

Ricker Library of Architecture and Art Annual Report

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Prepared by Melanie E. Emerson

I. Unit Narrative:

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 was a year of transition for the Ricker Library, both in terms of staff and regular library operations. Here are some of the projects undertaken and completed during this period:

- Restructured and updated the Ricker's website for easier navigation and improved legibility.
- Worked with Jeff Schrader and Lesli Lundquist to make updates to the physical space including removing unnecessary shelving and other equipment, which provided more space for patron use.
- Designed and created new signage throughout the library to improve ease of use and access to the collections.
- Started a Facebook page as a form of outreach and tool for engagement.
- Worked with Miriam Centeno in Library Conservation to implement a pest management control system and reestablished environmental monitoring throughout the Ricker Library.
- Began the process of accessing non-circulating collections—Reference, Closed Stacks, and Vault materials—to ensure more efficient use of our limited space. To this end, we moved over 500 volumes to the Oak Street Storage Facility.

Staffing: Chris Quinn continued to serve as Interim Head Librarian through February of 2015. Melanie Emerson began as Head Librarian in March 2015. The Ricker was also fortunate to receive funding for one 50% Graduate Assistant and funds to support the hiring of one graduate hourly at 20 hours/week. Chris Quinn also received funds for another graduate hourly position at 10 hours/week due to his service as Division Coordinator for the Arts and Humanities Division.

Collection Development: 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.

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: *Hans Hoffmann: Catalogue Raisonné of Paintings* and the newest volume (volume 4) of *The Andy Warhold Catalogue Raisonné*. 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 2014, with the assistance of the Office of Collection Development, Peter Bernett, antiquarian bookseller, Chris Quinn and Jane Block, met with faculty from the School of Architecture, the Department of Art history and the Krannert Art Museum, and acquired thirteen titles including: *The Glasgow School of Painters*, 1908 by G. Baldwin Brown and J. Craig Annan; *Nouvelle Histoire de Paris et des Sese Environs*, 1839-1842; and Frank Lloyd Wright and William Wesley Peters' first edition pamphlet: *Monona Terrace Auditorium & Civic Center, Madison, Wisconsin*, 1961, which detailed the project constructions specifications and data. 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 (about 200 books and auctions catalogs) and donations from individuals including Jack Baker (132 books and magazines) and Ron Schmitt (20 books and magazines). In addition, annual donations to the unit have remained well above \$11,000. We have a loyal base of contributors,

WEEDING: In order to alleviate overcrowded conditions in Ricker we selected 3,252 items from Ricker Library for transfer to the Main Library. This year, we were luck enough to have some assistance from Jenny Maddox Abbott and CMS, who we able to pull and physically transfer the materials, which freed our staff for the more detailed work of selecting materials. We will continue to monitor the Main Library Stacks for congested areas and weed in these areas to Oak Street. We also transferred 540 items to Oak Street.

IDENTIFYING MATERIALS FOR PRESERVATION: We identified a few items in need of immediate conservation and preservation work. Then working with Henry Hébert and Miriam Centeno of Conservation and Preservation we were able to mend or have proper enclosures or boxes made for the following titles: *Plan of Chicago*, 1909; *The Interaction of Color* by Josef Albers, 1964; *Architecture Consideres Sous le Rapport*, 1804 (2 volumes); and *Sanborn Maps*, Urbana, 193.

Improved Access:

Access: Through the support from the School of Architecture and Art+Design the Ricker Library was able to maintain the 75.5 hours per week schedule during the fall and spring semesters. As previously mentioned, the library is has also freed up valuable table space in the library for research and study purposes.

Internet Archive: Ricker Library continues to recommend items to be scanned from its collections.

Website: The Graduate Assistants and hourly graduate student employees, under the supervision of the librarians, continued to make changes and updates to the website, including the catalogues raisonnés list. During the spring semester Melanie Emerson worked with our graduate hourly Alexa Weidinger to make serious changes to the layout and appearance of the website. We implemented left-hand navigation and tried to streamline some of the more content heavy pages.

LibGuides: We currently have sixteen LibGuides, which we have updated throughout the year. We will continue to work to make improvement and updates to these guides.

Social Media: Throughout the year we continued to update the Ricker's blog and twitter accounts; we created a Facebook page for the Ricker Library in May. Our Facebook and Twitter presence has been more consistent and effective, so we discontinued use of the blog.

Newsletter: Our newsletter, *Ricker News*, is issued twice a year, in fall and spring, containing information on events in Ricker and donor acknowledgements. This spring was our last print edition. Moving forward, we will continue to make the *Ricker News* available on our website only.

Cataloging: Our small backlog was searched and approximately twenty-five items were sent to rapid cataloging for processing.

Staff Development Activities: All staff attended the Strategic Planning retreat in January 2015. Chris Quinn and Dorfredia Williams attended Outlook Calendar training. Dorfredia Williams also attended the *3 Minutes to Live* training session. Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor attended the University of Illinois' Social Media Conference in June 2015. Melanie Emerson attended the Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America in Fort Worth, TX in March 2015 and the Center for Library Initiatives Annual Conference: Strategic Communication for the Academic Library in May 2015.

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 *James Ensor: The Temptations of St. Anthony, Chicagoisms, Magritte: Mystery of the Ordinary*); the Indianapolis Museum of Art (*Georgia O'Keeffe and the Southwestern Still Life*) and the St. Louis Museum of Art (*Navigating the West: George Caleb Bingham and the River*).

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.

Contributions to library-wide programs: Librarians regularly provide recommendations on items for digitization to the Digital Content creation unit.

II. STATISTICAL PROFILE

Facilities:

TOTAL USER SEATING: 95

At tables: 88

At public workstations 7

No group study rooms or carrel

Numbers of hours open per week: Summer II 2014-40 per week. Fall 2014- 75.5 per week. Spring 2015 - 75.5 per week. Summer I 2015-40 per week. Source: Ricker Library

B. Personnel:

ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS

UNIT: Architecture & Art

Personnel	Start Date Mo/Yr	End Date Mo/Yr.
Academic Employees		
Melanie Emerson, Faculty	March 2015-	
Chris Quinn, Faculty	Aug. 1995-	
Non-Academic Employees		
Dorfredia Robinson 1.0	Jan. 1989-	
Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor	Mar. 2014-	

Student wage budget and student FTE: Budget: \$15,844 [FTE: .92]

C. User Services:

Gate count (as reported during FY 2015 Sweeps Week):

Fall Semester 2014: 9,584

Spring Semester 2015: 7,104

Circulation (form Voyager circulation reports):

Charge: 7,502

Renew 8,935

Discharges 7,483

Presentations:

5 sessions, 248 students

Source: Instructional Statistics Database

Overall goals:

Familiarize students with using major databases in the fields of art and architecture; assist in developing search strategies, orient students to the UIUC Library system and provide some familiarity with subject headings.

In 2014-15 the library continued to provide orientation sessions for new graduate students in architecture. These sessions introduce newly-arrived students to Ricker Library and the larger UIUC Library system. Electronic and print resources were discussed including the *Avery Index* and the Library OPAC. A similar session was given for Architecture 272, a required course for all undergrads. This class is focused on a specific assignment. Emphasis was on electronic resources, primarily the *Avery Index* and the OPAC, both of which were essential for the completion of the assignment. Many of the Art History faculty were on

leave during the year, so many of the courses that normally request instruction sessions did not this year.

Other sessions were given including:

Architecture 589 – Ph.D Colloquium

This course is required for all Ph.D students in architecture and landscape architecture and is focused on research sources and the research process. Databases in architecture such as the Avery Index were discussed but also databases specific to certain kinds of architectural research such as Psychlit and Compendex were also discussed. The OPAC, ISHARE and Interlibrary loan were also covered at length.

Arthistory 495 – Senior Seminar

This course is required for all seniors in art history and the topic varies each year. This year the class was focused on researching objects in the collections of the Krannert Art Museum. Databases in art were covered including *Art Source*, *Art Bibliographies Modern* and *BHA/IBA*. Time was also spent on covering the main sources (primarily in print) covering the collections of the Krannert Art Museum.

Other Statistics

Hits on Libguides: 7,490

Books and materials processed for reserves in Ricker: 320

New books processed: 3,690

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 2014) GOALS ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY:

1. During this year we worked with faculty in Art History, Fine Art, and Architecture to promote the collections and resources available through the Ricker Library. After the arrival of the new Head Librarian, we had additional opportunities to meet with faculty and make suggestions for more class visits and class presentations.

1. Worked with Henry Hebert to have items in our collection repaired either in-house or via outside conservation laboratory.

3. Weeding from Ricker to stacks totaled 3,252 items in FY 15, an additional 540 items were sent to Oak Street.

D. PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR (FY 2016)

1. Continue to update and produce new LibGuides, including those specific to courses being taught in Architecture and Art+Design. Additionally, we will create a template that in order to implement standardized formatting and layout for future guides.
2. Continue to work with Library Conservation and Library Facilities to make improvement to the space and environmental conditions in the library.
3. Continue to weed selectively in Ricker for transfer to main library stacks, also complete a weeding process for Reference, Closed Stacks, and Vault materials in order to make the best use of our limited space and preserve the materials in our collection.
4. Continue outreach to selected teaching faculty in Art History, Fine Arts and Architecture to assess services provided in Ricker Library.
5. Explore new technologies to improve access to collections and support the research needs of the students and faculty.