

# Head librarian Jones to retire in fall ; has expanded University library

by Sue Harker

"I love library work and I'm very fond of YSU, but I want to retire while I'm still curious and alert enough to continue examining and learning about life," said Dr. George Jones, head librarian of YSU since 1957, who plans to retire in November.

"I want to let young people have a chance at this job while I relax and grow old gracefully," Jones remarked, adding that he plans to maintain an active interest in YSU and to attend YSU concerts, plays, and lectures during his retirement.

During his years at the University, much of Jones' effort has been directed at what he calls "building the University Library book collection." "This is the goal I've emphasized most," he said, "although I try to keep aware of new developments in other college libraries and like to adopt new library methods at YSU."

Under Jones' direction the number of books in the YSU library has increased from 68,000 to 340,000, and the staff has been expanded to include 12 professional librarians, 26 non-professional librarians, and 35 student assistants. Jones was responsible for the library's change from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress sequence, in which the volumes are arranged in numerical order. Jones explained that under the Library of Congress sequence books can be efficiently categorized by computer, and he noted that the YSU library now has two computer terminals.

At Jones' insistence the library building was reserved for library-related activities only. In 1967

the last of several classrooms and offices which Jones felt were encroaching on much-needed library space were converted to library use.

Jones said he hopes all eight

Jones received his master of arts degree from Harvard University. He was awarded his master's degree in library science from Kent State University in 1957 and his doctor of philosophy degree from



Dr. George Jones

floors of the new \$6,000,000 library, to be completed early next year, will be restricted to library functions. The new library, he explained, like the present one, will be arranged according to the Library of Congress sequence, and study carrels will be located on each floor.

Jones came to Youngstown from Northfield, where he was librarian of the Northfield Community Library from 1955 to 1957. Previous to his library experience he was on the faculties of Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis. and of the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. He was with the U.S. Navy Landing Craft in the South Pacific from 1943 to 1946.

A graduate of Oberlin College,

Harvard in 1966.

Active in civic affairs, Jones is a member of the board of trustees of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and of the Mental Health Association of Mahoning County. He is a fluent speaker on the history of Youngstown.

Jones said he plans to "do some writing projects in the field of history of architecture" during his retirement, and he will continue work on a novel he has begun. He added that much of the research for his writing will be done at the YSU library he knows so well.

Quoting Robert Browning's *Rabbi Ben Ezra*, Jones expressed his feelings about the coming years: "The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made."