

St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Library Director.

Records, 1900-

SJU Archival Collection 13

16.6 cubic ft. (32 archive boxes and 1 flat file drawer)

Update: August 29, 2024

ABSTRACT: Records of the St. John's Library Director, continuing in 1980 with the records of the Director of the College of Saint Benedict and St. John's University Joint Libraries.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection includes correspondence, minutes, reports, newsletters, plans, and financial records. The main topics are the library's function, facilities, and collections. A significant portion of the collection documents Oliver Kapsner's work in Catholic subject headings, Benedictina, and microfilming of European manuscripts. There are honors theses from the 1960s. Another segment of the collection pertains to Academic Computing. Most of the materials in the collection were created in 1935 or later.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY: The St. John's University library is based primarily on the St. John's Abbey library. In the 1869-1870 academic year, three student organizations, each offering a collection of books for its members, formed: the Grace Literary Association, dedicated to oratory and debate; the St. Boniface Literary Association, promoting German literature; and a local branch of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These circulating libraries shared a room in the main building, now part of the Quadrangle. The Abbey Library, begun informally, also had a room in the main building as early as 1874. In 1875, Bernard Locnikar began compiling a list of books in the Abbey's collection. The libraries of the two literary associations became part of the Sodality's collection in 1883, and in 1900, the Sodality collection was reorganized as the Students' Library. In 1922, the Abbey Library became the University Library. Fiction and periodicals were still made available at the Students' Library. Besides the University Library, there were also departmental libraries in Art, Music, and Science. In 1934, periodicals were integrated into the University Library; the former Students' Library, both the room and the remaining books, became the newly created Prep Library. The separate art, music, and science library collections were absorbed into the University Library in 1966 upon the completion of the Alcuin Library building. The St. John's University Library and the College of St. Benedict Library became a joint department in 1980. From 1986 to 1991, the Library Director was also head of Academic Computing. In 2018,

Media Services, which had been part of the Library at St. John's since 1973 and at the College of St. Benedict since at least 1978, became Instructional Technology, a part of Information Technology Services. Library Directors have been:

Bernard Locnikar, OSB	1875-1879
Urban Fischer, OSB	1879-1887
Francis Mershman, OSB	1887-1895
Agatho Gehret, OSB	1895-1898
Willibrord Mahowald, OSB	1898-1901
Bruno Doerfler, OSB	1901-1905
Alexius Hoffmann, OSB	1905-1922
Basil Stegmann, OSB	1922-1927
Christopher Bayer, OSB	1927-1934
Oliver Kapsner, OSB	1934-1939
Benjamin Stein, OSB	1939-1967
Ronald Roloff, OSB	1967-1969
Imogene Blatz, OSB	1969-1973
Michael D. Kathman	1973-1980
Michael D. Kathman	1980-2006 (Director of CSB/SJU Joint Libraries)
Kathy Parker	2006-2018 (Director of the Libraries, Media & Archives)
Kathy Parker	2018-2023 (Director of the Libraries and Archives)
Gretchen Trkay	2023-

ARRANGEMENT: The files are organized alphabetically.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public.

COLLECTION CITATION: This collection should be cited as:

St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Library Director. Records, 1900- . SJU Archival Collection 13. St. John's University Archives, Collegeville, Minnesota.

ACQUISITION: The collection was transferred to the archives in small sections by a number of donors over the years. Accessions numbers: 105, 194, 364, 406, 452, 464, 465, 552, 595, 641, 97-002, 2006-001, 2009-004, 2012-010, 2014-018, 2020-002, 2024-005. Accruals are anticipated.

SUBJECT TERMS:

- St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Libraries.
- Alcuin Library.
- St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Academic Computing.
- St. John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minn.)
- Clemens Library (College of Saint Benedict)
- Academic libraries—Minnesota.
- Academic library directors.

INVENTORY: For contents, see the "[Library Director Office](#)" collection in the Saint John's University Archives and Special Collections database.
