A Librarian's Dream Comes True for Him

By KEN STRICKLAND
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FORT LAUDERDALE—Grady Drake has been given the opportunity of a librarian's life.

He's building a library from the ground floor up exactly the way he thinks it should be done.

"It's not as formidable to me as it might be to others," said Drake, librarian at the new Broward County Junior College.

To him building a library is like building anything else. You need the tools, the know-how and some money. Then you start acting instead of sitting around and wringing your hands.

"Most librarians dream of setting up a library exactly the way they think it should be," Drake said. "It's most interesting."

Drake has been at the job for eight days now and has a list of 1,200 books he intends to order. He expects to place his first order by July 15 and hopes to receive the bulk of the shipment by Aug. 15. He plans to have 4,000 volumes on the shelves within a year. A lot depends on how far his $15,000 budget stretches.

Drake's qualifications for the task include two years' experience in the reference department at the University of California, three years as science librarian at Northwestern University and three years as a U.S. Air Force librarian in Europe. During the past year he worked in the bibliography center at the University of Florida. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and received his library degree at Columbia University.

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THE LIBRARY will be located in one of the former Naval Air Station buildings that will house the college at Broward International Airport. Drake terms the space more than adequate for the 400 students expected for the first year.

"When you start out brand new and unencumbered you have a good deal in your favor," Drake said. "The handicap is that you have a very small volume to start with but you have what you want within your budgetary limitations."

Problems encountered in setting up a library are eased somewhat by reference books and lists put out by the American Library Association.

Drake is using one such list to determine the basic needs of Broward J. C.'s new library. To that list he's adding titles in fields he thinks the school will specialize in. He's also incorporating lists submitted by department heads.

"We may not be able to cover every subject but I'm confident there will be something for everyone to do a term paper on," Drake said.