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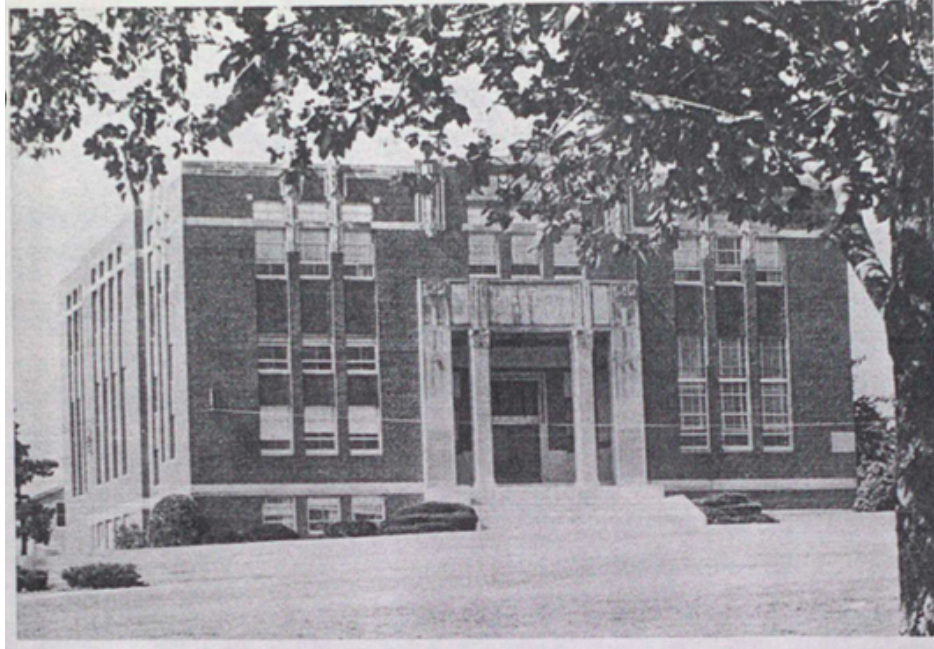
Celebrating the Years

Katherine Loving

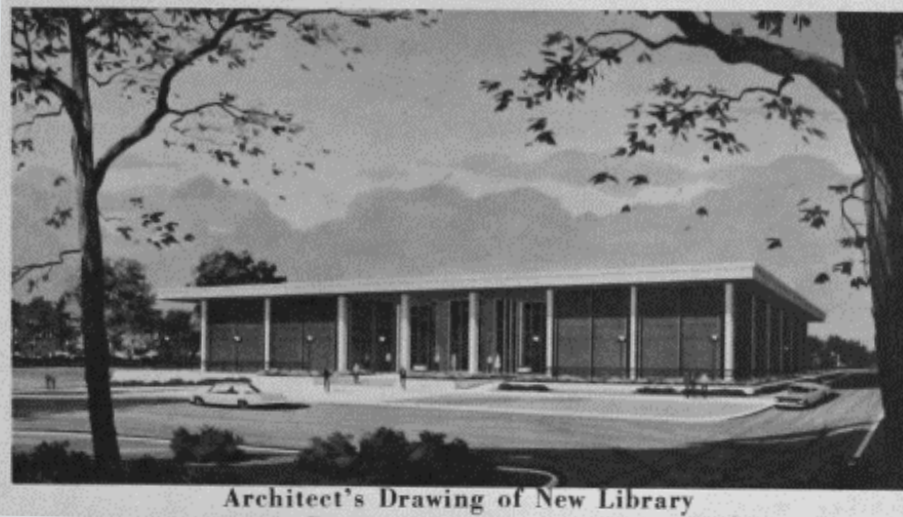
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Celebrating the Years

July 24, 1958
Southwestern Oklahoma State College joined the Federal Depository Library Program. Pictured is the original library building.



Crews Rush Work on Library



Architect's Drawing of New Library

1969 Southwestern Oklahoma State College Library became Al Harris Library with the opening of the new library building. New building was built just south of the original library and is significantly larger.

1974 Southwestern Oklahoma State College became Southwestern Oklahoma State University



July 1, 1994 Al Harris Library became a depository for State of Oklahoma's government publications.

Library now government pub depository

The Al Harris Library is now an Oklahoma Government Publications Depository.

Southwestern recently became the 15th depository in the state of Oklahoma according to Beverly Jones, library director.

This responsibility means that the library is to house state publications from every agency

in Oklahoma and to retain permanent copies of them for public use.

Created by legislation in 1978, the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse of Oklahoma Department of Libraries established an Oklahoma government publication depository library system.

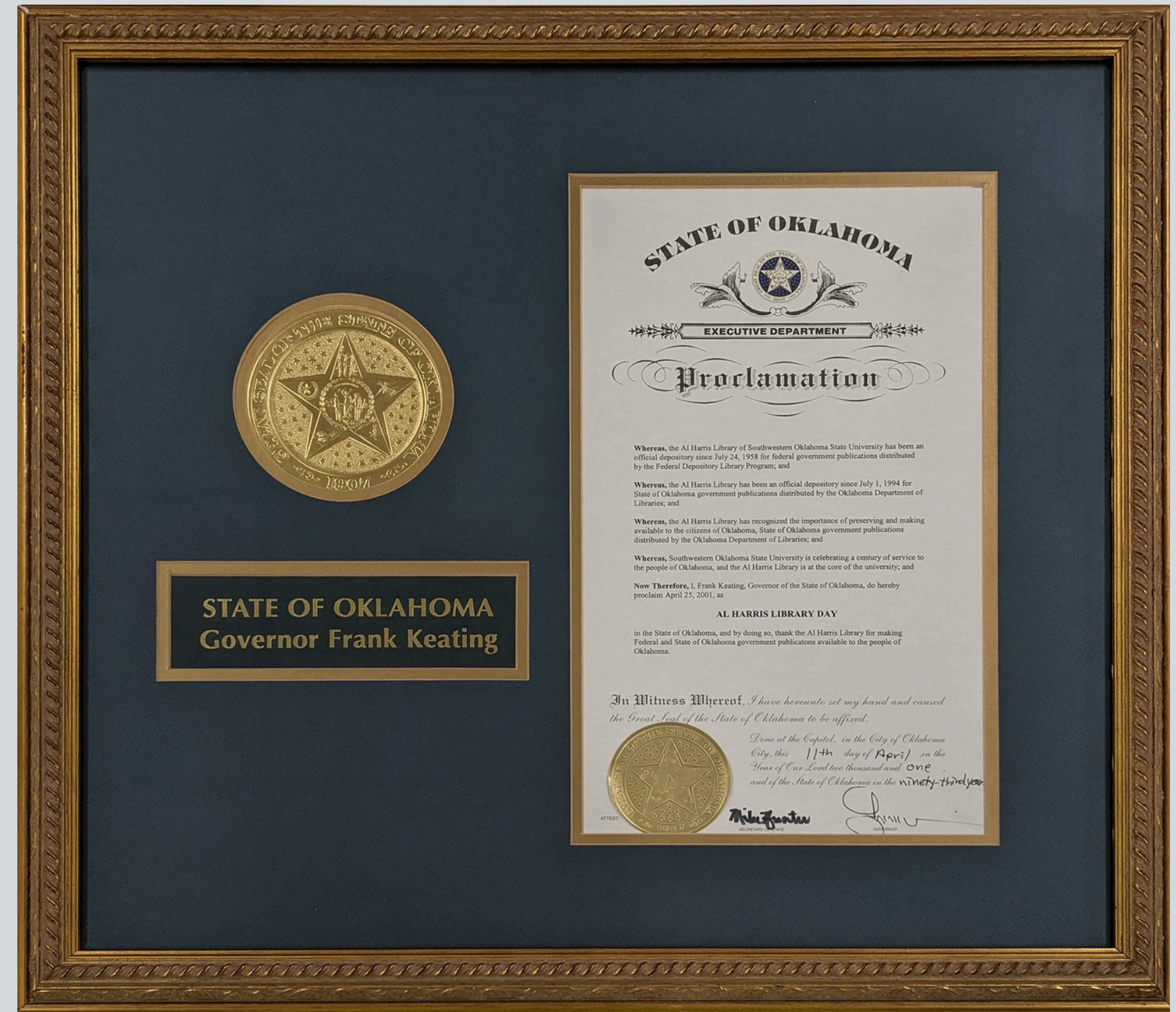
Publications are sent to the Clearinghouse from state government agencies. These publications are then sent to the 15 depository libraries and the U.S. Library of Congress.

Examples of state publications are maps of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Almanac, Oklahoma Directory of Manufacturers and Processors,

"Oklahoma Today" magazine, Oklahoma Statutes, Oklahoma Water Atlas and Who is Who in the Oklahoma Legislature.

Other depositories in Oklahoma are located at Ada, Alva, Bartlesville, Clinton, Edmond, Enid, Lawton, McAlester, Norman, Oklahoma City (two), Stillwater, Tahlequah, and Tulsa (two).

In 2001, Al Harris Library received a Proclamation from the State of Oklahoma commending us for our work in providing government publications to Oklahoma citizens. This proclamation was lost in time, stored among various artwork from previous university presidents. It was rediscovered in 2023 in time for Al Harris Library's 65th anniversary in the Federal Depository Library Program. An extensive search lead by Phillip Fitzsimmons, University Archivist, into Southwestern's historical records and of the local newspaper, Weatherford Daily News revealed that there had not been any mention of the proclamation when it had originally been received. Retired SWOSU Librarian, Linda Pye, did write an article for the Oklahoma Library Association's newsletter the *Oklahoma Librarian*. Despite the original lack of publicity the Al Harris Library is planning a recognition ceremony for the 25th anniversary of Al Harris Library Day in 2026.



State of Oklahoma
Executive Department
Proclamation

Whereas, the Al Harris Library of Southwestern Oklahoma State University has been an official depository since July 24, 1958 for federal government publications distributed by the Federal Depository Library Program;

Whereas, the Al Harris Library has been an official depository since July 1, 1994 for State of Oklahoma government publications distributed by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; and

Whereas, the Al Harris Library has recognized the importance of preserving and making available to the citizens of Oklahoma, State of Oklahoma government publications distributed by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries; and

Whereas, Southwestern Oklahoma State University is celebrating a century of service to the people of Oklahoma, and the Al Harris Library is at the core of the university; and

Now Therefore, I, Frank Keating, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2001, as

AL HARRIS LIBRARY DAY

in the State of Oklahoma, and by doing so thank the Al Harris Library for making Federal and State of Oklahoma government publications available to the people of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 11th day of April in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and one and of the State of Oklahoma in the ninety-third year.

Signed by Mike Hunter (Secretary of State) and Governor Frank Keating

