

I. Unit Narrative

Major Accomplishments:

In FY2021, the Ricker Library of Architecture and Art accomplished the following major initiatives:

- Hired the Visiting Design and Materials Research Librarian
- Was awarded an Innovation Fund grant for “Towards a More Inclusive Architectural Library,” for \$12,492.60, as well as Marketing and Publicity Grant for \$500. Project also was awarded \$500 co-sponsorship from Humanities Research Institute and a Marketing Grant of \$500
- Was awarded a Library Assessment Committee grant of \$4,400.13 to assess architecture students’ satisfaction with Ricker Library spaces, services, and resources
- Made significant progress on diversity and inclusion initiatives and commitments
- Managed a partially remote working environment across our faculty, staff, and graduate students; with development of onsite access, circulation, and protocols for library services and resources
- Continued online engagement strategy to ensure Ricker Library patrons and donors can remain engaged while our collections and spaces are less accessible
- Performed transfers of ~7,500 books and microformats to Main, Oak, and HPNL

Contributions to Library-wide Resources and Services

Diversity and Inclusion

Ricker focused on diversity and inclusion through the FY21 year. We continued to build out the [#FromMarginToCenter initiative](#), which creates a growing body of resources designed to highlight contemporary artists and designers across a broad range of identities, paired with our social media presence which includes over 2,000 followers. Our selection criteria combine staff expertise and interest, current events, and providing a balanced range of resources, knowing that this is an emerging body of material that will evolve and take different shapes over time. Two guides were specifically requested by students: [Afrocentric Architecture](#) and [Asian American Artists, Designers and Architects](#), demonstrating our community’s interest and engagement with this initiative.

Building on this, we developed a grant project and was awarded an Innovation Fund grant to extend this work to curricular engagement and programming, focused on the School of Architecture. We hired .25 graduate hourly to assist faculty with diversifying their courses, and worked with Professors Aaron Brakke on ARCH 172, Heather Grossman on ARCH 210, John Stallmeyer on ARCH 576, and Benjamin Bross on ARCH 517. We also organized a panel event called “Decentering the Canon in the Architectural Library,” which took place March 23, 2021 and featured speakers Charles L. Davis II, Assistant Professor of Architecture History and Criticism,

University at Buffalo, SUNY, Aneesha Dharwadker, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture + Department of Landscape Architecture University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Leila Anna Wahba, Deputy Director & Culture Curator, Architecture + Design Museum, Los Angeles. The panel drew 200+ registrants and 100+ attendees; the [recorded video](#) has been accessed 111 times. We also hired .25 graduate hourly to assist faculty with diversifying their courses.

Ricker has instituted an [Anti-Racist Commitments](#) plan. We also committed to making [periodic updates](#) on our progress, in order for it to feel like a living document. We were able to make major strides in our collecting efforts on non-dominant voices and cultures working with vendors to identify materials. We partnered with several colleagues in International and Area Studies Library to increase our collecting of art and architecture materials from a more global perspective.

Reference, research consultations, web site, Libguides

We initiated Ricker's first foray into participation in chat reference. Emilee set up consultation hours using LibCal, which were primarily utilized by graduate students. And we also offered in-person appointments for those who needed to consult the print collections.

After the pandemic, our website, libguides, and social media became invaluable tools to creating a user-focused experience for our patrons. We continued to create and realign guides, focusing on those with the most views first. One with ~5,000 views a year was the [Art History Theory & Methodology](#) guide, which we updated to be more reflective of current approaches to theory. We also created several Krannert Art Museum guides, with the enthusiastic espousal of the museum's curators. These included [Homemade with Love: More Living Room](#), [Bea Nettles: Harvest of Memory](#), and [Pressing Issues](#).

We were also approached by faculty to develop or augment course guides including [ARCH 172: Drawing and Modeling](#), and [ARCH 321/521: The Environment, Architecture, and Global Health](#). Faculty discussed this model as seeing the library as a dynamic place for prospective, current, and former students to find and augment information related to their classes.

Outreach and Engagement; Liaising

Emilee spent much of the four months she worked onsite before the pandemic engaging with liaison areas and building relationships to anchor outreach and engagement activities. She built pathways toward increased visibility of library staff, resources and services. Some of that work was put on pause once the pandemic happened, since much of it relied on an in-person engagement model; however, Emilee was able to pivot to online engagement through the relationships she made earlier in the year. The "Decentering the Canon in the Architectural Library" event was very successful with more than 100 people in attendance, not only from campus but also across the country. Graduate Assistant Tacia Diaz developed and led several zine workshops across campus, partnering with International Student and Scholar Services and La Casa, extending the possibilities of creative practices beyond just art and architecture

students. Emilee also co-sponsored a lecture in the Art History department's Modern Art Colloquium, featuring Dr. Bridget R. Cooks, who lectured on Black women and photography.

Significant Changes and Challenges

The most significant changes were also our most significant challenges. Emilee Mathews started as Head of Ricker Library in November, 2019, only a few months before the pandemic. In September, 2019, assistant librarian Chris Quinn passed away; his position has just been filled in September, 2021. Emilee has spent a considerable amount of time piecing together workflows and procedures, as Chris did not leave detailed documentation on how the library ran; regardless, many policies and procedures needed to be updated to reflect current library management practices. This has created a significant lack in the Ricker library - with one librarian rather than two, the librarian in question very new and untenured, while also facing the vast changes and challenges of COVID19 in the workplace, has created a huge amount of stress and strain throughout the report period. Graduate assistants have been essential to our staffing plan.

FY21 Unit Annual Goals and Accomplishments

SD1: Proactive and trusted partners in scholarship, discovery, and innovation

FY21 Goals

- Balance acquisitions of important print content with a digital first access strategy
- Develop more focused approval plans; assess those plans
- Test out digital scholarship methods and applications for implementation

FY21 Accomplishments

- Continued to refine vendors including Casalini, Erasmus, Harrassowitz, Amalivre, Karno, and Worldwide to streamline and focus collection acquisitions
- Changed collection strategies to be e-preferred in certain instances
- Created three exhibition guides for Krannert Art Museum shows (see above)
- Created six #FromMarginToCenter guides (see above)
- ~2,500 transfers from Vault and Stacks
- Performed micro formats inventory and transferred over 5,000 items to HPNL

SD2: Transformative Learning Experiences

FY21 Goals

- Experiment with digital collections for teaching purposes
- Make lesson plans, pedagogy, and teaching practices more public facing and readily apparent
- Experiment with ways to increase engagement safely given pandemic

- Provide strategic outreach opportunities designed to reflect campus interests, such as invited guest speakers, as well as current curriculum needs
- Work with student groups to provide co-curricular programming and engagement
- Capture student engagement, creating a longitudinal record of impact to share with faculty, students, and donors
- Use unrestricted funds to promote student growth, such as instituting a prize for research at Ricker

FY21 Accomplishments

- Worked closely with student group National Organization of Minority Architects-Student Chapter; supported student conference attendance; sponsored keynote speaker for their annual symposium
- Worked with La Casa and International Student and Scholar Services to offer zine workshops for their students
- Invited to write and published an article in the [Illinois School of Architecture student publication Ricker Report](#), co-authored with PhD student Soumya Dasgupta
- Organized panel event “Decentering the Canon in the Architectural Library,” which took place March 23, 2021. Coordinated graduate hourly efforts to diversify syllabi (see above)
- Supported online teaching needs by filming short videos of various artists books, photobooks, and zines in the collection; created 87 videos in total
- Continued [#FromMarginToCenter initiative](#) to highlight underrepresented voices: created [Afro-Caribbean Art](#), [Afrocentric Architecture](#), [Asian American Artists, Architects, and Designers](#), [Disability and Art](#), [Inclusive Design](#), and [Pan-Africanism in Art and Literature](#). These joined the initial 3 guides from FY 20: [Black Artists & Designers](#), [Contemporary Latin American Art](#), and [Women-led Architecture Firms](#)

SD3: Societal and Global Impact

FY21 Goals

- Partner with fellow librarians, liaison faculty, and outside organizations to increase global and societal impact
- Conduct diversity audit of collections
- Ensure that resources and services are reflective of campus, state, and national diversity
- Investigate spaces (physical and digital) for accessibility

FY21 Accomplishments

- “Decentering the Canon in the Architectural Library” panel event (see SD2)
- Identified, tested, and launched an initiative to determine the representation of women of

color in our architecture collections.

- Worked with students in architecture who have strongly requested increased holdings in architecture of Africa and African diaspora
- Worked with Lynne Thomas and RBML to differentiate collection development policies between RBML and Ricker; and develop protocols for shared collection management decisions

SD4: Strategic Investment

FY21 Goals

- Implement actions outlined in Ricker Library "[Anti-Racism Commitments](#)"
- Participate in "Collective Collection" efforts across BTAA art and architecture libraries
- Continue to clean up website and libguides; refresh for more contemporary approach to resource description and access focused on students' needs
- Implement assessment strategies across services
- Work with campus units to receive diversity training and implement strategies
- Develop approaches to donor relations given pandemic reality

FY21 Accomplishments

- Hired Visiting Design & Materials Research Librarian
- Met with fellow art librarians from University of Minnesota and Indiana University to coordinate "Collective Collection" responses across BTAA art and architecture libraries
- Developed policies, procedures and guidelines to have a better onboarding experience
- Redeveloped undergraduate student hiring practices
- Offered gender pronouns training to all Ricker staff to ensure welcoming environment
- Created graduate assistant training and procedures to ensure that they are working at appropriate pre-professional level

FY22 Goals

SD1: FY22 Proactive and trusted partners in scholarship, discovery, and innovation

- Balance acquisitions of important print content with a digital first access strategy
- Continue to increase international collections
- Work with Archives on potential deposits related to the history of the schools, Ricker Library, and Ricker Library faculty
- Work with Main Stacks and Oak St on a continuous transfer protocol to alleviate space constraints in Ricker
- Set up approval plan for GOBI
- Develop and test pilot materials collection, including acquisition and workflow, programming, curricular integration, support
- Test out digital scholarship methods and applications for implementation

SD2: Transformative Learning Experiences

- Partner with student groups to extend and enrich their curricular experiences
- Improve the physical spaces of Ricker to be more welcoming and student-centered
- Experiment with digital collections for teaching purposes
- Make lesson plans, pedagogy, and teaching practices more public facing and readily apparent
- Experiment with ways to increase engagement across in-person and digital methods in a safe but fun manner
- Increase teaching capacity and expertise for design disciplines
- Strengthen collections in new areas through concerted attention on design research process and output
- Enrich and deploy initiatives targeted to design disciplines and campus groups
- Make connections between information literacy and design thinking

SD3: FY22 Societal and Global Impact

- Partner with fellow librarians, liaison faculty, and outside organizations to increase global and societal impact
- Partner with design disciplines to enhance and promote the library as a site of design thinking
- Establish individual and corporate donor relationships for materials
- Increase the library's profile as a place of convergence
- Be a leading participant in IMLS Forum grant enhancing materials libraries practices and knowledge led by Harvard University and Rhode Island School of Design

SD4: FY22 Strategic Investment

- Ensure that Ricker Library is a welcoming, inclusive workplace environment
- Establish strong operating procedures for pandemic open operations
- Continue to invest in policy and guidelines for Ricker Library to ensure all members are well informed and practices are well documented
- Continue to Implement actions outlined in Ricker Library "[Anti-Racism Commitments](#)"
- Continue to clean up and reduce redundancies across website and libguides; refresh for more contemporary approach focused on students' needs
- Assess students' use of Ricker Library spaces, resources, collections
- Continue to invest endowment funds impactfully; increase donor relations through partnerships with Advancement

II. Statistical Profile

1. Facilities

Number of hours open to the public per week:

Summer II 2020: 0, bookable in-person appointments offered as requested

Fall 2020: 0, bookable in-person appointments offered 4 days a week

Spring 2021:

January to March: 0, bookable in-person appointments offered 4 days a week

March to May: 0, bookable in-person appointments offered 4 days a week

Summer I 2021: 0, bookable in-person appointments offered as requested

2. Personnel

Full time Staff

The staff of the Ricker Library in FY20 consisted of:

- Emilee Mathews, Head, Ricker Library of Architecture and Art; Art & Architecture Librarian (faculty, 1 FTE)
- Vacant, Assistant Librarian, (faculty, 1 FTE)
- Lee Whitacre, Library Specialist (civil service, 1 FTE)
- Elisabeth Paulus, Library Specialist (civil service, 1 FTE)

Graduate Assistants

Tacia Diaz, Graduate Assistant (.5 FTE, funded through state funds, August 16, 2020–May 15, 2021). Duties included:

- Developed and implemented a zine workshop which they offered to International Student and Scholar Services, and La Casa Latin American Cultural Center
- Designed and built #FromMarginToCenter Guide: [Asian American Artists, Designs, and Architects](#), one of the student-requested resources
- Designed and built a resource guide for the [Krannert Art Museum show: Homemade with Love: More Living Room](#)
- Designed and built a resource guide on [Artists' Books and Zines](#)
- Contributed to artists' books and zines collection development
- Created a template guide for future guides to use
- Answered reference questions through chat reference and via email
- Developed a bibliography on paper folding structures for architecture class
- Developed a bibliography on anti-racist research methodologies for architecture class

Kou Chery (.25 FTE, funded through state funds, August 16, 2020–May 15, 2021). Duties included:

- Created the following #FromMarginToCenter guides: [Pan-Africanism across Art and Literature](#), [Afrocentric Architecture](#), [Disability and Art](#), and [Afro-Caribbean Art](#)

- Designed and implemented month-long social media campaigns, including Occultist October, Autism Awareness Month, and Haitian Heritage Month
- Answered reference questions through chat reference and via email
- Created best practices document for #FromMarginToCenter guides and social media

We also employed a total of 5 graduate hourly students, .5 FTE on state funds, and .25 FTE on Innovation Funding, during Fall 2020, and Spring and Summer 2021. The .5 on state funds was devoted to identifying and developing resources pairing anti-racist research with art and design disciplines, which included the #FromMarginToCenter guide [Inclusive Design](#); the Innovation Funded graduate hourly work was devoted to working with faculty in Architecture to diversify their precedents, case studies, and readings. We also employed a total of 2 hourly student assistants .25 FTE in Summer II one which helped with graphic design projects, the second with bibliographic searching.

3. User Services

Ricker's FY20 gate count (from daily record): (we did not report gate count statistics due to being closed to the public)

Our circulation figures from Voyager circulation reports: 686 including 42 charges from the desk and 4 non-circulating, 337 renewals by collection and 25 by desk,

Reference questions (from Desk Tracker): 336

Presentations (from the Instructional Statistics database): 17

Total number of participants in group presentations: 250

4. Other statistics

Patron services:

- 4 in-person appointments
- Libguide usage: during FY21, we created or maintained 35 course and research guides, which were viewed 18,536 times. FY20 average of 275 views per guide, FY21 views averaged 530. More than doubled since the previous year's statistics.
- Scans created: 60
- Videos created: 87

Collections preservation assessment:

- Folios assessed: 187
- Number of items sent to preservation/boxing orders: 1,056

Collections (incoming and outgoing)

- Number of serials processed (bound): 639
- Number of new books processed = 3,510
- Number of items transferred to Oak = 468 (Oak - 193; Oak mediated - 275)
- Number of items transferred to Main = 1,942
- Number of micro formats transferred: 5,130