

**Ricker Library of Architecture and Art:
Annual Report
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
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 various library departments, including Facilities and CMS improvements to the physical space by removing unnecessary shelving and reorganize library materials to make the space easier to navigate. We shifted our entirely collection and moved all bound periodicals to the Reference Room. Now, circulating books fill the Reading Room at Ricker and non-circulating bound periodicals and Reference Collections remain in the Reference Room.

In January 2016 we worked with Library IT to purchase and install an overhead scanner. Since it was installed it has been used to make 20,655 scans. During this year this year, over 10,000 scans were made on this machine.

We completed an assessment of our Closed Stacks collection within Ricker Library. This allowed us to move materials to more suitable locations, such as circulating collections and the Oak Street Storage Facility. We also transferred collection 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 alleviate the serious space limitations of our regular circulating collections. To this end, and with the help of CMS, we moved over 200 items to Oak Street and more than 5,100 items to the Main Stacks.

Instruction & Information Services:

Melanie Emerson provided Ricker Library updates an Art History Faculty meeting in October 2016 as well as contacted all faculty in the Schools of Art+Design and Architecture at the start of each semester regarding instructional programming offered by the Ricker Library. 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, facsimiles of artists' sketchbooks, and a variety of artists' books as new ways of considering their own artistic practice and visual research. We also provided similar collections focused instruction sessions for an Image Practice course (ARTS 341), Graphic Design courses: Graduate Design Lab (ARTD 595) and Type and Image (ARTD 333) and one Art History course: 20th Century European Art (AH 241) and an Architecture course: Introduction to Architecture (ARCH 101), which includes all first year Architecture students.

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), the Art History Graduate Seminar (ARTH 546), Architecture in Landscape and Cities (ARCH 472), Social and Behavioral Research in the Designed Environments (ARCH 563). 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 some LibGuides for specific Art History and Architecture course. Additionally, we updated and reformatted most of our older guides to fit with current design standards. We promoted these resources during instruction and user education sessions. This year, our LibGuides were viewed 16,787 times, this is increase of over 10,00 views since last year.

In March Ricker Library hosted its first Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-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 twenty participants who edited twenty-four articles and created two new articles on women in the arts. In May, Melanie Emerson worked with a librarian and faculty member at the University of Massachusetts to host an edit-a-thon on campus as part of the International Congress on Qualitative Research in May of 2017.

We also continued our outreach efforts through social media, including the addition of an Instagram account, which currently has over 2,000 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: *Untitled Project: Robert Smithson Library & Book Club* by Conrad Bakker, *Books from Nathan C. Ricker's Collection*, and *19th and 20th Century Floral Patter Books*. Items from the Ricker Library's collection were also included in Krannert Art Museum's exhibition: *Land Grant*, January –July 2017.

We created a template for an updated Ricker Library Newsletter that can be sent electronically via WebTools. This replaced the printed newsletter that has been produced for several decades.. We published our first e-newsletter in the spring of 2017 and worked with Library Advancement to ensure it reached all Ricker Library donors. The newsletter is available on our website, along with an archive of that last fifteen years of newsletters produced by the library.

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. This year we acquired a e-book collection: *Corbusier Online* produced by Birkhäuser. 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. This year we acquired 3,433 items.

In Fall 2016, with the assistance of the Office of Collection Development, Peter Bernett, 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 titles including: *Intérieurs au Salon des Artistes Décorateurs Paris* (1929), *Staatliche Bauhochschule Weimar* (1929), and Joseph Sattler's folio *Meine Harmonie* (1896), as well several important art and architecture journals including: *Le Livre et L'Estampe*, *Bulletin International du Surréalisme Révolutionnaire*, and *Aphorismes sur la Décoration*.

We were also able to purchase *La Fin du Monde, Filmée par l'Ange N.-D. Roman* (1919) by Blaise Cendrars, which contains wonderful pochoir illustrations by Fernand Léger. An important work in the oeuvres of Cendrars and Léger, and one of the classic works of the 20th century European avant-garde. Léger's vividly colored collages and typo-collages are intimately intertwined with Cendrars' text, and the influence of their collaborative effort continues to this day. Cendrars' satire on religions in general is illustrated with mostly non-objective designs; included, however, is the figure of the trumpeter-angel of Notre-Dame de Paris.

We processed a significant donation from the Krannert Art Museum and donations from individuals including Bea Nettles & Lionel Suntop, Sharon Irish, Martin Rosenblum, Luring Augustine Gallery,

and Ron Schmidt. In addition, annual donations to the unit have remained well above \$10,000.

Staff Development Activities:

Dorfredia Williams, Chris Quinn, and Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor attended the Strategic Planning retreat in January 2017. Dorfredia Williams attended Excel training. Chris Quinn and Melanie Emerson attended the Reference Services Retreat in April 2017 and the IFLA Art Section Meeting in Chicago in August 2017. Chris Quinn also attending the Walter Burley Griffin Society of America's Annual Meeting in Edwardsville, IL in June 2017. Melanie Emerson presented at and attended several national conferences including the New York Art Book Fair and Contemporary Artists' Book Conference (September 2016), Art Libraries Society of North America's MidStates Chapter Meeting (October 2016), College Book Art Association (January 2017), Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America (March 2016), and the Annual Conference of the Association Architecture School Librarians (March 2017). She also attended the CARLI Library Instruction Showcase in July 2016. Melanie Emerson also presented at the Library's Annual Research Showcase in November 2016.

Last Year's (FY17) 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. Continued creating new Krannert Art Museum Exhibition LibGuides and began creating a number of course specific LibGuides for Architecture and Art+Design courses.
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: *Blue Print for Counter Education* (1970), *Interaction of Color*, copy 2(1963), *Bulletin International du Surréalisme Révolutionnaire* (1948), and *Whole Earth Catalog* (1969-70). Additionally we were able to identify over 150 items that needed protective enclosures. All of these items are now currently stabilized and protected.
3. Updated Ricker Library website to reflect changes in policies and procedures, and eliminated out-of-date content.
4. Almost 5,000 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.
5. We met with all the departments served by Ricker Library and continue to work with faculty and staff to improve our resources and services.
6. Created an online exhibition to celebrate the 100-year naming anniversary of the Ricker Library and received a Marketing grant to print tote bags that will be available at our anniversary events later this fall. We are currently planning a lecture and celebration in the library for late fall.

Goal for FY18:

1. Continue to weed selectively in Ricker for transfers to Main Stacks and complete 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.

2. 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.
3. Update Ricker Library website and migrate to WordPress.
4. 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 2016: 40 hours per week
 - Fall 2016: 75.5 hours per week
 - Spring 2017 75.5 hours per week
 - Summer I 2017: 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:

- Anna Lawrence Graduate Assistant: Fall 2016 (.5 FTE)
- Hope Shinn: Graduate Hourly: Fall 2016 (.25 FTE) 10hr/week was supplied through Chris Quinn's service as Division Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities Division
- Hope Shinn: Graduate Assistant: Spring 2017 (.5 FTE)
- Emily Hoch, Graduate Hourly: Spring 2017 (.25 FTE) 10hr/week was supplied through Chris Quinn's service as Division Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities.
- Emily Hoch: Graduate Hourly: Summer 2017 (.25 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 (from actual gate):
 - Fall Semester 2016: 11,066
 - Spring Semester 2017: 8,326

- Circulation (from Voyager circulation reports)
 - Charges: 8,361
 - Renewals: 8,263
 - Discharges: 8,325

- Reference interactions (from DeskTracker)

- Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database)
 - Number of presentations to groups: 30
 - Number of participants in group presentations: 636