

**ARCHITECTURE AND ART LIBRARY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT, July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014**  
Prepared by 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.** Our Head Librarian, Professor Jane Block, retired on February 1, 2014, and Associate Professor Joyce Wright retired on December 31, 2013. Needless to say these retirements had a significant impact on our staffing. I (Chris Quinn) was appointed Interim Head Librarian in January 2014. In addition, the library received much needed (and appreciated) graduate hourly funding for spring 2014.
- 2.** The Unit was fortunate to have one .25 FTE graduate assistant funded by the University Library (due to the service of the Interim Head as Division Coordinator of the Arts and Humanities Division). 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 “complemented my theoretical coursework at GSLIS and “allowed me to shape and expand my professional goals.” The report on the departing graduate assistant was provided to the Office of Human Resources.
- 3.** Our Library Specialist took a position elsewhere in the library in February 2014. This resulted in the position being vacant for one month until a new library specialist was hired in March 2014.

### **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:**    *The Plan*  
                                 *Architecture and Culture*  
                                 *International Journal of Islamic Architecture*

New Electronic Resources: We were able to provide access to *Art Source*, which replaced Art Full Text and Art Index Retrospective with assistance from other libraries in our division including the Literatures and Languages Library and the Music Library. Assistance was also provided by the Undergraduate Library and the Office of Collections. We also provided access to the new Proquest Database *Art and Architecture Archive*, with assistance from the Office of Collections.

THE LIBRARY IS LOOKING FOR COLUMN: We were able to acquire four important and expensive publications through the generosity of donors who saw our requests: *Panoramas: 1787-1900*, *The Louvre*, *The Paintings of Dirck Van Baburen: Catalogue Raisonne and Masterpeices of Oriental Art: the Shafik Gabr Collection*. Each of these is an essential acquisition in the field containing the most up-to-date scholarship accompanied by lavish illustrations.

RETROSPECTIVE PURCHASES: In Fall 2013, with the assistance of the Office of Collection Development, Peter Bennett, antiquarian bookseller, Jane Block and myself, met with faculty from the School of Architecture, the Department of Art history and the Krannert Art Museum, and acquired thirty-one retrospective titles including: *Klingen* an important Danish modernist periodical; *Journal de Eugene Delacroix*; *Neue Gärten* (Joseph Olbrich); *Les Gravures de Dunoyer de Segonzac* and *Vor Tids Kunst*. The selections cover art and architecture of Europe and fill significant gaps in the collection pinpointed by the teaching faculty.

GIFTS: We processed a significant donation from the Krannert Art Museum (some 300 books) and donations from individuals including 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*. This amount was significantly increased this year due to the establishment of the Jane Block Tribute Fund, which brought in donations totaling over \$8000.00.

WEEDING: In the past year we have finally been able to establish a consistent and dependable program for orderly and timely transfers to and from the main stacks. In order to alleviate overcrowded conditions in Ricker we selected 2,800 items from Ricker Library for transfer to the Main Library. We will continue to monitor the Main Library Stacks for congested areas and weed in these areas 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.

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 completed an assessment of our rare octavos. 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 has been completed on a number of volumes including *Sloan's Constructive Architecture*, *Modern American Homes*, and *Artistic Homes*.

For other items we have requested boxes. This year 65 items were boxed.

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

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

Internet Archive: Ricker Library continues to recommend items to be scanned from its collections. At the suggestion of a faculty member in architecture early volumes of the Architectural Catalog File (Sweets Catalog) were digitized. It is hoped more volumes will follow of this important source.

Website: The graduate assistant and graduate hourlies, under the supervision of the Ricker Librarians, continuously improves and updates the Ricker Library web site, including the catalogue raisonne list.

Libguides. In addition to our existing fourteen Libguides, we were able to create two additional ones highlighted in bold:

Guide to Architectural Details  
Art Journals at Ricker  
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  
**Art History Theory and Methods**  
**Ricker Library Videos and CDs**

BLOG: We continue to develop this new avenue of outreach to our users. .

Newsletter: Our newsletter, *Ricker News*, is issued twice a year, in fall and spring, containing information on events in Ricker and donor acknowledgements.

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

With the help of one of our graduate students and Michael Norman, the Head of Content Access Management, we were able to process two collections of mounted architectural photographs. These collections are now housed at the Oak Street Facility.

**D. Staff Development Activities:**

All staff attended the “Unretreat” in January 2014. Chris Quinn attended the Reference Roadmap event (retreat) in Feb 2014 and the Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America in Washington D.C. in May 2014.

**E. Exhibitions:**

Ricker Library featured several exhibits, mostly geared to events in local and regional museums such as the Krannert Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago (including *Dreams and Echoes: Drawings and Sculpture in the David and Celia Howard Collection*; *Art and Appetite: American Painting, Culture and Cuisine* and *Violence and Virtue: Artemisia Gentileschi's "Judith Slaying Holofernes"*; the Indianapolis Museum of Art (including *Matisse, Life in Color: Masterworks from the Baltimore Museum of Art* and *Face to Face the Neo-impressionist Portrait, 1886-1904*) and the St. Louis Museum of Art (including *Impressionist France: Visions of Nation from Le Gray to Monet*.

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

Assistance is provided on a regular basis to museum staff engaged in research on the collection.

**G. Contributions to library-wide programs:**

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

## **II. STATISTICAL PROFILE**

**A. Facilities:**

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

Numbers of hours open per week: Summer II 2013-40 per week. Fall 2013 – 75.5 per week. Spring 2014 - 75.5 per week. Summer I 2014-40 per week.

Source: Ricker Library

**B. Personnel:**

ANNUAL REPORT  
STATISTICS

UNIT: Architecture &amp; Art

Personnel	Start Date Mo/Yr	End Date Mo/Yr.
<b>Academic Employees</b>		
Jane Block Faculty	Sept. 1988-	Jan 2014
Chris Quinn Faculty	Aug. 1995-	
Jing Liao Faculty	Aug. 1995-	2011
Joyce Wright (2 days weekly)	May 2010-	Dec. 2013
<b>Non-Academic Employees</b>		
Dorfredia Robinson 1.0	Jan. 1989-	
Laura Poulosky .5	Feb. 2008-	Dec. 31, 2012
Laura Poulosky 1.0	Jan. 2013-	Feb. 14, 2014
Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor	Mar. 2014-	

Student wage budget and student FTE:

Budget: \$15,844 [FTE: .92]

**C. User Services:**

Gate count:

Fall Semester 2013: 11,658

Spring Semester 2014: 9,400

Source: Ricker Library

Circulation

Charge 7974

Renew 8771

Discharges 7884

Presentations

10 sessions, 454 students in attendance

Source: Instructional Statistics Database

**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 2013-14 Ricker Library continued to provide orientation sessions for new graduate students in architecture. A session was given in August 2013 for 79 students. These sessions introduced the students to Ricker Library and the larger UIUC Library systems. Electronic and print resources

were discussed (primarily the *Avery Index*, the major database in the field), as well as the OPAC and the Online Journals and Databases. In February 2014, 105 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. Focus was on Electronic resources, primarily Avery and the online catalog 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 115 – Introduction to East Asian Art.**

This session concentrated on locating material on East Asian Art specifically, in preparation for an upcoming assignment. Databases discussed included: *Art Source* and the Online Catalog.

**Architecture 403 – Special Topics in Architecture- Byzantine Architecture.**

This session focused on researching byzantine architecture and monuments for a class assignment. Databases discussed included Avery, Art Source, the online catalogue and print sources applicable to this area.

Reference Count: 3376

(from the annual extrapolation)

Source: Office of User Services

#### **D. Other Statistics**

Hits on Libguides: Over 7000 hits on our libguides.

Books and materials processed for reserves in Ricker: 827

New books processed: 3,400

Website: Over 11,000 hits on our websites.

### **III. CHALLENGES FACING THE UNIT**

- 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 2013) GOALS ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY:**

1. Graduate Assistant was reinstated for current fiscal year.
2. New libguides were completed on Methods and Theory of Art History, Furniture, Currently received Art Journals at Ricker Library and Videos and CDs.
3. Preservation assessment of octavos was completed.
4. Weeding from Ricker to stacks totaled 2800 items in FY 14.

#### **D. PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR (FY 2015)**

1. Continue to update and produce new libguides, including ones on Building Types, Campus Architecture, Architectural Theory and other subjects.
2. Continue to work with Henry Hebert to have items in our collection repaired either in-house or via outside conservation laboratory.
3. Continue to weed selectively in Ricker for transfer to main library stacks and in main library stacks for transfer to oak street.
4. Continue outreach to selected teaching faculty in Art History, Fine Arts and Architecture to assess services provided in Ricker Library.