

March 17, 1936.

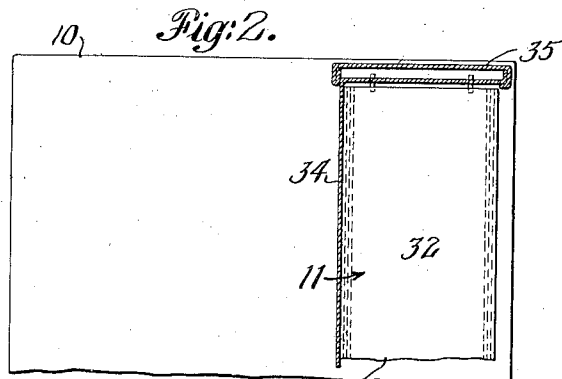
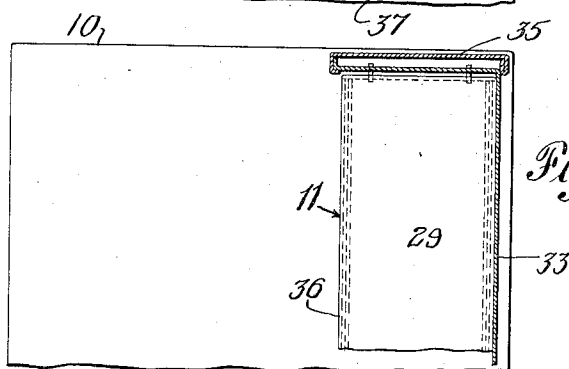
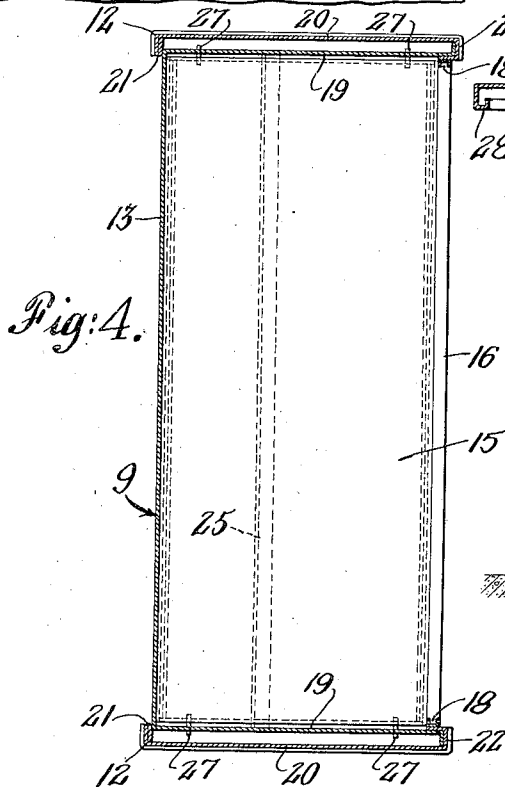
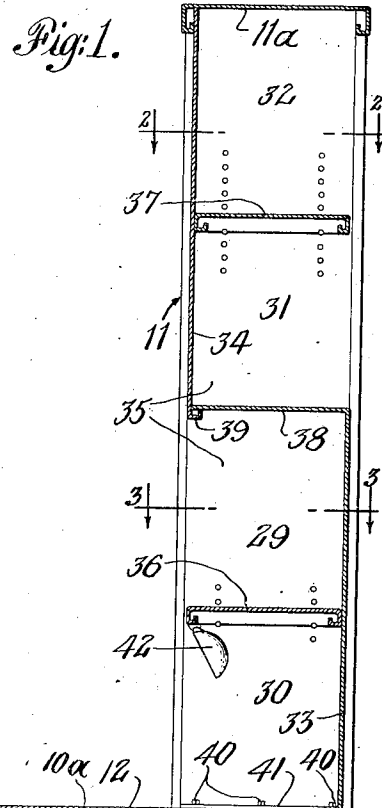
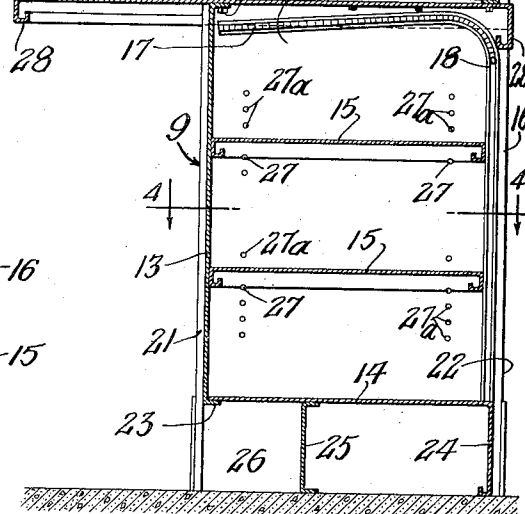
A. S. MACDONALD

2,034,261

CARREL UNIT

Filed March 23, 1934

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.

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CARREL UNIT

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

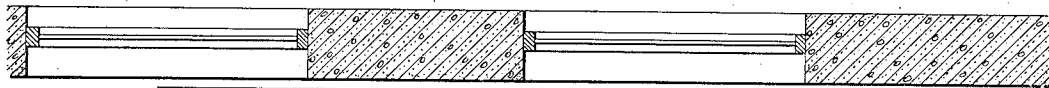
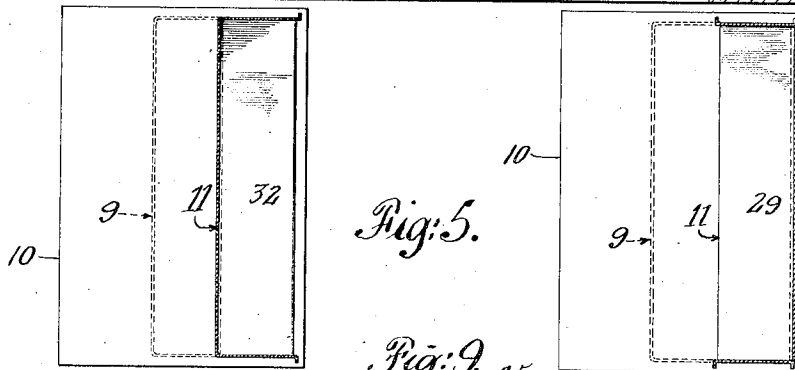


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

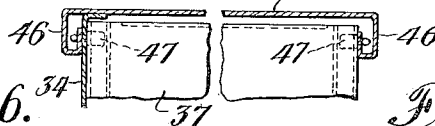


Fig. 7.

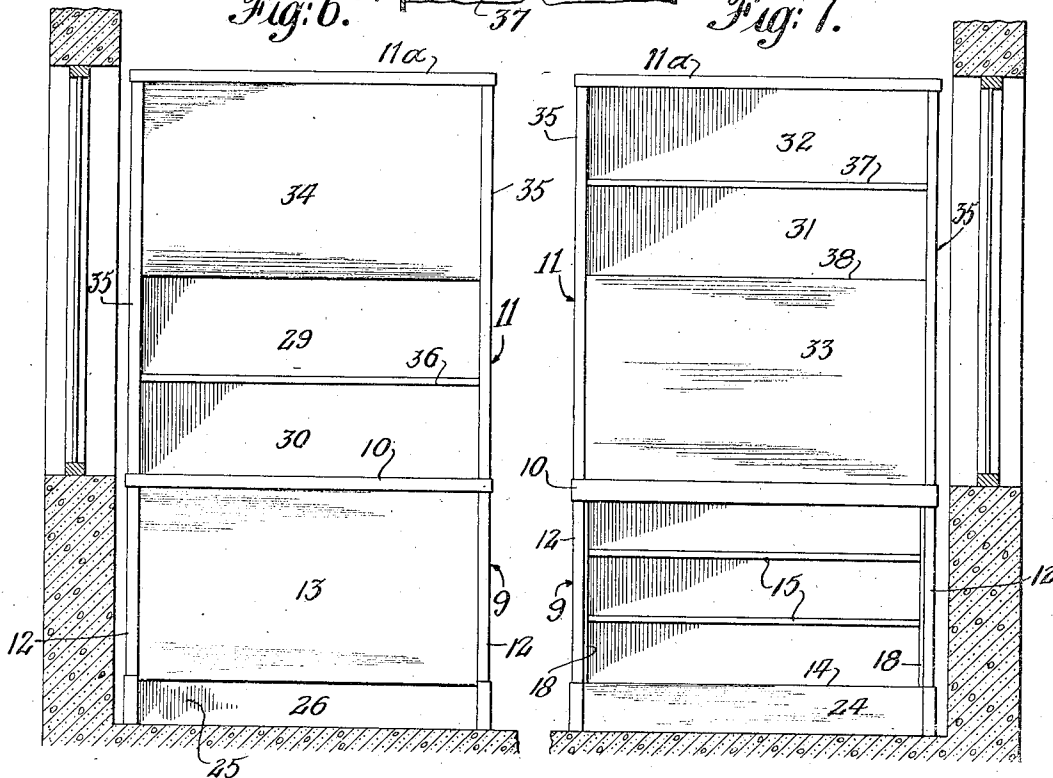
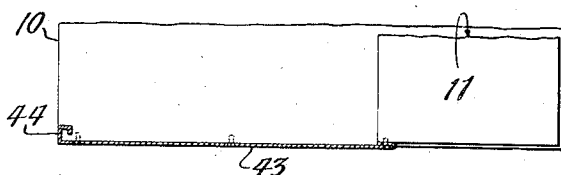


Fig. 8. INVENTOR. Angus S. Macdonald

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,034,261

CARREL UNIT

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Application March 23, 1934, Serial No. 716,986

6 Claims. (Cl. 45—6)

This invention relates to carrel units, i. e., units used for reading and studying purposes in libraries and the like, and has for its primary object, the provision of simple and compact units by means of which the space needed for them is put to effective use not only for reading and studying purposes, but also for additional shelving purposes as will hereinafter appear.

Stated more specifically, I aim to provide a carrel unit of desk form having shelving arranged in a novel manner to provide ample desk surface, shelf space arranged to be convenient to the user for keeping books he is currently using, shelf space for folio volumes and oversize books, arranged to be conveniently accessible and without annoyance to the user of the unit, and shelf space for other books such as special reserve books and/or books discarded by the user of a unit, also arranged to be conveniently accessible.

Among other advantages, my invention conserves space in libraries or the like by providing extra accommodation for folio volumes and other books, not provided in known carrel units consisting simply of a partition carrying a desk and having one or two shelves for the use of the person working at the desk, and having a back which is unused and in fact unavailable for use as book holding space when the units are used in libraries or the like where the customary spacing between stack ranges is approximately 4 feet 4 inches.

Another object is to provide a carrel unit adapted for use at the ends of stack ranges of the above spacing, having its desk top and shelving so arranged as not to cut down the aisle space between ranges and yet to provide a very substantial amount of space for books and folio volumes which is readily accessible not only to users of the units, but to others, without annoyance to the users.

Other objects reside in certain features of construction hereinafter fully appearing.

How the foregoing, together with such other objects and advantages as may hereinafter appear, or are incident to my invention, are realized is illustrated in preferred form in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a vertical cross section through a carrel unit constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a more or less diagrammatic plan section illustrating a pair of carrel units located adjacent a building wall, the section of the left hand unit being taken as on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and that of the right hand unit as on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a front view of the unit.

Fig. 7 is a rear view of the unit.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary plan view illustrating an end plate arrangement for the unit; and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary enlarged plan section of a modified construction as if taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

My improved carrel unit is preferably of sheet metal construction and comprises in general a lower portion or section 9 of desk height, a desk top 10 supported thereon, and an upper portion or section 11, supported on the desk top 10.

The lower portion 9 of the unit is provided with end walls 12, a front wall 13, a bottom 14 spaced somewhat above the floor of the building, a plurality of shelves 15, and an open back indicated at 16. A closure such as a rolling metallic curtain 17, may be provided for the open back. The curtain operates in guide rails 18 secured to the side walls of the lower section 9 and extending vertically and then substantially horizontally under the desk top.

As illustrated in Fig. 4, the side or end walls 12 of the lower portion 9 are each constructed of an inner plate 19 and an outer spaced plate 20 which has its edge portion 21 rebent and its edge portion 22 double flanged around the corresponding edge of the inner plate 19, thus giving a finished appearance to the wall. The inner side plates 19 of the end walls, and the front wall 13 are preferably constructed of a single sheet of metal bent as illustrated in Fig. 4. An inwardly extending flange 23 is provided at the lower edge of the wall 13 with which the bottom plate 14 engages, and this bottom plate is downwardly bent to provide a lower rear wall portion 24 for closing the space between the bottom 14 and the floor. The lower edge of the portion 24 may be rebent for stiffening purposes. The bottom 14 is reinforced at a point somewhat in from the front wall 13 by means of a sheet metal member 25 of channel shape, it being pointed out that the location of this member is such as to provide a toe space 26 for the user of the unit. The shelves are adjustably supported from the side walls by means of pegs 27 adapted to fit apertures 27a.

The desk top 10 is in the form of a flat plate

having its edges stiffened as by means of triple flanging such as illustrated at 28 in Fig. 1, and is secured to the bottom portion or section 9 in any suitable manner, as for example, by means of bolts 10a. This desk top overhangs the lower portion 9 at its front, an amount to give sufficient desk surface and to provide ample knee room for the user of the unit.

The upper portion or section 11 is provided with lower shelf spaces 29 and 30 and upper shelf spaces 31 and 32, and although I have only shown four such spaces, it is to be understood that the number thereof may be increased.

The lower shelf spaces 29 and 30 open at the front of the unit or towards the person using the unit, and the upper shelf spaces 31 and 32 preferably open at the rear of the unit, there being a closed back 33 provided for the lower spaces and a closed front 34 for the upper spaces. If desired, all of the shelf spaces of the upper section 11 may open at the front of the unit. The side walls 35 are of a construction similar to that of the side walls of the lower portion 9, as will be seen from inspection of Figs. 2 and 3. Also, the shelves 36 and 37 are constructed and supported in a manner similar to the shelves 15 of the lower portion. A bottom 38 is provided for the shelf space 31 which in this instance is formed of one piece, with the back wall 33 and which rests and may be secured to the lower intumed edge portion 39 of the front wall 34. A top 11a is also provided and may be welded in place.

The upper portion or section 11 is preferably detachably secured to the lower portion 9 for convenience in shipping, as by means of bolts 40 passing through intumed flanges 41 of the side and back walls and through the desk top 10. As pointed out above, the desk top 10 is also detachably secured in place and may therefore be detached for convenience in shipping.

It should be noted that the lower shelf space 30 provides additional depth to the desk top and accommodates a lighting unit 42. The shelf space 29 provides a convenient place for the user of the unit to keep books that he is currently using. The upper shelf spaces 31 and 32 may be used for ordinary book storage or for special reserve books, or for the discarded books of the user, and when these spaces open at the back for access from the rear, they are readily accessible to a person using the adjacent carrel unit. The shelf spaces of the lower portion 9 are of considerably greater depth than the shelf spaces of the upper portion 11 and are useful for the accommodation of oversize books, especially large folio volumes. Since these spaces open at the back and are accessible from the rear of the unit, it will be seen that the contents may be deposited or removed without having to stoop under the overhanging desk top and without disturbing or annoying the person working at the desk. Also, the fact that the upper shelf spaces 31 and 33 open at the back of the unit makes them accessible to an attendant without annoyance to the user of the unit in which the spaces are provided, or to the user of the next adjacent unit.

In Fig. 5, I have illustrated a plurality of units located at the windows of a wall of the building and spaced apart a distance such that they would come opposite the ends of the stack ranges of a library in which the customary spacing between ranges is approximately 4 feet 4 inches, and it will be seen therefore that in order to effectively use the space occupied by the carrel

units for book storage purposes as well as for reading and studying purposes, I have provided a novel arrangement of shelving or shelf spaces, the lower of which are adapted to accommodate oversize books and large folio volumes, the upper to accommodate other books of smaller or standard size, and the intermediate of which are arranged for the convenience of the user of the unit.

It will thus be seen that these units constitute, in effect an extension of the library, because the shelves below the desk top provide space for the holding of oversize books and folio volumes which would otherwise have to be provided for by special facilities in the regular standard stack shelving of the library. In addition, the uppermost shelf spaces provide a place for special books, for reserve books, or for books discarded by persons using the carrels, all of which may be stored and removed with little or no annoyance to the users of the units.

In order to give greater privacy to the users of the units, and to better shut off the study space from the adjacent aisle, I contemplate employing end plates 43 extending forwardly to the front edge of the desk top, and preferably, for the full height of the unit (see Fig. 8). These end plates may be detachably secured in place, and the front edges thereof may be triple flanged as indicated at 44.

In the modification of Fig. 9, I have illustrated a side wall 45 constructed of a plate having triple flanged upright edges 46 to which the back walls and front walls, such as the wall 34, are secured, as by spot welding. In this construction, the shelves are supported by pegs 47 fitting apertures in the triple flanged edges of the side walls.

I claim:

1. A carrel unit adapted for study and book storage purposes in a library, comprising a lower shelved portion of desk height and of a depth to accommodate folio volumes, a desk top supported on said portion and overhanging it at the front, and an upper shelved portion supported at the rear portion of the desk top and of one standard book depth throughout its height, said lower portion having its shelving arranged for access from the rear of the unit, and said upper portion having lower shelving arranged for access from the front of the unit and providing a lower space which enlarges the available working surface of the desk, and said upper portion having upper shelving arranged for access from the rear of the unit, said lower and upper shelved portions and the desk top being so relatively disposed that the rears thereof lie in approximately the same plane.

2. A carrel unit of sheet metal construction for use in a library for study and book storage purposes, comprising a lower portion of desk height having end walls, a front wall, an open back, and shelves dividing it into a plurality of shelf spaces, access to which is had through the open back; a desk top supported on said lower portion and overhanging it; and an upper portion supported from the lower portion and having end walls, a top, a back wall extending upwardly for part of its height, a front wall extending downwardly from the top to the height to which said back wall extends, an open front opposite the back wall, an open back opposite the front wall, and shelves dividing it into a plurality of shelf spaces, the lower of which are accessible through said open front and the upper of which are accessible through said open back, said upper por-

tion being of one standard book depth throughout its height.

5 3. A carrel unit adapted for study and book storage purposes in a library comprising a lower shelved portion of desk height and of a depth to accommodate folio volumes, a desk top supported on said portion and overhanging it at the front to provide leg room, and an upper shelved portion supported at the rear portion of the desk
10 top with its rear in the same plane as the rear of the lower shelved portion, said lower portion having an open back providing access to its shelving from the rear of the unit, and having a closed front terminating at its bottom at a distance
15 above the floor level to provide a toe space at its lower front portion.

4. A carrel unit adapted for study and book storage purposes in a library comprising a shelved portion of desk height and a desk top supported on said portion and overhanging it at the front
20 an amount to give sufficient knee room but insufficient toe space to the user of the unit, said shelved portion having an open back providing access to the shelving from the rear, a bottom shelf spaced
25 above the floor level, a wall portion extending downwardly from said bottom shelf to the floor level and set back from the front of said shelf whereby a toe space is provided, and a closed front for said portion terminating at the bottom at said lower shelf.
30

5. A carrel unit for use in libraries for study and book storage purposes, having lower shelving of a depth large enough to accommodate folio volumes larger than standard book size and ar-

ranged for access from the rear of the unit, a desk top supported on said lower shelving and overhanging it at the front to provide leg room, said lower shelving having a bottom shelf spaced above the floor level and a wall portion extending downwardly from said bottom shelf to the floor level
5 and set back from the front of said shelf whereby a toe space is provided at its lower front portion, and shelving above said desk top at the rear thereof, of less depth than the lower shelving but of sufficient depth to accommodate books
10 of standard size, said lower and upper shelving and the desk top being so relatively disposed that the rears thereof lie in approximately the same plane.

6. A carrel unit adapted for study and book storage purposes in a library comprising a lower shelved portion of a depth to accommodate folio volumes, said portion having a closed front and open back for access from the rear, an upper
20 shelved portion of one standard book depth throughout its height, said upper portion having the lower part of its back closed and the upper part of its back open and the lower part of its front open and the upper part of its front closed
25 whereby access to the lower shelving of said upper shelved portion is from the front and to the upper shelving thereof from the rear, and a desk top between said lower and upper portions, said portions and desk top having their rears in
30 approximately the same plane and their fronts in different planes with the desk top overhanging the lower shelved portion to provide leg room.

ANGUS SNEAD MACDONALD.