuscripts, microforms, tape recordings, pictures, etc., will be increasingly used. The total content, presentation and interior lay-out planning should contribute to the enlivening and maximizing of the use of the N.U.L.M.

Location of the entrance:

It is **assumed** that the N.U.L.M.(A) would have an entrance on the southern end. This would mean that the present library with its 1975 exten-

³ Louis Vagianos. The new university library; building programme prepared for Dalhousie University. Halifax, (Dalhousie University), 1967, p. 1.

sion will run almost parallel to the other library structure on three levels. These two buildings would be joined by a functional covered way, preferably by a two level rectangular covered functional area. This hyphenating structure could be conveniently used as the main entrance to the N.U.L.M. Some landscaping would need to be done on the southern side of the entrance.

Vestibule:

Students will enter the library from the southern side by a main vestibule. This vestibule will serve to break the wind, act as a 'softening' area for conversing people coming into the lobby. The vestibule could also, if desired, house the toilet facilities **and the lockers or cloakroom** where students will deposit their belongings not allowed inside the library.

Lobby and entrance hall:

The lobby and entrance could be one large area of about 3,000 square feet. The entrance floor should be the hub of all activities and service facilities as far as practicable. It should give students entering the hall the impression of the library opening up. If there are stairs leading up or down, they should not preferably cross areas assigned to **library service.**

Control area:

All students should pass by the control or circulation desk when entering or leaving the library. The control desk should be situated at such a vantage point as to allow supervision of the whole area around as far as it is practicable, even if it is manned by a minimum of staff. The control desk should allow room for three or four people to work at it at times of rush. It should normally provide room for two persons, two trolleys, 10-15 trays for book cards, reserve books, etc. The quasi-circular

control desk in the present library is likely to prove inadequate unless it is converted into a wide horse-shoe type of desk. The control desk should preferably be a rectangular one, which could prove more flexible.

It might also be useful to make provision for a control staff near the exit or entrance for checking out library users, if such a need were to arise.

Exhibit area:

The entrance should also provide a space of about 100 square feet for an exhibition area. Recessed areas on the walls could also be used for the display of rare books, manuscripts, etc. If glass-cases or wall-cases are used, they should be provided with draperies so that these could be drawn when nothing is on display. A permanent area for the display of about fifty new books should be provided.

Catalogue area: (Public Catalogue Cabinet and National Union Catalogue of Mauritian Books and Periodicals Cabinet)

Public catalogue cabinets of approximately 1,010 drawers would be needed to house cards for 250,000 volumes of books, periodicals and other documents. Each drawer should be 18" deep and should contain 1,000 catalogue cards. These should preferably be on standard cabinet of 12 drawers high and 15 drawers long. Three such double sided units would suffice and would accommodate an extra 70 drawers for future use. This public catalogue cabinet could require an area approximately 58 x 15 square feet.

Close to the reference another catalogue cabinet, preferably in the interloan room, should be provided for the main or title entries of about 1,000,000 volumes. A Union Catalogue Cabinet containing some 1,000

drawers each 18" deep is needed. This would require 5 double sided units or 10 single sided catalogue cabinets, each unit 10 by 10 drawers long. The National Union Catalogue could be ranged against the wall in one or two rows, as little rush is expected, for it would be used by specialist staff and others.

The public catalogue should be provided with counter height table of about equal length with each catalogue cabinet row and with a 5 ft. aisle separating it from the consultation table about 3' to 6' wide. This would ease congestion at rush hours.

Bibliography and reference area:

The entrance area should give access to the Reference and Bibliography Section which will initially hold 6,000 volumes and later 10,000 volumes. It should provide seats for about 50 readers. A reference librarian should have a desk at this point to answer queries. The bibliographic facilities would be equally available to, and near enough from the circulation staff.

Processing area:

The processing room should be housed on the entrance floor. It should be situated preferably near enough to the public catalogue and adjoining the lift. This area should provide working space for the order librarian, two cataloguers, two classifiers, two typists and about five helpers. It should be about 1,000 square feet in area, with provision to house about 3,000 books at a time. The shelves could form convenient partitions to separate the offices of some processing staff. Wash basins should be provided in most workroom and other areas.

Current Periodical and Newspaper Browsing Area:

A current periodical room should be near the entrance area. It must house some 1,500 - 2,000 periodical and newspaper titles and provide 50 reader stations of which 10 - 15 seats should be in a lounge area.

Microfilm Room:

Should microfilming be done in the library, then a small photographic area should be created with an area of about 400 square feet, a dark room of about 180 square feet and a store of about 200 square feet and other facilities like drainage, ventilation and black out.

Bindery and Photo-litho-offset Machine Area:

The present library bindery should be enlarged to about 500-700 square feet, if more work accumulates as a result of the installation of a photo-litho-offset machine. The bindery will then need more commercial equipments, rather than heavy reliance on manual processing. The bindery should be situated near the service entrance, adjoining the lift or stairs and close to the goods reception room. The photo-litho-offset machine, **if installed**, must be in the basement and it would occupy an area of about 1,500 square feet.

Goods Reception Area:

A goods reception room should be located at the Northern end of the 1975 extension of the library. This should be about 300 square feet and it should be partitioned and acoustically treated as it will be a noisy area. It should be preferably near the order room which will be part of the technical processing area.

Audio-visual Area:

The audio-visual room as it exists is too small. It should be widened to include a section for a language laboratory for a group of 15 students using it at a time, a small projection room, closed carrels or listening booths, microfilm readers and photocopiers.

Staff Rest Room:

It should be located away from service points where readers would not be likely to drop in. It should be equipped with some easy chairs, a kitchen with a sink, a bench, electric stoves, a refrigerator and hot water facilities. It should be able to accommodate 10-15 staff at a time.

A women staff rest room should preferably be provided with a couch and some easy chairs.

Specialist Collections:

Should there be room enough on the entrance floor, certain specialist collections and a reserved book collection could be conveniently located. There would be a Mauritiana room of about 1,000 square feet with 20 seatings, a Medical Collection with 20 seats and a reserved book collection for undergraduates with 5,000 books and 30 - 40 seats. These special collections should preferably be easily supervised by the reference or circulation staff.

Administrative Area:

The rooms provided for the librarian, the deputy librarian and the secretary could still be used as the general administrative space in the present library. But as the general office is likely to expand, the present 'Mauritiana' room could therefore be converted into a 'general office'

with accommodation for an administrative assistant, two steno-typists and for about five bays of shelving. It would also need a door to open into the librarian's office.

A reception room should also be created for visitors and others wanting to see the librarian or his deputy. This could preferably be arranged in the present secretary's room. If this proves to be insufficient, an additional room could be provided to serve as a conference and visitors room as well. This room should be able to accommodate some fifteen people at a time.

There should be a stationery room off the general office.

A Janitor's room should be provided on each floor. They should be about 80 - 100 square feet each, and preferably within the core area, that is the lift, staircase, etc.

Staff location should be distributed on all floors, but concentrated in the main service area on the entrance floor.

Reader Accommodation:

The present library already provides for 100 reader stations. The rest of the 900 seats should be generally distributed around the perimeter of the buildings, each individual seat occupying 25 square feet. There should be space for about 50 faculty carrels as specified previously. There should be 50 open seats in the periodical division. The rest of the seats should be about 80% individual carrels, of which some 25 should be provided with electrical fittings as these would be interchangeably used for typing, audio-visual apparatus and microfilm-readers. Some 10% of the

seats could be staggered carrels. Most of the carrels would be open carrels with overall ceiling lighting of sufficient intensity for study purposes.

There should be 4 group study rooms fitted with blackboards, tables and chairs, each about 150 square feet capable of seating 10 readers.

There should be two seminar rooms, each about 300 square feet, preferably sound proof and which could be utilized for conference or classroom purposes or group study assignments.

Carrels for faculty members, researchers, and graduate students should be provided with shelves for books and preferably visible locker drawers.

Individual reader's desk should not be less than 3' x 2' in surface dimension.

The modules for each bay of shelves should be made so as to be interchangeably used for reader areas, or vice-versa. Thus the N.U.L.M. Library space could be better utilized for book numbers beyond the projected estimates if the readersspace allotted is not fully occupied or vice-versa.

Bookstack:

The bookstack should be mainly spread on all floors. If a basement is provided, it should primarily house little-used books, serve as the storage area, and provide an area approximately 1,500 square feet for a photo-litho-offset machine, and about 500-700 square feet for the library bindery.

The ground floor of unit one, unit two and the third unit to be added or built separately would house most of the service areas. Space should also be provided for reference books, current periodicals and current

newspapers, the specialist collections and a reserved area.

The second level of the present library and its 1975 extension could be converted into a graduate reading area. Back issues of periodicals should also be provided to them on this floor.

The third unit of the N.U.L.M. should have one floor housing essential books and other facilities for the undergraduates and another floor sheltering the national collection and other activities connected with it and to which the public would have access through a specialist staff.

The shelving must be on standard steel bays, each bay to be 7'6" x 3' of which 88% must be 8" or 9" deep, 10% 10" or 11" deep, and 2% 16" deep.

All shelvings must run along the spine of the building, and they should be in ranges of not more than 7 sections each. It would be preferable that all bays or sections move in the same direction.

The N.U.L.M. library would be on open shelves, and aisles between shelves (centre to centre) should be 4'6" wide and main ones should not be less than 5' to 6' wide.

Other Considerations:

Stairs and booklifts:

The stairs and booklifts should be conveniently placed along a 'core' area adjoining the cleaner's room or store on each floor. For this type of library not more than three levels, a passenger lift is not essential. However, **provision** could be made for physically handicapped people, possibly on one of the booklifts.

Toilet Area:

Toilet facilities for staff and readers should be located round a central core or area preferably in vertical alignment on each floor.

Lighting:

Light fixtures should at 90° to the ranges. Overall lighting should be 30 to 40 lumen throughout the building. Fluorescent lamps should be installed in order to give 40 lumen of light intensity at table level. It is desirable to have one switch per door. There should be a master switch for the whole library. Provision must also be made for emergency lights on batteries.

Floor covering:

The present library is covered with vinyl tiles, and this is causing lot of maintenance problem and almost two cleaners have to be regularly on this job. Most modern libraries are shifting to good carpet coverings. They save us from lot of maintenance problems and expenditures on them. Although carpeting initial cost is many times dearer than other floor coverings, yet in the long run they prove to be a competitive material, as they are economical to maintain, and far superior in quality, durability, design and aesthetics. They cut down acoustic problems. Such pleasant looking carpets of high quality should be preferably installed to match the interior design of the building. Carpeting also heightens the atmosphere and the individual charm of a library.

Ceiling height:

The floor to ceiling height must be between 8'6" and 10'. The floor to ceiling height of the present library is 9'. For the sake of uni-

formity, this height should be maintained throughout the second unit. However, the architects could make another decision in the case of the third unit of the N.U.L.M.

Louvres or Sunbreakers:

Metal louvres should be installed on the east and west side of the building to stave off the morning and evening slanting rays of the sun. Other types of sunbreakers should also be used if they screen the sunlight more effectively.

Light Fixtures:

Light fixtures should be provided on every floor at convenient location. They could be easily plugged in for activating the cleaner's maintenance machines, vacuum cleaners, electrical machines and audio-visual aids apparatus in some carrels.

Fire Alarm and Emergency Door:

Fire alarm signals should be installed conveniently in the building. Emergency doors should have special alarm signal attached or a special tag or glass should be broken for emergency door use.

Internal and External Phone:

Arrangement for intercom should be made. There should also be a direct line for people seeking national library service, consultation of the N.U.C., interlibrary loan privileges and other reference facilities.

General Requirement:

The N.U.L.M. building should be acoustically treated, with the best features of modular and functional planning incorporated. Little

structural or load-bearing built-in objects should be allowed, unless exceptionally essential.

Floor load-bearing capacity should be 150 lbs. per square foot throughout the building.

The simple, pleasant and comfortable interior should foster the intellectual climate of study and research. From the exterior it should be appealing without lending itself to monumentality. Good lighting, a happy combination of colour and interior design should soothe the eye and prolong study.

At best, it should solve the problem of accessibility and adaptability while making provision for expansibility. It should be a thoroughly functional building.

Readers should be able to find their way to the different stack areas, service areas or collections without feeling lost in a maze of stacks and meandering aisles. The pattern of traffic flow should be planned to ease movement, with no encumbrances whatsoever, while the building keeps all its well-distributed functional advantages.

CONCLUSION

The National and University Library of Mauritius would perform its twin functions as the apex of the library system of the country. On its directional wisdom, a nation wide library complex would develop. The existing institutions and the future libraries to be developed in important corners of the island, would be a well-knit network of cooperation, and they would unitedly endeavour to propagate the ideals of library service to every Mauritian and democratic participation in education and other spheres of life as a powerful instrument of social, economic, scientific and cultural movement.

The present state of library affairs makes it important to establish a national institution of the stature of the N.U.L.M. Its association with the University of Mauritius would be fortunate, desirable and salutary; their overall goals seem to be almost identical; one can best fulfil its goal through the help of the other and vice-versa.

An institution which would have a wide span of activities and an equally wide spectrum of national and international obligations would need to be shouldered by the vast machinery of the N.U.L.M. The N.U.L.M. could be the focal point of every aspect of library development and central as one of the essential services of the democratic process. It would fulfil the ideal of a free library service, free education, and of participatory democracy by providing citizens the best literature in every field. As a vast reservoir of knowledge, it would provide a current awareness service. On the international plane, it would undertake interloan, bibliographical services, exchange and help the process of international research and cooperation.

For a N.U.L.M. with full-fledged activities, it would be advisable to form a N.U.L.M. Committee to examine its implications and needs. The recommendations of such a committee and its sub-committees should constitute the very basis of the N.U.L.M. Once the best policy and procedures of the N.U.L.M. have been enunciated, the Government of Mauritius should enact a National and University of Mauritius (Library) Act, so that quick recognition could be given to the vital role that such an institution is likely to play in the national, developmental, educational and manpower needs.

Such an act should clearly stipulate its authority, composition, duties, and functions, its relationship with other institutions and its leadership role in the formation of libraries, librarians, and in the programme for an island-wide library development. It should also work out a formula by which the Mauritius Archives devotes itself to archival and other records and transfers its 'library' documents to the N.U.L.M. The Mauritius Institute Library should also give up its quasi-national status as the implicit National Library, and hand over its Mauritiana and other local stock to the N.U.L.M. However, if this is not possible, the N.U.L.M. could allow retrospective Mauritian documents to remain in the custody of the above two institutions and proceed on the collection of current local materials, with the other two institutions providing a card for each of their library documents to be incorporated in the National Union Catalogue to be kept at the N.U.L.M. The act should also give the N.U.L.M. legal depository rights and a free hand in making or initiating recommendations for the planned growth of local libraries.

The N.U.L.M. would enter into cooperative schemes with all libraries of the island, and specific schemes with the most important ones. It would be able to carve out a scheme of central processing for regional libraries and establish with libraries endowed with enough resources certain subject specialization schemes. Some of the libraries could be expected to collect materials from certain countries, too. For example, the future Mahatma Gandhi Institute library would be allowed to collect Orientalia, if such a scheme proves workable. Other practical arrangements for speeding up library cooperation, inter-availability of library tickets, a standard inter-loan form or procedure, etc. should also be worked out.

The N.U.L.M. would also convince the government, the various Ministries of Education and Cultural Affairs, Local Government and others, the District and village councils to make grants available to build District Main Regional Libraries, preferably one in each district and village council libraries in populous areas. These would feed the District and Village primary and secondary schools, the local population, and also act as centres for recreational, vocational, professional and adult education development programmes. Through these institutions the government can better reach the local population and provide them the much-needed educational and library facilities they deserve. It would help the literary campaign, informational programme, as well as provide intellectual uplift and pleasure to the rural areas which are at present deprived of good library facilities. There would be plenty of goodwill from all sides of the people, the youth clubs, and other voluntary organizations. Even local donors may be forthcoming as library development involves the local people, businessmen, professionals, clubs, etc. Some of the biggest fund raisers would be the sugar or tea estates or even

business magnates. If development of village libraries would take time, a bookmobile service could be provided for each district, preferably in the beginning.

As already discussed, a system of Main Regional Libraries, public, special, educational and future district and village libraries could bring library consciousness and other advantages to the whole population.

However, such an ideal could only be achieved through the active participation, powerful influence and the directional and inspirational leadership of the N.U.L.M. It would be expected that the N.U.L.M. would make its worthwhile contribution through its specialized staff, expert guidance, training and research facilities towards the library consciousness and professionalization movements.

It would also be expected that the N.U.L.M. would start a librarianship course. Most of the local and experienced librarians could be called upon to help train new staff, in order to provide the local library system with the best personnel. This would help solve the problem of directional management. The government and other library authorities would have to increase their subsidies in order to give a solid boost to such programmes. The university would also provide the necessary apparatus for specialists to train local talents. The N.U.L.M. would act in conjunction with the future Mauritius Library Association and the different library institutions of the island. This would result in the following:

- 1- A rational plan for library development.
- 2- A democratic consultation of librarians and other authorities on the steps to be taken to cure the lopsided growth of libraries

and to remove their inherent weaknesses.

- 3- The creation of conditions favouring library growth.
- 4- Promotion of professionalization, specialization, and library consciousness.
- 5- A coordinated and well-integrated programme for local libraries.
- 6- Cooperation in the compilation of the Mauritius National Union Catalogue of books and Serials in Mauritian Libraries, special catalogues, bibliographies, indexes and other library tools and reference books of national and international significance.

The N.U.L.M. would thus become the bibliographical, referral, informational and research centre of the island. It would be better placed than other libraries to handle such a big responsibility. Its large staff, comparatively large budget, big library building, longer hours of opening, ample reader-service accommodation, the specialized, national and academic collection of its almost 'encyclopedic' stock would be of central importance to any knowledge seekers.

As the N.U.L.M. is expected to reach a stock of 250,000 volumes by 1995 with a seating capacity of 1,000, its building programme would have to be phased out so that each unit should at least suffice a decade of developments. The maximum seating capacity could have been reduced to 750, i.e. one quarter of the projected university full-time student enrollment, but room would have to be made for outsiders and researchers to work with or consult the national collection and other library facilities, as well as provide space for an additional number of part-time students and academic staff. It is justifiable to provide seating for one third of the full-time

student population, a figure which compensates for extra seating needs as well.

Its present library (unit one) can house about 50,000 volumes and 100 reader stations. The next stage (unit two) of expansion would be of an equal area as unit one. A third unit would have to be added to, or built on a parallel line to, unit one and unit two. This would provide space for the remainder of the collections and seating stations. It is recommended that the entrance be made to the South, and the two separate structures (or even if they be joined so as to constitute one building) should be joined on the Southern side, so that a common entrance area could be provided.

Unit three could be erected on the Western side of the present structure, or on its Eastern side, if in this particular case the Redit - Rose-Hill main road is redirected or closed. However, the future expansion site would depend on a joint decision reached by the architects, university planners and authorities. At best, this programme only puts forth various optional building plans which could in fact be put into practical application, if other considerations and factors are favourable.

It is therefore recommended that the third unit be on three levels, and this could preferably be built in two stages, or if financial provision is not sufficient in three stages.

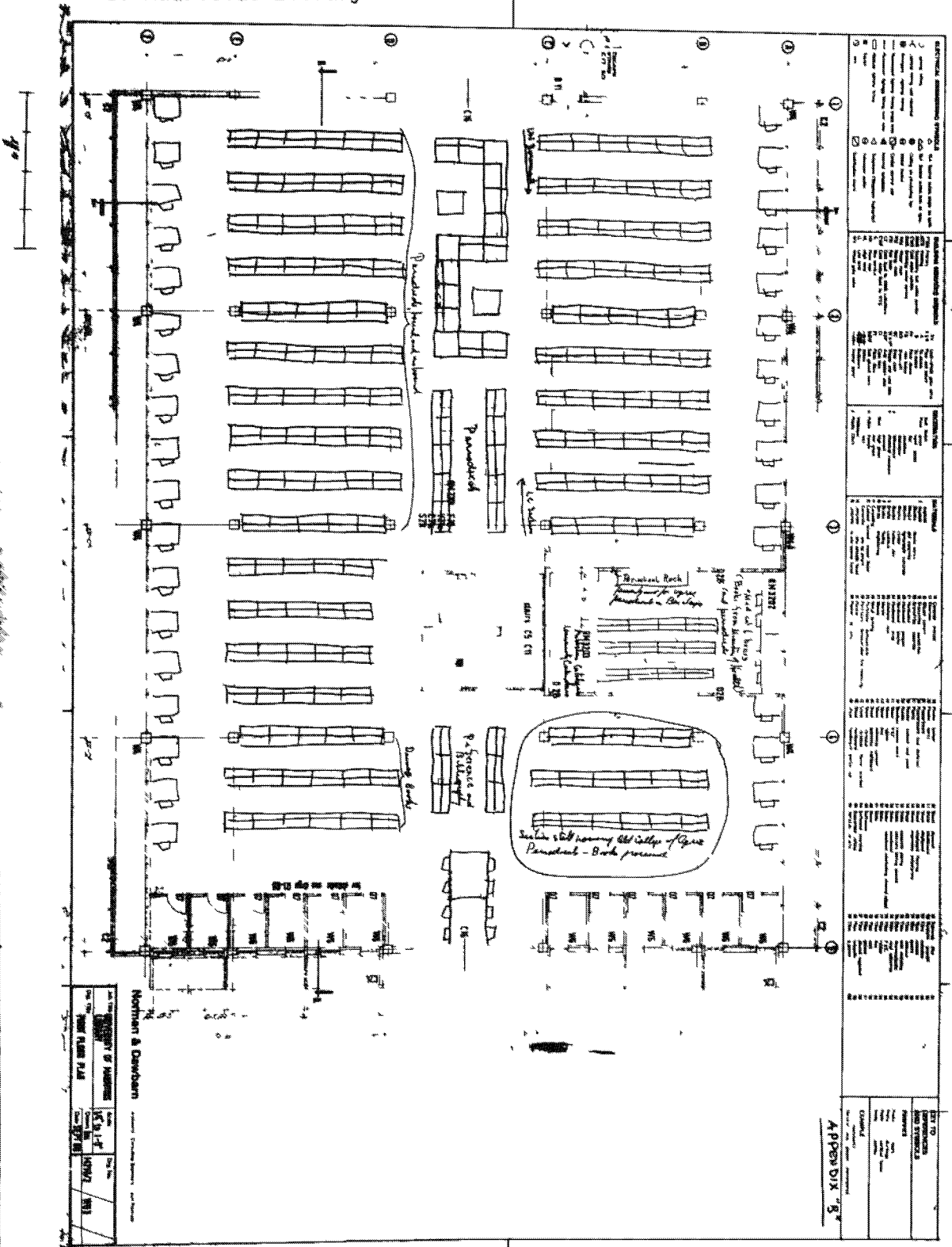
On the whole the N.U.L.M. is expected to be a practicable, realistic and worthwhile project. Its creation is a must; it can set the pace of library development in Mauritius. Without such a central national institution, library movement and its attendant benefits would be retarded, lethargic and almost insignificant. It could also help save the local library

situation from getting outdistanced by educational progress, not to speak of backwardness in library development.

It would help revive library consciousness, create professionalization and enhance library image and support in Mauritius. It would foster the growth of a national library system, whereby every citizen would be interested in books and education.

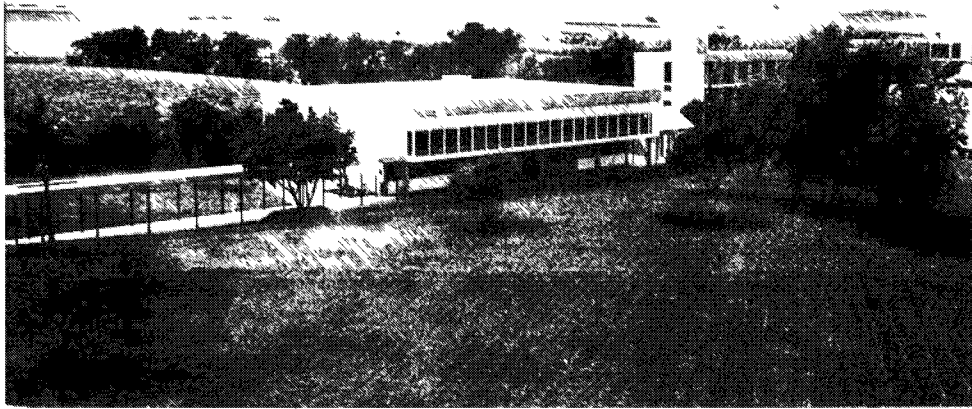
It would also vitalize library cooperation, nurture the growth of the library community under the Mauritius Library Association to which the N.U.L.M. would provide every facility, encouragement and training ground' for the library movement to spread. It would thus act as the main-spring of an effective system of libraries, the directional leader in all innovative fields and provide trained manpower for the active growth of library service through efficiency, competency and enthusiasm. It would strive to remove local conditions which hamper library development, and create an atmosphere whereby the N.U.L.M. would be able to exercise a strong voice in the support of national and international library service and other connexe activities.

First floor plan of the first unit of the present University
of Mauritius Library

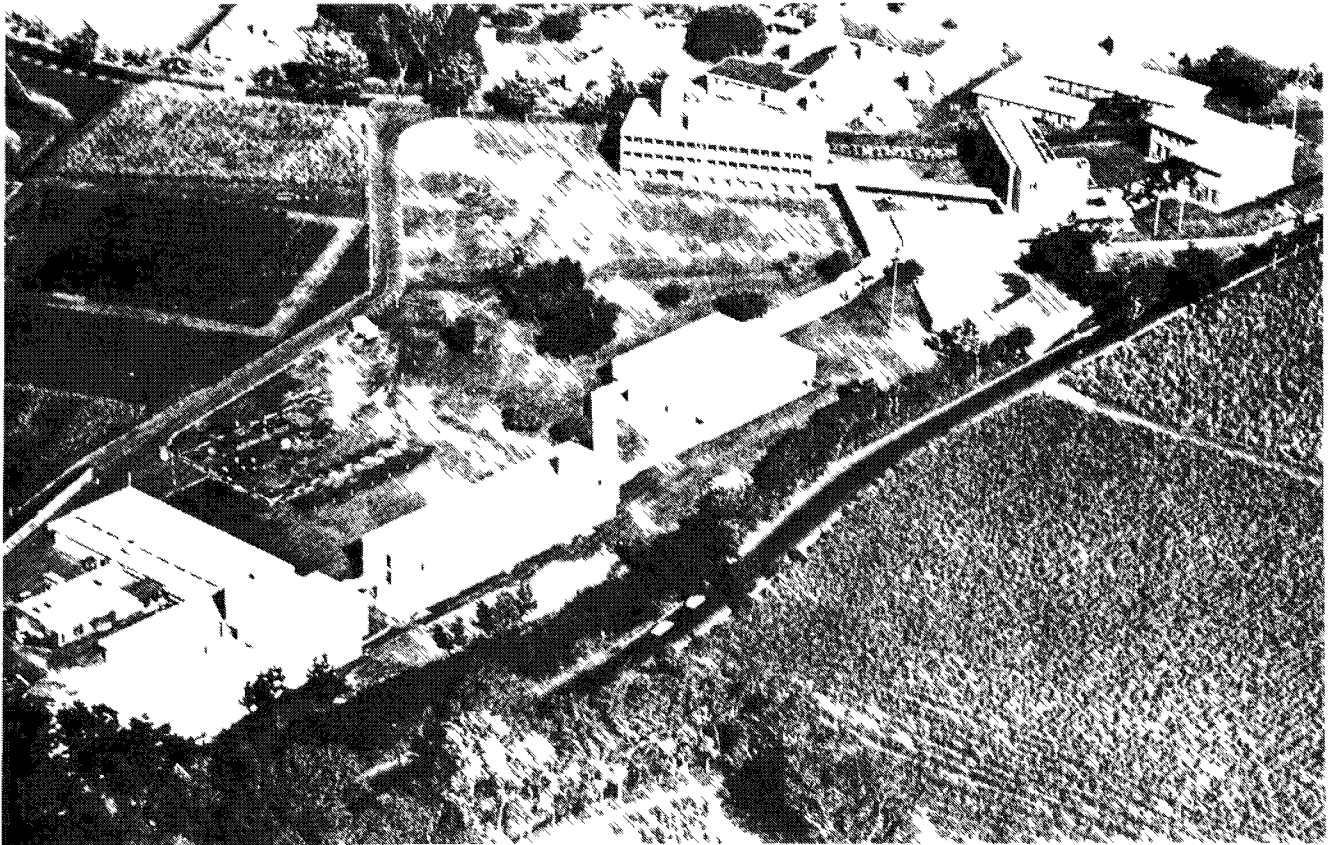


Northan & Dewhurst
Architects
10, St. James Street, Port Louis, Mauritius

Unit one of the University of Mauritius, a view of its western side.



An overall view of the University of Mauritius Campus.



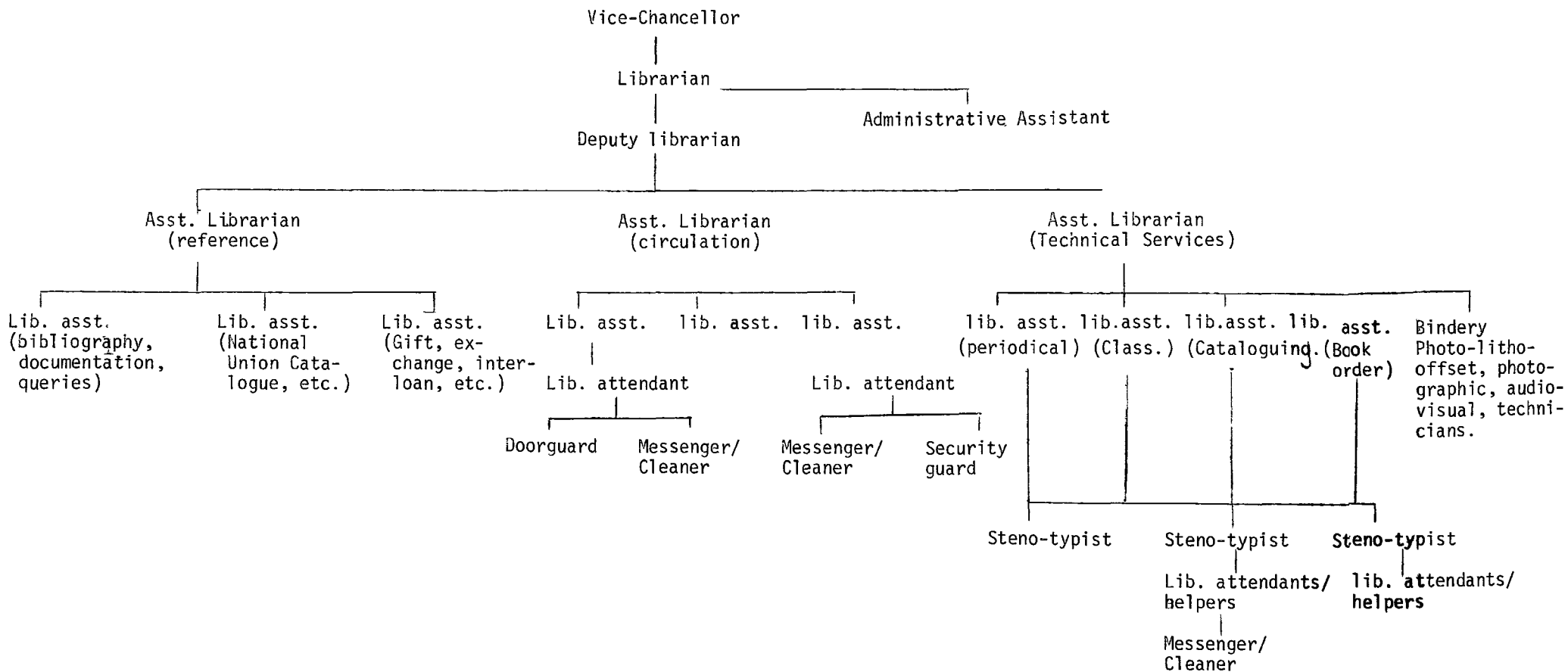
A view of the individual
seating arrangement on
the western wing of the
first floor of University
of Mauritius Library
(Unit one)



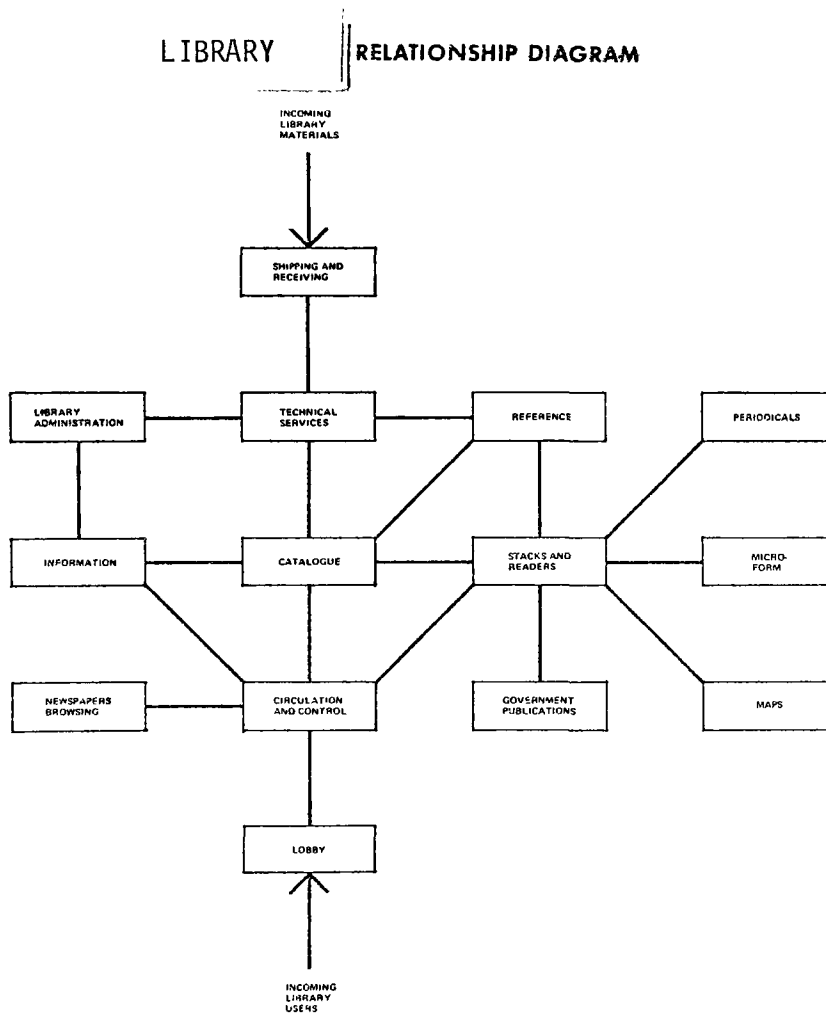
A section of the reference stack and reading area on the first floor of the
University of Mauritius Library (Unit one).



A proposed N.U.L.M. organisational chart:



(Typical relationship diagram reproduced from: Stephen Langmead and Margaret Beckman. New library design: guidelines to Library planning academic library buildings. Toronto, Wiley, (c1970), p. 69.



A typical diagram used by the Architect or Librarian to clarify relationships of essential library functions.

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