

Michael Gorman

AT ONE TIME OR another we've all made that first visit to the library. And no matter how small or how big we were, we didn't need Webster's Dictionary to know the meaning of "intimidation."

The fact that some libraries are not user friendly and consequently realize only one-fifth of their potential is disquieting. If not to us, it is certainly on the mind of Michael Gorman, the dean of library services at the Henry Madden Library.

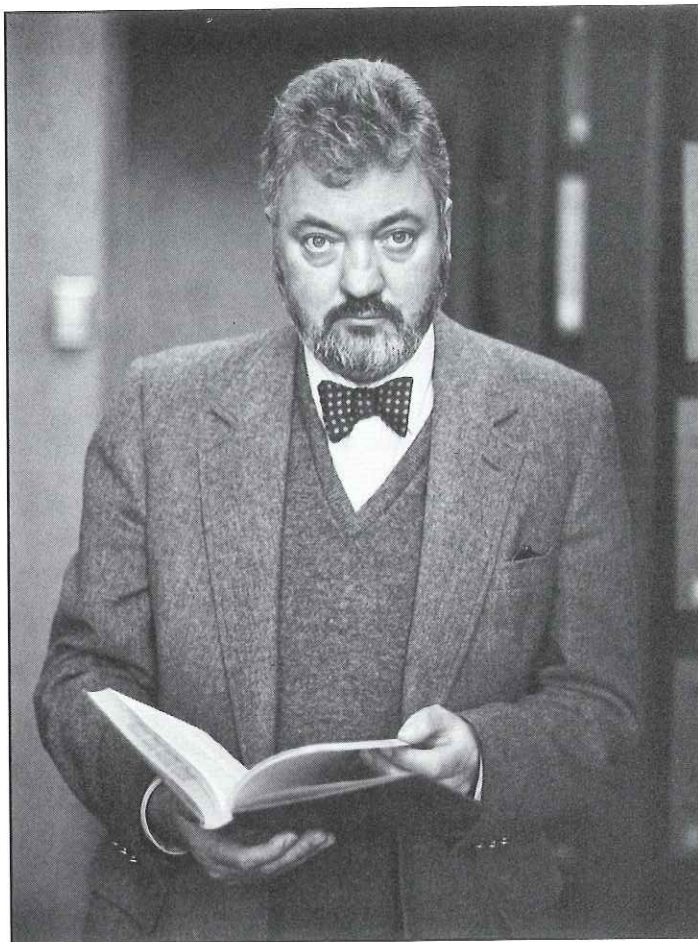
"A library can't sit back and be passive," says Gorman, who began his library career at age 16 with the Hampstead Public Library in England. "We have to reach out and demonstrate our services and connect in many, many ways with the academic life of this university."

When Gorman talks about connecting, he's talking automation — now and in the future — whereby online computerized systems put students, faculty and the community in touch with other libraries and their resources.

While it's true that the Madden Library has an automated circulation system and can borrow materials it does not possess from a network of 3,000 other libraries, Gorman wants still more.

"I'm a firm believer that no library, certainly not a library of this size, can serve all the needs of the faculty and students of this institution. We can't. We obviously have to have access to other materials and that's why automation is very important."

"If we're online to other libraries, we can find out what they have and borrow from their resources, and we can lend them ours and so on. And that



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cooperation can take many forms — sharing materials with the public library system, for example."

The most immediate challenge for Gorman, who joined CSUF in September 1988, is an online catalog that goes beyond conventional card catalogs. Instead of searching through those meticulously filed 3" x 5" index cards, library patrons will rely on conveniently located computer terminals to call up books by subject or title.

In January 1989, under Gorman's direction, the library opened a Multicultural Library Resource Center on the second floor. According to Colleen Mitchell, coordinator of the Center, the majority of material emphasizes Hispanic, African-American and Southeast Asian studies.

Impressed with the cultural diversity of Fresno and the Valley, Gorman says the Center provides a "gateway" to the resources and services of the library for minority students and others interested in minority studies. He adds that the Center will expand and change to meet the needs of students and faculty.

Gorman wants so much because he believes the Madden Library is an integral part of the academic side of the university. And, so do others.

Michael J. Biechler, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, quoted in *Insight*, a campus newspaper, said that Gorman's title was changed from university librarian to dean of library services

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