History of the O'Meara Mathematics Library, University of Notre Dame

Karen Lanser, Parker Ladwig

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About the O'Meara Mathematics Library

O'Meara Mathematics Library served as a departmental branch library from 1952 until 2020, with most of the collection directed toward supporting faculty and graduate student research. In June 2020, the branch library space in Hayes-Healey closed and the collections and services were relocated to Hesburgh Library. Today, subject librarians continue to manage print and electronic collections and provide research services for mathematicians as well as faculty and students from engineering, physics, life sciences, business, and philosophy.

History

- 1842 — Arithmetic and elementary college mathematics were part of the original curriculum written by Rev. Edward Sorin.
- 1865 — The College of Science was founded.
- 1884 — The first Science Hall was built on campus when Rev. John A. Zahm moved the College of Science from two buildings that had been attached to the old church to what is currently LaFortune Student Center. It included a separate science library.
- 1937 — Prof. Karl Menger, a noted mathematician, started a graduate program in mathematics with a focus on research and publishing.
- 1952 — Nieuwland Science Hall was opened, housing a chemistry-physics and mathematics library.
- 1962 — The Mathematics/Computer Science Library was established in what is now the Information Technologies Building.
- 1979 — The Mathematics/Computer Science Library was renamed the Mathematics Library.

- 2001 — The Library moved to 001 Hayes-Healy Center. Fr. Hesburgh officiated at the dedication of the Mathematics Library on Sept. 5, 2002.
- 2008 — The Mathematics Library was rededicated and named for Prof. O. Timothy O'Meara. Prof. O'Meara, a noted mathematician, joined the faculty of the Mathematics Dept. in 1962 and twice served as its chairman. In 1976, he was named to the Kenna Endowed Chair in Mathematics. Noted for serving as the first lay Provost of the University from 1978 to 1996, [he passed away on June 17, 2018](#).
- 2020 — The O'Meara Mathematics Library collections and services were relocated to Hesburgh Library, where they continue to serve mathematicians as well as faculty and students from engineering, physics, life sciences, business, and philosophy.

Marston Morse Collection

Harold Calvin Marston Morse (1892–1977) was one of the world's leading theoretical mathematicians. He taught at Harvard, Cornell, Brown, and the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, where Morse was a colleague of Einstein. He was also a "statesman of science" and represented the Vatican, along with Fr. Hesburgh, at the Atoms for Peace conference at the United Nations in 1952. He received over 20 honorary degrees from around the world.

Morse was close friends with Fr. Hesburgh, and his widow, Louise Jeffreys Morse, donated his [working collection](#) to Notre Dame in 1978. Later, she added more books to the collection. Some of the Morse collection contains notes from lectures given by famous mathematicians, and some were signed by famous authors. A bronze plaque of the [bookplate](#) commemorates his legacy.