

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In the past year as I worked on the planning of the annual conference I was impressed by the interest expressed in our small group, both by those within the group and by the world at large. First, there was the willingness, of everyone I approached, to participate and to assist with the conference. In fact, many people came forward before being asked. It really gave me a good feeling to hear so many people say how anxious they were to participate because they found the meetings so useful. It was not only because of what they learned listening to a panel discussion, visiting a library, or taking a library tour, but also for the opportunity to meet and interact informally with others who face similar situations and problems. The reaction of our members was expected, but the second thing that impressed me was the interest of others outside of our immediate group.

For example, two other organizations have contacted me in the hopes of creating and maintaining a closer relationship with us. I was contacted by Katharyn Wayne of the University of Arizona on behalf of the Association of Architecture Librarians (AAL). The AAL membership is interested in exploring the idea of joint annual meetings. It is felt that instead of competing for membership and attendance at annual meetings, and to avoid the duplication of topics at meetings and in newsletters, we could join forces for our mutual benefit. I have been a member of both groups since I became an architecture librarian, as I know many of you have been. It was a surprise to me when I learned last year that at one time there had been a group which split into the two we have now. I think that it is time for us to examine the suggestion that the two groups have joint meetings. I invite everyone to write to this newsletter expressing their views and I propose that we discuss the topic at our next annual meeting.

I was also contacted by Carl Costello of the national office of the AIA Student organization. This organization would like to establish some contact with AASL in order to exchange information. He suggested that it would be a good idea to exchange newsletters and offered to include our newsletter in a mailing to their membership, which he said numbers about 12,000, or to each chapter head. We will try this year to set up an exchange of newsletters and then evaluate the usefulness of this arrangement. In view of the inclusion of student participation in our annual conference, perhaps this is an idea whose time has come. We can formalize this cooperation by making a discussion panel between AIAS and AASL a part of our annual meeting similar to our usual inclusion of a discussion with ACSA/faculty members. I suggest that we start this year.

FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue, I officially assume responsibility for the Association's newsletter. I hope the "new look" is satisfactory and that the information contained in the next few pages is useful, informative, and accurate. I also hope the newsletter gives a complimentary view of our organization to readers who might not work within the relatively small world of architectural librarianship. With the help of our readers I hope to make some changes in the newsletter and would appreciate any ideas you have about special columns or features. I am hoping to add an idea exchange column and a member news column. Also, with this issue, we have our first president's column. While none of these ideas are original, I think they will be useful to most of us. If any of you are interested in editing a column please do not hesitate to let me know!

AASL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
MARCH 1989

Collection Development,
Problems and Some Solutions

Panelists: Vinson Mackenzie, Eloise MacDonald, Rebecca Mayne.
Moderator: Michael Leininger.

Vinson Mackenzie spoke about his previous position at Tuskegee, a private school offering forty-three degrees. Tuskegee has a main library and three branches, one of which is the architecture branch. He handled a collection of 8,200 books, 161 periodicals/serials, and an extensive vertical file. His budget came out of the main library's budget. Tuskegee does not subscribe to any approval plans. In spite of limited funding, he still aimed at building a comprehensive collection. Ehresmann's Architecture: A Bibliographic Guide to Basic Reference Works, Histories, and Handbooks is useful as a collecting tool, but not all items are readily available. Buying is restricted to items absolutely needed. Faculty and students recommend titles for purchase. The reference librarian has to be very creative in this kind of situation. Vinson used the telephone alot.

Vinson had no formal collection development policy. He tried to purchase current items and visited the bookstore himself as needed. Two sources of material he used were the Renaissance Bookstore in Milwaukee, and William K. Stout Architectural Books in San Francisco.

Rebecca Mayne discussed her assignment to set up a new branch library to support the architecture program at Kent State University. For the first nine months after the architecture library was opened, Rebecca's only access to her collection was by using an outline of the LC classification schedule. The opening of the architecture branch library was made possible by funding from an Ohio State Library grant which was obtained by Kent State's Library Director. The grant paid the librarian's salary for five years, another staff position salary, and for some equipment.

Design students are the biggest users of the collection so all visual material was considered important when transferring material from the collection in the main library. Rebecca had to limit the amount of material transferred because of space limitations. Architecture periodicals from 1980 forward were transferred, but planning materials were left at the main library. Currently she is purchasing new journals. Her collection also includes one copy of architectural monographs, but only about 30% of the library's folio materials. Regional materials are also collected, and gifts have been important in supplementing this area. Vertical file information is available, with travel literature being especially popular. A centralized AV department alleviated the need to purchase film. Rebecca has also taken over the slide library even though it is technically a departmental library. When building the basic collection, Rebecca was allowed to take items classed in NA, TH and TG. HG and history materials had to be negotiated. Rebecca is currently purchasing in the F classification. She found that browsing the stacks in the main collection yielded materials that might have been otherwise missed. The collection at the architecture branch now numbers about 12,000 volumes.

Eloise MacDonald from the University of Texas-Austin spoke about budget changes which have taken place due to economic problems in Texas. In 1982 Eloise's budget was approximately \$30,000-\$32,000 with \$15,000 designated for new serials. Once periodicals were purchased the library system paid for subscription costs. There was a set amount for retrospective purchases. Approval plans and blanket orders were paid for with other funds. By 1986, the budget had increased to \$48,000, only

to drop to \$30,000 again in 1989. Eloise no longer purchases new journal titles and had to cancel 10%, or \$1,650, of her current subscriptions. She cancelled duplicate subscriptions and some very technical journals on solar energy. Faculty were very helpful in developing cancellation lists. There is now a "no growth" policy in place and Eloise can only add a new title after cancelling an old title.

Very expensive items are no longer considered for purchase. The drawings collection is only supplemented by gifts and donations of funds. Materials are treated more carefully and many items have been placed on "room use only" restriction. Eloise now works with a library faculty committee to ensure responsible, responsive spending, and this has been a good educational experience for the faculty.

Michael Leininger of MIT's Rotch Library described his position as collection development librarian. Initially, Michael found it very difficult to spend his \$50,000 budget, but his knowledge and abilities as a selector quickly came to match his budget! He feels that the budget is adequate, particularly since other areas in the sciences are less well funded at MIT.

Michael's budget is divided into two accounts. He had about \$12,000 for the Design and Practice collection, and another \$29,000 for the Architectural History collection. He has about \$4,000 tied up in recurring expenses. Another \$10,000 is spent on materials for the Aga Kahn collection.

MIT's library system is decentralized, but overlap and duplication are avoided. The librarian who places the first order for an item will receive that book in their library.

Michael works with new title slips provided by BNA rather than actually receiving the books on an approval plan. He reports that BNA is willing to offer this service to libraries able to order from at least 30% of the slips provided. European plans have proven useful this way as well.

Michael provided some advice on improving selection capabilities:

1. Take architecture courses, preferably a beginner's studio. You cannot gain an understanding of the process of architectural education by taking a few history survey courses or by attending final reviews.
2. Become very knowledgeable about your city/region including its architecture, development, zoning history, demographics, etc. Your city is used as a living laboratory by students and faculty. Newspapers are a good source for finding ephemeral publications, and local newsletters from preservation societies, AIA chapters, etc. are also good sources.
3. Develop an interview approach when you are working with faculty on their research areas. Find out as much as possible about the area in which they are working.
4. Acquire a "Search only" contract with RLIN. This is a powerful tool for discovery and verification of existing materials.
5. Develop a Collection Development Policy to be used both as a selecting tool and for on-going collection evaluation.

Thanks to Ilene Frank for submitting this article.

Architecture Periodical Indexes: in print and on-line

Panelists: Ted Goodman, Don Colangelo, Tom Henderson, Edward Teague.
Moderator: Anne Hartmere.

Tom Henderson spoke about printed indexes and their usefulness in academic libraries. He noted that the number and quality of periodicals indexed, and the frequency of publication, were key factors when deciding

which index to consult. He also noted that explaining the function and purpose of an index was actually no more difficult than explaining when to use the card catalog as opposed to an index.

Tom ran a test to compare the subject access provided by printed indexes. He executed the same search using Avery Index, API, Art Index, and Architecture Index. He was able to find information under architect's name and building type in all four indexes, and under the geographic name in three indexes. Tom uses all of these indexes and finds them all useful for different purposes. He added that it is necessary to know the peculiarities of each index.

Ted Goodman spoke about the Avery Index, of which he is editor. The online database contains over 65,000 analytic records and nearly 30,000 cross references. Printed indexes are produced annually as supplements to the original Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals. It is possible that a ten year cumulation will be published by G. K. Hall in 1990. Ted mentioned that a frequent request from users is to increase the size of the Avery Online to include records produced manually since 1934. The Third Supplement, covering 1977-78, has been scanned, converted and coded into the Avery Online format. Ted stated that the records would probably be loaded by late summer. [Editors note: An Oct. 6 press release from Research Libraries Group stated that 11,462 records were successfully loaded into the Online Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals using a retrospective conversion tape created by optical scanning and formatting. These records are now available online in RLIN.]

Another interesting development which Ted discussed is the possible collaboration of the Architectural Periodicals Index, produced by the RIBA, and the Avery Index. A study is currently underway to determine the level of overlap and the depth of indexing in the indexes. This study should be completed in late 1989.

Don Colangelo, AIA, presented his newly published index, Search. As a practicing architect, Colangelo was frustrated in his attempts to find information quickly without leaving his studio. Search is an inexpensive tool which indexes about twenty periodicals. At a cost of \$50 for the annual cumulation, Search can be purchased by even the smallest firms with tight budgets. Colangelo has indexed some unusual titles such as Metropolitan Home, Southern Accents, Fine Homebuilding and HG. He created a Picture File, a selective index to photographs found in the indexed titles, as well as the more typical Persons/Teams index, Projects index, and a keyword index.

Archives and Special Collections; Their use in an architecture school library

Panelists: David Spaeth, Daniel Hodge, Mohan Srinivasan, Christian Blaser.
Moderator: Caroline Carlton.

David Spaeth, a professor of Architecture at the University of Kentucky, spoke about the importance of exposing undergraduate students to original archival materials - drawings, photographs, correspondence, manuscripts- as an entry into the world of original research. Primary sources which have not been "filtered" through an interpreter challenge the student, causing him to process and evaluate the material himself. Spaeth feels that it is important that this process take place early and often in the academic career. Spaeth enumerated the obvious problems which might occur when inexperienced students are presented very rare, fragile, irreplaceable materials. Some have no concept of "old" or "valuable" and it is our job to teach them these concepts. Exposure to archival materials is an opportunity to encourage responsibility in the use of materials, while also developing a sense of value and appreciation for those materials.

Spaeth emphasized the fact that users must be aware of the value of the items in use. He recommends "packaging" as a means of communicating an

item's special nature, and also user specific remarks, such as a reference to age or magnitude. Finally, Spaeth commented that the library could serve as an excellent tool to teach students respect for the past and responsibility for their futures.

Dan Hodge, Architecture Librarian at the University of Kentucky, began by discussing the rare books room in his library; his initial enthusiasm and later ambivalence, regarding the accessibility of the materials. Eventually Dan concluded that the physical presence of fragile books, coupled with the fact that these materials were housed in their own special room, command respect without the librarian's intervention. Dan also discussed the library's collection of materials by and about Le Corbusier. This collection has received both financial support and special attention of the faculty and students. Since it is not old, and does not seem fragile, the danger exists that it will be misused. By housing the Corbu collection with the more obviously delicate items, the message of specialness is clear.

Mohan Srinivasan and Christian Blaser, both students at IIT, seemed to reinforce the comments of Spaeth and Hodge. Mohan relayed an experience that took place in Bombay. A group of students wishing to see very old building plans had to wait several days and make countless phone calls before they were allowed to view the plans. However, Mohan said, the experience of viewing the actual plans was much more rewarding than studying reproductions in a book. Christian noted that most European libraries have collections of material such as photographs, books, and plans which relate to the history of the city. He felt this gave citizens a sense of continuity concerning their city. He also pointed out that all library material is only useful if it is accessible.

Grants discussion

Presenters: Carter Manny, Pat Weisenburger, Robert Beckley, Peggy Kusnerz.

Carter Manny, Director of the Graham Foundation in Chicago, began the discussion by describing the history and purpose of the Foundation. Created in 1956 by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham, the Graham Foundation is interested in educational areas directly concerned with architecture. Mr. Manny described types of projects which receive funding from the foundation, such as assistance with publications, or assistance with conferences or symposia. He noted that proposals involving or of interest to more than one library were more likely to be funded than narrowly focused proposals. He also noted that proposals involving students were of interest to the foundation. Mr. Manny proceeded to describe some of the proposals that had been funded recently. He also spent some time discussing the recently renovated Madlener House, which serves as the home of the Graham Foundation.

At the University of Michigan, a recent symposium on The Architecture Library of the Future was partially funded by the Graham Foundation. Peggy Kusnerz, Architecture Librarian at Michigan, spoke about the publication of a monograph containing papers presented at the symposium. Peggy, who served as editor, discussed the various articles included in the volume and the individuals who contributed these articles. Authors range from Gunnar Birkerts to librarians from large academic libraries. Partial funding for the publication and symposium also came from Dominos Pizza, headquartered in Ann Arbor.

Pat Weisenburger discussed her experiences at Kansas State University where she is architecture librarian. Pat received a grant from the Graham Foundation to create a bibliography based on a collection which now forms the core of the current KSU architecture library, the Weigel Library. Pat described the process of writing the grant; the waiting, the worrying and the enormous amount of work that went into compiling material. The finished project, Accounts of Architecture, is an annotated subject catalog of special books in Paul Weigel Library.

**Treasurer's Report
1988-89**

Balance brought forward (1Jan1989)	\$1354.47
+ 1989 Conference registration fees	+ 777.00
+ 1989 Membership dues	<u>+ 218.00</u>
= Income	\$2349.47
- 1989 Conference expenses (through Feb)	<u>- 141.50</u>
	\$2207.97
- Refunds for overpayment of conference registration fees	<u>- 37.00</u>
= Current balance (as of 24Feb89)	\$2170.97

Submitted by Kathy Brackney, AASL Treasurer

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University hosted a reception to celebrate the opening of their new library on October 12. The reception also honored Geoffrey Steele on his retirement as an antiquarian bookman. Best of luck to Berna Neal in her new home.

Accounts of Architecture, an annotated subject catalog of special books in the Paul Weigel Library, College of Architecture and Design, Kansas State University, was prepared and published by Patricia Weisenburger.

The Architecture Library of the Future : complexity and contradiction, containing papers presented at the Symposium on the Architecture Library of the Future, held in Ann Arbor in 1987, was published by the University of Michigan Press. Peggy Kusnerz served as editor.

Special thanks go to Barbara Opar, who served as editor of this newsletter from 1985 to 1988. Her efforts have been sincerely appreciated.

OUR NEXT ISSUE...

If you have an opinion regarding the merger of AAL and AASL annual meetings, please share it with our membership by writing a letter to the newsletter.

Also in our next issue we will be hearing from Pat Weisenburger about our upcoming meeting in San Francisco.

Do you have a favorite building or neighborhood in the Bay area that the rest of us might enjoy reading about? Might enjoy seeing while attending the annual meeting? Send an item to the newsletter please.

If anyone who attended the Chicago conference has a good set of minutes from the business meeting, please contact the editor.

Don't forget to let the rest of us know what you're doing! Send items for inclusion in the Member News column.

Deadline for the pre-conference issue is Dec. 15. Send material to:

Kay Logan-Peters
308 Architecture Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0108
(402) 472-1195