

I Unit Narrative

1. Major Activities and Accomplishments

We have strengthened partnerships with our liaison areas by embedding library resources into arts spaces, while embedding curricular interventions in the library. This has included:

- Faculty in Art & Design partnered with us to install student work in the library, including classes in new media and graphic design.
- The new Materials collection opened in January 2023. This library includes objects made of wood, polymers, glass, textiles, and more. The collection features innovative, environmentally sustainable materials sourced locally and beyond.
- Krannert Art Museum invited us to embed a library resource center in their Fall 2022 show Black on Black on Black on Black which featured the work of black faculty members of Art & Design.

2. Major Challenges

The greatest challenge faced by Ricker Library is balancing the impact we have in the community with ensuring we have adequate and well-trained coverage for our open hours, given our small staff. Additionally, in FY23 we had several staffing changes in the unit; 2 months of no night supervisor; changing nights and evenings to graduate hourly, and thus hiring and training; now that we are busier, we need more training and established practices for what to do. Of our librarians, one is an untenured unit head and the other is a visiting faculty member.

3. Significant Changes

- We were able to upgrade a civil service position from Library Specialist to Senior Library Specialist
- We have increased visibility to some of our high impact collections like current periodicals
- We've changed our evenings and weekends staffing model from a civil service night supervisor to graduate hourly

4. Contributions to University and/or academic college goals

We invested highly into instruction and outreach with positive impact. With 48 sessions in the FY23 year, we outperformed all other libraries in Arts and Humanities, and even outnumbered units with significantly larger staffing and scope such as Funk ACES, and RBML.

Unit Annual Report for Ricker Library of Architecture & Art

Respectfully submitted by Emilee Mathews, unit head

Instruction is a great way to bring visitor numbers up, not only in the moment but also afterward. After the pandemic closure to the public in 2020 and 2021, Ricker's gate count numbers have evened out to be comparable to pre-pandemic, hovering between 10-15,000. We also have robust checkouts and reference inquiries on par with comparable units.

We've partnered with our liaison areas for high impact initiatives. For example, we have been invited to host two reading areas in the KAM galleries this year; bringing the library's collection to areas where people will benefit from them the most. We've used our display cases to complement intellectual activity on campus, including complementary exhibits for museum exhibitions, student-organized symposia, and international conferences held locally, showcasing our collections and expertise to our local users as well as visiting researchers.

We've revitalized the reading room to make our most impactful collections more visible, trading out a locked cabinet for open shelving showcasing our most heavily used current periodicals.

5. Progress made on Unit Annual Goals for FY23

Collections: Opened materials collections Spring 2023 to researchers; developed and tested pilot acquisitions and processing workflows for materials; contributed to Routledge EBA pilot; increased collection holdings in South Asia; established a continuous transfer protocol with Main and Oak to alleviate space; strengthened collections in new areas through concerted attention on design research process and output.

Students/outreach: Increased the library's profile as a place of convergence; partnered with student groups to extend and enrich their curricular experiences; increased engagement with design disciplines; increased visibility of Ricker library by improving wayfinding within the building.

Infrastructure: Improved the physical spaces of Ricker to be more welcoming and student-centered; started to formally assess students' use of Ricker Library spaces, resources, collections; Continued to invest endowment funds impactfully; increased donor relations through partnerships with Advancement; streamlined scheduling and hiring processes; ensured that Ricker Library is a welcoming, inclusive workplace environment; continued to invest in policy and guidelines for Ricker Library; continued to implement actions outlined in Ricker Library "[Anti-Racism Commitments](#)"; continued to clean up and refresh website and libguides; established individual and corporate donor relationships for materials.

6. Proposed Unit Annual Goals for FY24

Collections: De-densify Reference room; work on Closed stacks; Database purchasing; establish standing orders and serials sourcing; Maximize EBA potential; expand industrial, fashion, and graphic design holdings.

Teaching: Create a public-facing teaching and engagement menu; pilot expanding

curricular impact in School of Architecture; Use the collection to create interactive activities; collaborate with Grainger librarians to develop programming; invite designers and manufacturers for speaker series; create Siebel Center for Design regular office hours.

Outreach: Host more art-making workshops for specific groups and classes and in partnership with liaison areas and library colleagues; student, staff, faculty rotating artwork, curated pop-up exhibits; more artwork in the library and in the halls of the architecture building.

Infrastructure: Work with IT on better equipment, pilot enhanced reference training for all employment classes; work with facilities to source equipment, furniture and address ongoing aging facility upkeep; collaborate with Advancement to cultivate donors.

7. **Unit needs to support goals and overall mission**

- Training: we plan to have a conflict management training with facilitator Morris Mosley to encourage healthy communication
- Facilities: change out shelving, better seating, access to power outlets
- IT: work on upgrading printers and scanners
- CMS: we will continue to de-densify our less impactful collections through continual weeding and transfer of materials with our CAS and CMS partners

8. **Number of GAs employed during FY23:** 2 GA's, 0.5 FTE

9. **Funding source for the unit's GAs:** State funds

10. **Major responsibilities and contributions made by GA's:**

General duties include:

- Contribute to outreach and marketing efforts, including exhibits and social media
- Contributed to and led instruction across architecture, studio, art museum, and art history
- Answer reference questions on the desk and via email

Xochitl Quiroz's specific contributions:

- Created the following KAM exhibition guides: [Fake News & Lying Pictures: Political Prints in the Dutch Republic](#), and [Pattern and Process](#)
- Created the #FromMarginToCenter guide [Indigenous Art and Architecture](#)
- Curated cetacean-related resources for studio art faculty member Deke Weaver, whose [performance debuts September 2023](#)
- Led social media efforts, including a very successful March Madness bracket (Ricker won 2nd place out of all University Library units who participated)

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- Deepened ties with the Latinx student community through Hispanic heritage month display and a zine workshop for Latino Studies class 238: Latino Social Movements at request of faculty
- Contributed to collection management by weeding sections of the stacks; Contributed to collection development for BIPOC artists
- Established marketing newsletter targeted to undergrads

Flannery Cusick's specific contributions:

- Worked with student group National Organization of Minority Architects - UIUC Student Chapter to complement their annual symposium; this year's topic was publications in architecture. Curated NOMAS display (was invited to write about the project, featured on [ACSA's](#) home page August 2023); developed and implemented a zine workshop for the symposium
- Curated Black on Black on Black on Black display
- Contributed to advancement initiatives such as Ricker's annual newsletter and donor impact statements
- Developed [Fall](#) and [Spring](#) Illinois School of Architecture lecture series guide
- Evaluated databases against peer institutions and modeled collections funding against curriculum
- Contributed to architecture student periodicals collection development

II **Statistical Profile**

1. **Facilities**

Number of hours open to the public per week (if applicable)

Summer II: 30

Fall 2022: 64

Spring 2023: 64

Summer I: 30

2. **Personnel**

The full time and GA staff of the Ricker Library in FY23 consisted of:

- Emilee Mathews, Head, Ricker Library of Architecture and Art; Art & Architecture Librarian, assistant professor (faculty, 1 FTE)
- Siobhan McKissic, Visiting Design and Materials Research Librarian, visiting assistant professor (term September 2021–September 2024) (visiting faculty, 1 FTE)
- Lee Whitacre, Library Specialist (civil service, 1 FTE) to April 2023; Senior Library Specialist April 2023 to present
- Elisabeth Paulus, Library Specialist (civil service, 1 FTE) to November, 2022;
- Tim Hayden, Library Specialist (civil service, 1 FTE, January 23 to present
- Graduate Assistants: Xochitl Quiroz (25%) and Flannery Cusick (25%)

Annual wage budget of \$20,951:

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Fall 2022

- 3 FTE (based on 37.5 hr work week)
- 12 student workers
- 92.75 scheduled hours per week

Spring 2023

- 2.07 FTE (based on 37.5 hr work week)
- 11 student workers -- 76.25 scheduled hours per week
- 3 graduate hourly -- 24 scheduled hours per week

Other Hourly Employees

We also employed a total of 5 graduate hourly students, .125 FTE on endowment funds, and .125 FTE on Innovation Funding, during Spring and Summer 2023. The .125 on endowment funds augmented the outreach, collection development and management tasks; the Innovation Funded graduate hourly work was devoted to working with faculty in Architecture to diversify their precedents, case studies, and readings. Additionally we employed two Extra Help position, one to develop curricular integrations and to cover the civil service position for the 2 month vacancy, the second was a graduated graduate hourly who completed materials collection processing.

3. User Services

- Gate Count: 13,408
- Circulation counts: 4,357 loans + 257 renewals at desk , 4,016 loans plus 2,896 renewals of our collection
- Reference interactions: 1,008
- Presentations:
 - 46 synchronous presentations to groups with 1,998 attendees
 - 2 asynchronous presentations to groups with 800 attendees

4. Other statistics (optional)

- New books and serials processed: 3,010
- Transfers: 3,204 (2,790 books + 414 bound journals in the Serial Transfer Project)
- Preservation treatments: 1,650
- Preservation assessments: 142
- Course reserves: 181 items for 33 classes