

**Ricker Library of Architecture and Art:
Annual Report
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
Prepared by Melanie E. Emerson**

I. Unit Narrative: Major Activities & Accomplishments

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. To this end, we've made many changes to the physical space, policies, and procedure to ensure the highest caliber service to students and faculty in the School of Architecture and the School of Art+Design.

This year we continued to build on the changes implemented last year to streamline library policies and procedures in order to improve access and library services. We looked for ways to make a more dynamic and welcoming space, which is often difficult given our current space constraints. Working with Jeff Schrader and Lesli Lundquist, we made improvements to the physical space by removing unnecessary shelving and other furniture, installed new library signage above the library doors and in the stairs leading to the library, and installed electrical outlets on all tables in the main reading room of Ricker Library.

We also worked with Library IT to purchase and install a new overhead scanner for patron use. This scanner has already been used to make over 6,000 scans since its installation in January 2016. We also installed another flatbed scanner for patron use, which means we now have four scanners available for patron use—double the number last year.

We completed an assessment of our reference collection and began to work on other non-circulating collection within Ricker Library. This allowed us to move updated reference resources to the Reference Collection and move those materials that were no longer useful or out of date to the Oak Street Storage Facility. We also transferred some materials to the Main Stacks, where they would still be browsable. Because architecture art publishers still rely heavily on the print format and our patron base are predominantly visual thinkers, it is imperative Ricker Library materials can be easily accessible with the ability to browse—this allows users to make visual connections that are not necessarily discoverable through the library catalog. We also completed another major transferring and shifting project in order to alleviate the serious space limitations of our regular circulating collections. To this end, and with the help of CMS, we moved over 2,000 items to Oak Street and more than 6,000 items to the Main Stacks.

Instruction & Information Services: We implemented a webform for scheduling individual research consultations with the Architecture and Art Librarians. We promoted this service during all instruction sessions and library orientations for incoming students. We provided over 29 individual research

consultations during the academic year. Most of the students we met with for these consultations were undergraduates enrolled in Art History and Architecture courses, however Architecture graduate and PhD students also took advantage of this service.

Additionally, Melanie Emerson provided Ricker Library updates at the Architecture Faculty Retreat in August of 2015, an Art History Faculty meeting in September 2015, and an all Art+Design Faculty meeting in October 2015. From these presentations, we were able to connect with several studio faculty members who brought classes to the library for more engaging forms of instruction that is better suited for the type of research conducted for a studio practice. Several of the Art+Design Foundations (ARTF 103 and ARTF 104) class sections came to view Josef Albers' *Interaction of Color* as a way to better understand the basic principles of color theory. We also provided similar collections focused instruction sessions for Graphic Design Courses: Topics in Design (ARTD 299) and Intermediate Mediate Design (ARTD 311) and one Art History Course: 20th Century European Art (AH 241) and one Landscape Architecture course: Research & Design Methods (LA 597).

We also provided more traditional library instruction sessions that focused search strategies and resources most relevant to specific assignments. We provided these sessions for several courses including the Architecture PhD Colloquium (ARCH 589), the Art History Junior and Senior Seminars (AH 395 & AH 495), Sacred Arts of Africa (AH 311), Introduction to the History of Architecture (ARCH 210), and Seismic Design and Application (ARCH 595EQ). Chris Quinn and Melanie Emerson also provide a library introduction to incoming architecture graduate students. The introduction included a tour of the library and an overview of many of the resources that will be useful to the students during the course of their graduate studies.

Outreach & Engagement: In efforts to work more closely with Faculty and Curators at the Krannert Art Museum (KAM), we began creating LibGuides for KAM exhibitions. We also created a few LibGuides for specific Art History and Architecture course. This year, our LibGuides were viewed 6,432 times. While our usage statistics are down a bit this year, we feel confident we'll continue to see increased use of the KAM exhibition LibGuides, once the museum incorporates links into their exhibition website and we continue to promote the course specific guides during instruction sessions.

In March Ricker Library hosted its first Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edi-a-thon. We worked with several groups on campus to organize and publicize the event, including two architecture student organizations, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and faculty in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Art+Design. We were only one of countless events hosted around the world in an effort to increase diversity of Wikipedia's content and contributors. The event was open to students and faculty as well as our broader community. We had over 45 participants who updated, edited, and created over 20 articles on women in the arts. In April, Melanie Emerson joined the librarians at Southern Illinois University's Morris Library to help host their Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon.

We also continued our outreach efforts through social media, including the addition of an Instagram

account, which currently has over 1,300 followers. Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor manages this account along with our Facebook and Twitter accounts. She has ensured the library's social media presence connects with a larger community of libraries and library user with such posts as Marbled Monday, Color our Collections, and Type Tuesday. These efforts continue to draw attention to Ricker Library collections and services.

This year, Ricker Library moved away from exhibiting materials related to exhibitions at local or nearby museum and began exhibiting library materials. Ricker Library exhibitions now highlight materials from our collections and the work of students. Because the library exhibition cases are relatively small, our exhibitions rotate regularly in order to show a variety of materials based on a theme or concept. Our exhibitions included: *Ed Ruscha in Series: A Rotating Exhibition of Books, Beautiful Homes: 19th and 20th Century Builder's Catalogs and Patter Books*, *Unmet Expectations: The Collage Work of Ray Majewski*, and *Books from Nathan C. Ricker's Collection*.

Collection Development & Management: 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.

In Fall 2015, with the assistance of the Office of Collection Development, Peter Bennett, antiquarian bookseller, Chris Quinn and Melanie Emerson, met with faculty from the School of Architecture, the Department of Art history and the Krannert Art Museum, and acquired twenty-seven titles including: *Du Cubisme* (1947), *Fluxus in Holland* (c.2009), and the photographer, Brassai's *Voluptés de Paris* (1930?), as well several important art and architecture journals including: *El Punt*, *Syn*, and *Albatros: Arte y l'Etras*.

We were also able to purchase the complete run of *Futura* (1965-1968) with gift funds. *Futura* is a contemporary art journal with an impressive array of contributors, including artists such as Dieter Rot, Wolf Vostell, Robert Filliou, and Dick Higgins. Each issue is a folded broadsheet, designed by an artists includes a variety of examples of visual poetry or concrete poetry as well as experimentations with typography, graphics, and print. This artist-produced journal is a great edition to our collection of materials on Fluxus, experimental design, conceptual art, and other movements of the early twentieth century. We were also able to purchase another Ed Ruscha artists' book, *Hard Light*, which means we now have all of Ruscha's artists' books.

We processed a significant donation from the Krannert Art Museum and donations from individuals including Sharon Irish, Dorothy Replinger, Ron Schmidt, and the estate of Jack Baker. In addition, annual donations to the unit have remained well above \$10,000.

Staff Development Activities: All staff attended the Strategic Planning retreat in January 2016. Dorfredia Williams attended Excel training. Melanie Emerson and Dorfredia Williams also attended the DiSC Supervisory Training. Chris Quinn and Melanie Emerson attended the Reference Services

Retreat in April 2016. Melanie Emerson presented at and attended several national conferences including the New York Art Book Fair and Contemporary Artists' Book Conference (September 2015) College Book Art Association (January 2016), Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America (March 2016), and the National Museum Publishing Seminar (May 2016). She also attended the OCLC Partnership Meeting: Library in the Life of the User in October 2015.

Last Year's (FY16) Accomplished: As outlined in our major activities and accomplishments, we have successfully completed all of the goals listed in last year's annual report.

1. Created a template for LibGuides and began using it for new LibGuides including those for specific courses and Krannert Art Museum exhibitions.
2. Worked with Quinn Ferris and Miriam Centreno to identify items for repair as well as improve our environmental conditions and pest control. Here are just a few items that were repaired by Library Conservation: *Interaction of Color* (1963), *Grammar of Ornament* (1856), *Sphère de Sable* (1943), and *Elements of Design* (1864).
3. Almost 9,000 items were transferred out of Ricker Library, but we continue to acquire more than 3,000 books per year, which means we'll need to continue our efforts as we move forward.
4. We met with all the departments served by Ricker Library and continue to work with faculty and staff to improve our resources and services.
5. In addition to the power outlets and new scanning equipment, Ricker Library added new databases to improve access to resources: The Frick Art Reference Library Periodical Index, Material Connexion, and Building Types.

Goal for FY17:

1. Celebrate the 100-year naming anniversary of Ricker Library.
2. Continue to weed selectively in Ricker for transfers to Main Stacks, but also completed an assessment of Vault items in order to make the best use of our limited space, as well as preserve the materials in our collection.
3. Continue to make improvements to Ricker Library physical space in order to make the library a more engaging and welcome space for all our constituents.
4. Update Ricker Library website to reflect changes in policies and services.
5. Continue to collaborate with other libraries on campus as well as the Schools of Art+Design and Architecture in order to ensure Ricker is able to provide the highest quality services.

II Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

- User seating counts (if applicable)
 - at tables: 74

- at carrels: 0
 - at public workstations: 7
 - at index tables: 0
 - informal/other: 4
- Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)
 - Summer II 2015: 40 hours per week
 - Fall 2015: 75.5 hours per week
 - Spring 2016 75.5 hours per week
 - Summer I 2016: 40 hours per week

2. Personnel

Faculty Positions:

Melanie Emerson (1.0 FTE)

Christopher Quinn (1.0 FTE)

Staff Positions:

Dorfredia Williams (1.0 FTE)

Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor (1.0 FTE)

Graduate Assistant and Graduate Hourly:

- Rachel Gattermeyer, Graduate Assistant: Fall 2015 (.5 FTE)
- Kimberly Stelter, Graduate Hourly: Fall 2015 (.5 FTE) 10hr/week was supplied through Chris Quinn's service as Division Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities Division and the other 10hr/week was supplied by state funding through a special request during Melanie Emerson's first year as Head of Ricker Library of Architecture and Art
- Kimberly Stelter, Graduate Assistant: Spring 2016 (.5 FTE)
- Anna Lawrence: Graduate Hourly: Spring 2016 (.5 FTE) 10hr/week was supplied through Chris Quinn's service as Division Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities Division and the other 10hr/week was supplied by state funding through a special request during Melanie Emerson's first year as Head of Ricker Library of Architecture and Art
- Anna Lawrence: Graduate Hourly: Summer 2016 (.5 FTE)

3. User Services

Most of the following data has been generated by the Office of User Services and will be available at G:\StatsForAnnualReport2016.

- Gate Count:
 - Fall Semester 2015: 8,404
 - Spring Semester 2016: 8,487

- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)
 - Charges: 8,197
 - Renewals: 10,292
 - Discharges: 8,396

- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker)

- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
 - Number of presentations to groups: 20
 - Number of participants in group presentations: 518