1908 First Library (comprised of a dictionary, an atlas, and an encyclopedia set) is established in the parlor of a frame house on Young Street.

1908 First Hawaiian collection of the Library is established by a purchase from Thomas G. Thrum, Stationer and Bookseller.


1909 First acquisition boo-boo: when the Library unwittingly purchases a set of juvenilia (including When Molly was Six, and Mopsa the Fairy). Need for collection development policy arises.

1912 First moving day: Library moved to two rooms in what is now Hawai'i Hall. To accomplish the move, the book collection of 9,000 volumes was pitched from shelves through an open window onto a truck bed.

1912 First librarian resignation: after four years of noise and chaotic collection building, Carrie Green has had enough and resigns to return to Library of Hawai'i.

ELIZABETH BRYAN YEARS (1914-1919)

1914 First personnel flap: Carrie Green's successor, Elizabeth Bryan, resigns over the issue of her lack of faculty status. Later she receives that status and retracts her resignation.

1914 Library collects first UH thesis: Alfred Warren's M.A. study on dragonflies. Today there are approximately 10,000 M.A., M.S. and Ph. D. UH dissertations and theses in the library's collection.

1915 Library becomes a depository for all territorial publications.

CLARA HEMENWAY YEARS (1919-1928)

1919 A federal commission finds the library in a critical condition from overcrowding and recommends a new library building and an expanded staff.

1925 After years of delay a new library building is constructed in what is now George Hall. Cost: $125,580. Collection has grown to 46,885 volumes.
1927 Hawaiian section is established and faculty petitions for non-circulating status of these books because of their rarity.

1931 Library acquires two large collections, those of the Federal Agriculture Experiment Station and the Territorial Normal and Training School libraries.

MARY PRINGLE YEARS (1928-1941)

1935 In response to increasing focus on Oriental studies, an Oriental collection established to support the Oriental Institute.


1941 First day after Pearl Harbor bombing, December 8, the Library opens as usual, at 8:00 a. m.

CARL STROVEN YEARS (1941-1963)

1941 First male head librarian, English professor Carl Stroven, is appointed.

1950 UH becomes a depository library for United Nations, Unesco. Other UN-affiliated agencies will be added later.

1956 Sinclair Library built. A building principle: make the facility as comfortable as possible for users without using air conditioning. The goal is achieved at the expense of book conservation.

1963 Library begins a massive reclassification system from Dewey to Library of Congress system. Project will take five years. At that time, the Library was the first major research library to finish such a comprehensive reclassification project.

RALPH SHAW YEARS (1964-1967)

1964 Nationally distinguished librarian, a past ALA president, appointed as Head Librarian. He pledges to move UH Library to the forefront of modern library technology.

1966 Librarians move from civil service to faculty status.

1966 Science Technology Department established (with librarians Crozier, Bond, and Ahmad).
STANLEY WEST YEARS (1968-1977)


1968 Following national trends, an undergraduate library established at Sinclair Library.

1969 Pacific Collection separated out from its former integration into Hawaiian Collection and the first Pacific curator, Renee Heyum (formerly with the Musee de l'Homme in Paris) arrives.

1970 East West Center Library moves to Sinclair to become the Asia Collection. Students demonstrate to keep Asia Collection as a separate entity.


1972 First online data base search conducted (a MEDLINE search by Betty Rognstad)

DON BOSSEAU YEARS (1977-1982)

1975 Asia Collection strengthens and expands its focus by adding a Philippine specialist to the staff.


1979 Library joins OCLC, and blessed by a kahuna, terminals begin to produce machine readable cataloging records. Retrospective conversion to online system begins.


1982 Jean Chariot Collection opens, representing a bequest valued at that time at over a million dollars.

JOHN HAAK YEARS (1983-2000)

1984 First videotape is cataloged: Keiki Hula competition, 1984.

1985 ALOHA begins operations. This was an innovative online system developed expressly for the UH Library.

1985 First Public Access Catalog (PAC) becomes operational. 1985 Two millionth volume celebration.

1987 Automated circulation system up and running after years of barcoding and linking.

1987 Wong AV Center opens supported by a $75,000 gift and endowment from the Harry C. Wong family.
1988 Off-site patrons begin to dial-in to automated system.

1988 An honor for librarianship: Nina Horio, of Science Technology unit, becomes the first librarian to serve as UHPA president.

1989 School of Public Health Library becomes a member of UH Library Information Network.

1989 Hamilton Library staff moved to Sinclair for summer asbestos removal project.

1989 Sidestepping lawsuits, the Library cancels Baker and Taylor gathering plan and transfers vendorship to Blackwell North America.

1990 Automated serial check-in begins

1990 Preservation Department created to treat, restore, and preserve Library materials.

1990 Library joins CARL system, opening a host of new services for library clientele.

1991 Kapi'olani Community College Library becomes first community college to be accessible via UHCARL Library network. All UH Systems are brought up by 1994.

1991 Science Technology begins operating the first dial-in CD-ROM LAN station in the state of Hawaii.

1992 External Services Program (ESP) is established in March with a revolving fund of $500,000. With ESP, Library resources were extended to the general public and made available on a cost recovery basis.

1992 Annual Library stats reveal that in 1992 9,000 students have been taught library research skills by Library staff.

1993 Concept of an undergraduate library at Sinclair has had its day and undergraduate reference staff moves to Hamilton.

1994 First multi-media CD-ROM collected (an interactive movie guide: Cinemania)

1995 In August, students hold sleep-in at Hamilton Library to protest cuts in book budget. Head Librarian John Haak joins the all-night ceremonies.

1996 Library Home Page launched on the World Wide Web (http://www2.hawaii.edu/lib/)

1997 Library reforms the Library Associates and appoints first Library Development Officer.

1998 Construction to begin for long-awaited addition to Hamilton
Library. Projected cost: 37 million.

1998 Three millionth volume to be added.