DEDICATION OF THE
OSCAR A. SILVERMAN
UNDERGRADUATE
LIBRARY AND THE
RUTH BARTHOLOMEW
CONFERENCE ROOM
CAPEN HALL, STATE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW
YORK AT BUFFALO,
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1983
Ruth Bartholomew

Miss Ruth Bartholomew was appointed in 1922 to the newly created position of University Librarian. Her appointment was part of a general reorganization in the early 1920s which was aimed at centralizing the University. She began her UB career in the fledgling arts and sciences library in Townsend Hall on Niagara Square, then organized the General Collection in Foster Hall when that building opened on the Main Street Campus shortly after. Under her leadership, the collection grew to approximately 85,000 volumes in 13 years. She became associate librarian when the University facilities were enlarged and Lockwood Library opened in the 1930s. In this position, she still carried heavy responsibilities and worked closely with members of the faculty in building up library holdings to several hundred thousand volumes. She also helped organize the Friends of Lockwood Library and set up the first library instruction program as part of the How To Study Orientation Course for freshmen that began in the early 1920s. Her total period of active service to the University was 42 years.

A graduate of the original UB Library School, she is credited with early adoption of the Library of Congress classification system for the University Libraries and with developing a dedicated staff. In 1964, Dr. Oscar Silverman wrote of Miss Bartholomew, that, "As I grow to know more about the history of the Library, I realize that her devotion to the Library and her willingness to spend long hours on its affairs have made possible the firm foundation on which those of us who have joined the staff only recently can build a truly great library."

A native of Buffalo, Miss Bartholomew was graduated from the former Hutchinson Central High School. An accomplished musician, she studied at Oberlin College as well as at UB. She worked briefly at the old Buffalo Public Library on Lafayette Square in 1921. She died August 1, 1969.