

ARCHITECTURE AND ART LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT, July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013
Prepared by Jane Block with assistance from Chris Quinn

Ricker Library is one of the premier architecture and art libraries in the country. Maintaining its excellence through provision of services and collection development activities is our top priority.

I. UNIT CONTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

A. Staffing:

1. We are most grateful that our request for consolidation of our half-time Library Specialist position to a full-time Library Specialist was granted. However, this supplement to our staff worked to our detriment when the new round of graduate assistants was awarded. For the first time in over twenty-five years, we were denied a graduate assistant despite the compelling need for one.
2. Joyce Wright, Associate Professor, will retire on December 31, 2013. After Associate Professor's Jing Liao's death, we were not permitted to fill her vacancy. In recognition of this void, Joyce has been providing us with reference services two days weekly for the past two years. Joyce's departure coupled with the lack of a graduate assistant will be a severe blow for our unit.
3. Our Senior Library Assistant has taken family medical leave from May-September 2013. We have taken steps to redistribute her duties and additional monies have been provided to us to hire student workers for the summer period.
4. The Unit was fortunate to have one .25 FTE graduate assistant funded by the University Library. The major responsibilities of the assistant are in the areas of collection development, reference, outreach (co-ordination of displays at the entrance of Ricker Library and web site assistance). The graduate assistant also provided help with public outreach to our clientele by serving ably at the reference desk when librarians were attending meetings on or off campus. The student felt that the assistantship was 'an invaluable and irreplaceable part of her education.'" The report on the departing graduate assistant was provided to the Office of Human Resources.
5. We mentored a GSLIS graduate student who worked for five hours weekly in Ricker Library. This student evidenced interest in a career in art librarianship. Her duties were restricted to collection development activities.

B. Collection Development: [Goal 4, Expand Library Collections of Strategic Initiatives]

The disciplines served by Ricker Library still rely primarily on print resources (monographic), although we are eager to acquire electronic resources whenever possible. The acquisition of titles

item by item is a time-consuming process in contrast to the social and hard sciences where large electronic packages are the norm.

NEW JOURNALS: *Journal of Architecture*
 Impressions: Ukiyo-e society of America
 Journal of the Decorative Arts Society: 1850-present
 Public Art Review
 Future Arc

THE LIBRARY IS LOOKING FOR COLUMN: We were able to acquire three important and expensive publications through the generosity of donors who saw our requests: *The Grove Encyclopedia of Medieval Art and Architecture*; *Sienese Painters of the 1600's* and the four-volume set of *Leonardo in Milan*. Each of these is an essential acquisition in the field containing the most up-to-date scholarship accompanied by lavish illustrations.

RETROSPECTIVE PURCHASES: With the assistance of the Office of Collection Development, Peter Bennett, antiquarian bookseller, and I met with ten faculty from the School of Architecture, the Department of Art history and the Krannert Art Museum, and acquired thirty-nine retrospective monographs including: *Delacroix, raconté par lui-même*; *Constructions élevées au Champ de Mars par M. Charles Garnier, Architecte*; and *Turin 1902: Esposizione internazionale d'arte decorativa moderna, 1902*. The selections cover art and architecture of Europe and fill significant gaps in the collection pinpointed by the teaching faculty.

COLLECTION ASSESSMENT: Using published catalogs supplied by the antiquarian dealer Charles Wood, I reviewed our architectural holdings in order to determine gaps in the collection. Ricker Library acquired approximately a dozen of the most significant items to support research and teaching. We were also able to update our list of catalogue raisonné holdings on our website, a popular research tool for our students and faculty. We transferred the rarer catalogue raisonnés from the Main Library to Ricker.

GIFTS: We processed a significant donation from the Krannert Art Museum (some 250 books) and donations from individuals including Donald Powell and Robert Kleinschmidt. In addition, annual donations to the unit have remained well above \$11,000. We have a loyal base of contributors which I believe is strengthened through personal acknowledgements of all gifts and through our biannual newsletter, *Ricker News*.

WEEDING: In order to alleviate overcrowded conditions in Ricker due to a moratorium on transfers into the Main Library stacks, we selected 2,200 items from Ricker Library for transfer to the Main Library. We will continue to monitor the Main Library Stacks for congested areas and transfer these to Oak Street. In turn, we are hoping for a larger footprint in the Main Library Stacks devoted to the Humanities in general, and particularly to Art and Architecture materials. With Cherie Weible's leadership we finally seem to have established a consistent and dependable program for orderly and timely transfers to and from Stacks.

IDENTIFYING MATERIALS FOR PRESERVATION: We supervised an hourly graduate student (funds came from a competition for summer projects from the University Librarian's office) who had been working in the Preservation unit this past summer to complete an assessment of our rare quartos. With the completed tool we identified items most in need of preservation and developed a strategy with Henry Hébert of Conservation and Preservation to care for these. Work is underway on our Palladio volumes (*Le fabbriche e i disegni di Andrea Palladio*, 1776) and five others have been identified as candidates for outsourcing. We have made a concerted effort in tandem with our summer graduate assistant to identify items which need urgent care. For these we have requested boxes. This graduate assistant has a keen interest in conservation and preservation and she has been assessing the condition of items in one vault area. This year we have identified 87 for which boxes or enclosures have been completed.

C. Improved Access: [Guiding Values IV, improving access to library content and collections]

Increased Access: The IT fee enables us to keep Ricker Library open an additional eight hours a week for spring and fall terms. In addition monies from the School of Architecture and Art and Design assist with hiring student workers.

Internet Archive: Ricker Library continues to recommend items to be scanned from its collections. The most recent suggestion is to digitize all of the School of Architecture's traveling fellowship reports which number in the several hundred. In addition, three separate titles were digitized at our suggestion: Residence Work: executed by Frank Meade and James Hamilton Cleveland, 1911 q.728.9771M462r; *Catalogue of Bronzes* (Chicago, 19??); *Handbook for architects and builders* (Chicago architects business association) 720.2h191.

Website: The graduate assistant, under supervision of the Ricker Librarians, continuously improves and updates the Ricker Library web site. In addition to our existing six Libguides, we were able to create seven additional ones highlighted in bold:

Guide to Architectural Details
Guide to Architectural Journals
Guide to Sustainable Architecture
Guide to the Closed Stacks
Guide to Basic Architectural Sources
Guide to Basic Sources in Art
Decorative Arts: Glass
Decorative Arts: Ceramics
Decorative Arts: Textiles
Decorative Arts: Furniture
Photography
Midwestern Art Museums
Resources for Art Museum Studies

BLOG: With our blog we have a new avenue of outreach to our users. We continued to make improvements to the Ricker Library website in the areas of resources such as biographical sources, sales information, digital libraries, and e-journals.

Newsletter: The unit issues two newsletters annually, fall and spring, *Ricker News*, containing information on events in Ricker and donor acknowledgements.

Cataloguing: Our small backlog was searched and approximately twenty items were sent to rapid cataloguing for processing.

D. Staff Development Activities:

Librarians participated in the following: Joyce Wright: Attended ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, WA January 2013; ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas, TX January 2012; ALA Annual Conference Anaheim, CA June 2012; was the Recipient of Outstanding Service Award for ALA Committee on Accreditation, June 2012; participated in "Moving Forward: Advancing the future of women faculty at Illinois", February 2013, ACRL Conference, Indianapolis, IN April 2013; Served as trustee on Spurlock Museum Board; Member of Library Awards Committee, (Appointed Fall 2012); Jane Block attended the annual conferences of the Society of Architectural Historians [SAH], and the Walter Burley Griffin Society; Chris Quinn: all-Library retreat and the Patron Driven Acquisitions forum. Librarians and staff members attended the Library-wide retreat held in January 2012, and the Lync Training Workshops. Laura Poulosky is on LSSC, is participating in the iPad pilot project, and attended the all-Library retreat and attends the monthly meetings and is the representative to the Arts and Humanities Divisional monthly meetings. The other staff member, Dorfredia Williams participated in fire extinguisher training, Joyce database training for entry of student hours, and attended the all-Library retreat. Our .25 graduate assistant attended: the Retreat, Voyager Acquisitions, Content Management System (CMS) training, and the GA orientation for new assistants.

E. Exhibitions:

Ricker Library featured five exhibits, mostly geared to events in regional museums such as those for the Art Institute of Chicago: *Building: Inside Studio Gang architects* (fall/winter); *Picasso and Chicago* (spring); and *They seek a city: Chicago and the art of migration* (spring). Those featuring the Indianapolis Museum of Art were: *Beauty and Belief: crossing bridges with the arts of Islamic culture*; *Ai Weiwei: according to what?*

F. Cooperative Activities within the College of Fine and Applied Arts:

Head Librarian representing Ricker on 3 library committees within the College; Head librarian ex-officio member of Krannert Art Museum's Acquisitions Committee. Assistance is also provided to museum staff engaged in research on the collection.

G. Contributions to library-wide programs:

Librarians regularly provide recommendations on items for digitization to Digital Content creation.

II. STATISTICAL PROFILE

A. Facilities:

TOTAL USER SEATING: 95
At tables: 88
At public workstations 7
No group study rooms or carrel

Numbers of hours open per week: Summer II 2012-40 per week. Fall 2012 – 75.5 per week.
 Spring 2013 - 75.5 per week. Summer I 2013-40 per week.
 Source: Ricker Library

B. Personnel:

ANNUAL REPORT
 STATISTICS

UNIT: Architecture & Art

Personnel	Start Date Mo/Yr	End Date Mo/Yr.
Academic Employees		
Jane Block Faculty	Sept. 1988-	
Chris Quinn Faculty	Aug. 1995-	
Jing Liao Faculty	Aug. 1995-	2011
Abby Brithinee (grad asst) .25	Aug. 2012	May 2013
Joyce Wright (2 days weekly)	May 2010-	
Non-Academic Employees		
Dorfredia Robinson 1.0	Jan. 1989-	
Laura Poulosky .5	Feb. 2008-	Dec. 31, 2012
Laura Poulosky 1.0	Jan. 2013-	

Student wage budget and student FTE:
 Budget: \$15,844 [FTE: .92]

C. User Services:

Gate count:

Fall Semester 2012: 9,910
 Spring Semester 2013: 7,549
 Source: Ricker Library

Circulation

Charges: 8,552
 Renewals: 9,020
 Discharges: 8,433
 Source: office of user services

Presentations

9 sessions, 380 students in attendance

Source: Office of User Services

Overall goals: Familiarize students with using major databases in the fields of art and architecture; assist in developing a search strategy; and orient students to the UIUC Library system and some familiarity with subject headings. Below is a list of specific courses:

In 2012-13 Ricker Library continued to provide orientation sessions for new graduate students in architecture. A session was given in August 2012 for 115 students. These sessions introduced the students to electronic and print resources in Ricker library (including the *Avery Index* and *Art Full Text*), as well as the organization of the UIUC library and the OPAC. In February 2013, 130 undergraduates in Architecture 272 were introduced to the library via an in-class presentation. This is a required course for all undergraduates and is focused on an assignment. Electronic and print resources were again discussed which would be pertinent to the specific course assignment.

A number of other sessions were given including:

Art 101F – Contemporary issues in Art

The focus in this session was on databases such as the online catalogue, *Art Full Text* and *Artbibliographies modern*. In addition, the faculty member requested a general discussion including the content and scope of print art journals, as he hoped to encourage the students to browse.

Art History 491-Literature and Illustration

This session concentrated on resources in art history specifically related to word and image study and the analysis of images in art history. Databases discussed included: *Art Full Text*, *BHA*, *Artbibliographies Modern*, *MLA Bibliography* and *America: history and life*.

Architecture 550- Reinforced concrete design

The goal in this session was to introduce students to technical resources in architecture and engineering that would touch on sustainable considerations in reinforced concrete design. We concentrated on the *Avery Index* and the engineering tool, *Compendex*.

Reference Count: 257

(total from Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 sweeps weeks)

Source: Office of User Services

D. Other Statistics

Hits on Libguides: Nearly 3,000 hits on our 14 libguides, 1,000 of these on guides which were activated during the spring semester.

Books and materials processed for reserves in Ricker: 842

New books processed: 2,625

Website: Over 11,000 hits on our websites.

III. CHALLENGES FACING THE UNIT

- Need to reinstate our graduate assistant position which is crucial to providing desk coverage so that librarians and staff have the ability to attend meetings. The assistant position offers flexibility for the unit in providing coverage due to illness and vacations. In addition, the graduate assistant performs important acquisition-related tasks which are executed item by item and not through blanket orders necessitating additional house-keeping duties. The graduate assistant also helps in searching gift collections; updating libguides; web site maintenance; and support for the unit's newsletter.
- Outdated library infrastructure: Inadequate physical facilities impinge on all aspects of our responsibilities to our users. Lack of climate control hastens the deterioration of the book collection, and lack of adequate shelf space hastens the decline of these materials; inhospitable environment for teaching and learning.

IV. LAST YEAR'S (FY 2012) GOALS ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY:

- A. Upgrade of half-time Library Specialist position to a full-time Library Specialist. This allows us to offer new social media services through Twitter and our blog, and is recognition of the complexity of the specialized duties that need to be performed, and the requisite time it takes to perform them.
- B. Preparation of Lib guides: We prepared five new different lib guides and are still working on three others listed in last year's report.
- C. We continued to weed selectively in the Main Library Stacks for Oak and in Ricker Library for transfer to Stacks. We must continue to weed within Ricker Library for transfer to Main Library Stacks and where appropriate to Oak Street. While IPM has been very accommodating, other

projects such as New Service Models, at least in the past, always seem to have priority over the normal cycle of events in a departmental library. We acquire at least 2,700 new items annually and with the return of books at the end of the spring semester, we are often inundated. Under Cherie' Weible's leadership, we have been able to transfer items to Main Library stacks in a consistent manner so the problem is less grave than in previous years. We are hoping for a larger footprint dedicated to the Humanities in the Main Library.

- D.** Enhancement of information literacy session offered to Architecture 272 has been accomplished.
- E.** We continued assessment of the rare materials in Ricker Library by hiring a graduate student who has a keen interest in preservation and who has worked in the conservation unit. She completed the assessment of the vault quarto items.

F. PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR (FY 2013)

1. Campaign vigorously for reinstallation of a graduate student in light of Joyce Wright's retirement and the essential need for duties executed by the graduate assistant.
2. Preparation of four new lib guides on: 1. Methods and Theory of Art History; 2. Furniture; 3. Currently received Art Journals at Ricker Library; 4. Building Types.
3. Complete our assessment of octavo materials in the vault with the assistance of a graduate student hired expressly for this purpose. (Summer graduate hourly student).
4. Continue to weed selectively in the Main Library Stacks for transfer to Oak and in Ricker Library for transfer to Stacks.
5. Outreach to selected teaching faculty in Art History, Fine Arts and Architecture to assess services provided in Ricker Library. We will begin with two faculty members in each discipline (one tenured and one untenured to begin to gauge what works well and what new services might be provided).