ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Library as Place:

This has been a year of many changes for the Architecture Library. A new architecture librarian and department head started last summer and sought to transform the traditional academic library to a more welcoming information commons. Outdated library policies were changed - food and drinks are now allowed in the Library. The large “Quiet” signs were removed to encourage group collaboration. With the goal of creating a reading lounge area, the architecture librarian purchased 4 leather club chairs, a large sofa, several coffee tables, and additional shelving showcasing the latest journals and books. The reading lounge space helped divide the large one room library into several work zones. One side contains private study carrels that are equipped with computers for students desiring quiet study; the other side features group space with large tables and comfortable chairs for groups of students to work on collaborative projects. All these changes have increased library usage and garnered positive comments by COA faculty and administration.

Collections:

Developing Collections
The architecture collection continues to grow and the Library now has close to 49,000 volumes. Two new architecture databases were purchased (BuildingGreen Suite and CuminCad) and several new journals. Many new architecture and planning DVD titles were added per faculty requests to use in their classrooms. Many of the book and journal purchases were funded with the Preston Stevens endowment. A library grant was used to purchase a 28,000 image database called Archivsion Digital Research Library.

Collection development is an ongoing collaborative effort, involving faculty and students in each of the College of Architecture’s academic programs. The architecture librarian seeks book recommendations from all faculty and stays alert to course changes in COA programs to buy books that support new research areas.

Managing Collections

In 1980 when the Architecture Library was originally built it was designed to house about 28,000 volumes. The Library now has almost double that number. A major weeding and shifting project began this year to help address the over-crowding. Systems was asked to install the Voyager Circulation Reports module on the architecture computers to run reports and see what books have not circulated in years. Preservation efforts have been ongoing as older and damaged yet heavily used books are sent to the bindery for repair. Books that have been missing for awhile are being identified and repurchased.

Course Reserves:

Course reserves continue to be popular with COA faculty and students. This year 41 instructors (24 in Architecture, 7 in CFY, 7 in CP, 2 in BC and 1 in ID) used the Library’s reserves system. Students had online access to 1006 course readings (mainly journal articles) through electronic reserves.

Partnerships:
COA Research Forum

The Architecture Library which has primarily served as a study/research space for students and faculty is now taking on another role as a social gathering place for the COA community. The Library is now hosting the COA Research Forum. This is a collaborative effort with Dr. Leslie Sharp and COA faculty. The Forum is a monthly lecture series for faculty and graduate students to share their research with other faculty and students in COA's 6 academic programs and 6 research centers and the Georgia Tech community. The Forum serves as a way to raise awareness of what is happening at the College and increase interdisciplinary collaboration. Each Forum presentation is being videotaped and added to the Architecture Library website.

Other collaborative outreach efforts

In April, the Architecture Library hosted a catered lunch for the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Georgia Tech President Clough, and 12 other individuals.

In June, the Architecture Library hosted the annual meeting of the COA Development Council.

In spring semester, career counselors from the Career Services Department held a Resume Workshop for COA seniors in the Library.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Facilities and Equipment:
COA painted the Library walls, steam cleaned the carpet, cleaned the windows and refinished the wood reference desk. The Library’s System department upgraded all four of the computers and keyboards located on the reference desk. A new large format scanner and a slide scanner were also purchased for use by students, faculty and visitors.

A projector was purchased to use for presentations for the COA Research Forum and other events in the Library. A pull down screen was attached to the top of the Library window to use with the projector. COA provided the Library with 21 digital cameras for students to check out and use to photograph their projects.

Exhibits:

To showcase some of the wonderful rare books that the Architecture Library owns, two exhibit cases were procured and refurbished. During spring semester, two exhibits were featured: “Architecture Theorists of the Italian Renaissance” and “Le Nouvel Opera de Paris”. Exhibits were created by the architecture librarian with assistance from Kirk Henderson.

Library Website:

Working with Heather King, the Architecture Library website was redesigned so it corresponds with the newer look of the Georgia Tech website. A “What’s New” area had been added to the website to announce new resources, events and programs in the Architecture Library.

NAAB (National Architectural Accreditation Board):
In preparation for the Architecture Program’s accreditation review in 2007, the architecture librarian completed a 10 page report for the NAAB “Information Services Assessment” section of the NAAB Conditions for Accreditation Report. The section focuses on the Architecture Library’s collections and services and is one of the 13 conditions for accreditation. She also provided a tour of the Architecture Library to the visiting members of the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

Library Staff:

Architecture Librarian

Cathy Carpenter who was serving as the interim librarian was appointed the Architecture Librarian in September of 2007.

Instruction

Cathy works closely with COA faculty on customized library instruction. Group and individual training sessions for new faculty and doctoral students, as well as students in the Architecture, City Planning, Building Construction, and Industrial Design master programs are conducted on ongoing basis. Each session provides in-depth coverage of library resources and research tools, including: key databases in architecture and related fields, citation searching, refinement of thesis topic, use of inter-library loan system and GIL universal catalog.

She created a Research Resource Guide for “Introduction to Historic Preservation” course. As for undergraduate instruction, the library collaborated with Prof. Sabir Khan on the Common First Year studio. Cathy created a customized “resource guide” for the COA 1060 wiki, featuring a tutorial, links to recommenced websites, selected reference sources including a selection of...
library book’s placed on reserve and used extensively by CFY students. She will continue to update and refine subject guides on architecture, city planning, and industrial design.

Public Policy Liaison

In addition to being the Architecture Librarian, Cathy Carpenter is also the liaison to the Georgia Tech School of Public Policy and in that capacity purchases all books for the department, meets with graduate students for research consultations and taught 7 library research classes for various courses in Public Policy department. She also continues to update and refine subject guides in public policy, politics, law and philosophy.

Last fall semester, Cathy organized a Library committee to plan the Constitution Day celebration at Georgia Tech. The committee created week long programming including two faculty presentations on current constitutional topics, several educational exhibits in the LEC, and a voter registration drive for students.

Committees – Professional Associations

Cathy is active in AASL (Association of Architecture School Librarians), chairs the Awards committee and is a member of the AASL Task Force to review NAAB standards on “Information Resources”. She also is a founding member of the Planning Librarians Interest Group, a national effort to initiate a professional association for city & regional planning librarians. I also serve as the ACRL-GLA Chapter Council Representative.

Committees – Library and Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech Provost’s Task Force on Undergraduate Curriculum Reform (appointed)
Chair, Constitution Day Committee

Library Strategic Plan Working Group (Partnerships)

Publications and Presentations

Carpenter, Cathy. “When is a Librarian Not a Librarian? When She is a Student, Professor, Fellow, Mentor…” in Thinking Outside the Book: Essays for Innovative Librarians (2008, McFarland Publishers).


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Other Library Staff

A new library associate was hired, Stephany Kretchmar who is responsible for hiring, training and supervising the Library’s student assistants. She also is
responsible for stack maintenance and preservation. Library associate Kevin Quick who is responsible for electronic & print reserves is almost finished with his Bachelor’s degree from Clayton State University. Library associate Fakhri Haghani who is responsible for the Library’s journals is completing a doctoral degree in history from Georgia State University.

Staff Accomplishments

Kevin served on the Library Strategic Plan Working Group (Library as Place)

Kevin shifted 110 linear feet of books in the stacks.

Stephany sent 260 books to the Bindery.

Stephany inventoried hundreds of books from the Frances P. Smith collection which was a donation of books that belonged to Frances P. Smith, who was the first head of the College’s Architecture Program when it started in 1909.

Fakrhi processed donated journals from the Dean Galloway collection.

Kevin, Stephany and Fakhri created a system to track missing books.

GOALS, 2008-2009
1. Continue to collaborate with COA administration and faculty in providing programs and events for the College of Architecture community.

2. Collaborate with COA faculty to create and install exhibits for the COA Centennial year long celebration

3. Continue to develop the Architecture Library collection and weed collection by moving seldom used materials to new records storage area.

4. Continue to offer library research instruction classes to COA and Public Policy faculty.

5. Continue to offer individual instruction to COA and Public Policy students.

6. Redesign Architecture Library website to increase usability and discovery.

7. Upgrade the computers in the Library’s computer cluster.

Submitted by Cathy Carpenter, August 2008