

AASL ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 17-20, 1990

San Francisco provided the perfect setting for the 12th annual meeting of the Association of Architecture School Librarians. Thanks to the excellent planning and boundless energy of Patricia Weisenburger, the conference was a big success. We were able to learn a great deal from our meetings with colleagues and faculty, and the issues were both timely and of interest to anyone associated with architectural education and information. The Hotel Nikko, located near Union Square in downtown San Francisco, was the site of this year's meeting. The facilities and service were excellent, and the central location made for easy access to restaurants, shops and tourist attractions. The following brief articles summarize our sessions and meetings at this year's conference. Special thanks to all AASL members who provided reports for inclusion in the newsletter.

COLLECTING INFORMATION ON LOCAL ARCHITECTS AND ARCHITECTURE

Michael Leininger, MIT
 Anita Anderson, IIT
 Vinson McKensie, Auburn University

Michael Leininger described the research he did for an exhibit of some of the work done by MIT graduates done in Boston and throughout Massachusetts during the last twenty years. It was both a research project and a fund raising tie to alumni. The library staff searched the shelf list for MIT theses and consulted area guidebooks. A mailing went out to alumni living in Massachusetts asking for photographs and other pertinent information. About one hundred replies were received. The data was entered onto a disc and a display of 15 boards was made. The exhibit, which cost about \$1000, was in place for six weeks in the

In order to assist students with course work at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Anita Anderson keeps a clippings file on Chicago architecture. She uses LC subject headings and has a note in the card catalog referring to the file. Anita is also creating a database indicating the location of all information on Mies van der Rohe and will acquire the information when possible. She began the project by adding the location of the information cited in David Spaeth's bibliography to the Mies database, and is now investigating journal articles. The papers that Spaeth used to prepare his book have been given to Galvin Library. Indexing the work of Mies' students is Anita's next task.

Vinson McKensie has been gathering information on Afro-American architects for six years and now has information on over 400 pioneering and contemporary architects. Although some of the information has come to Vinson from other people who have learned about the collection, Vinson completed the majority of the research on his own without financial assistance. He recently developed an exhibit which will travel to Troy State University, Mississippi State, Tuskegee, and perhaps Beach Institute. He receives reference questions from across the country and expects to publish an article on the project. His long term goal is to create an encyclopedia of Afro-American architects.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN LIBRARY
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**

Elizabeth Byrne and Kathryn Wayne hosted a tour of the Environmental Design Library at UC Berkeley. The Library, housed in Wurster Hall, was formed in 1964 and originally consisted of Architecture, Landscape Design, Urban Planning, and Decorative Arts, which has since been dropped.

BERKELEY

(cont.)

The Doctorate is offered in all other areas, and the library serves around 1,100 students, including 400 graduate students.

The collection includes around 165,000 volumes with 15,000 more volumes in storage. The staff weeds the collection annually to alleviate space problems and accommodate current acquisitions.

The staff at the library includes 3 full time librarians, 3.3 support staff, and 5-6 F.T.E. student employees. The staff handles 25,000 questions each year, of which 25% are from non-University patrons. Social Sciences Index and Electronic Sweet's are available on CD-ROM, and the library also has access to MELVYL, the University of California's online catalog, and GLADIS, the Berkeley system. The collection is online from around 1977 forward, and staff are working on retrospective conversion. Staff are also barcoding the collection in preparation for an automated circulation system. The Berkeley campus was beautiful, as was the weather, and after a lovely walk through campus the group travelled back to San Francisco via BART.

ACSA/AASL PANEL DISCUSSION

What should be the role of faculty and students in selecting materials for the architecture library?

Panelists included librarians Tom Henderson (Mississippi State University) and Kathy Brackney (Georgia Tech), Professor William Miller, faculty member from Kansas State University, and Bruno Ghiberti, PhD candidate from UC-Berkeley. Each individual described his/her situation, then the panel responded to questions from the audience.

Kathy Brackney described the formalized committee structure that exists to guarantee faculty input into the selection process. In theory this is a great plan; the reality is that due to lack of time and to personality differences, the system really does not work.

Realizing that this kind of fragmented, unbalanced approach to selection does not work, Kathy has developed her own approach to the situation. "Part of the mission of the librarian is to make sure faculty are involved in a positive manner in acquisitions." She does this by making periodic contacts with faculty, by pre-selecting material and sending it to faculty, and by selecting in their names when she is sure they would want a particular item anyway. For her, this informal system is much more effective than the formal committee structure which exists.

"Ideally, students, faculty and librarians should come together and make informed decisions. In reality, this doesn't happen." Tom Henderson reports that he personally gets little input from the 14 faculty and 300+ students. He does most of the collection development himself, but asks opinions on major purchases and on additions to their special collection of materials on small town planning and planning in the South. Tom reports getting occasional requests from students who have transferred from another school or discipline and are looking for a particular tool they were accustomed to using. Tom has found these to be practical and useful requests. He does get unsolicited requests via marked catalogs, blurbs, and even post-it notes. He estimates, however, that three-fourths of the time the library already owns the request or it is on order. We all love that smug feeling, don't we?

Professor William Miller, as a faculty member and frequent library user, has some very strong feelings about the librarian's role, such as, "There is no substitute for a well-informed, pro-active librarian." While there should be informed discussion between librarian and faculty on "special orders" (such as the expensive Corbusier Archive), the librarian ultimately should make the decisions. He felt that defining the mission of the library was critical. Bill stressed the importance of the librarian's status as being a part of the faculty or a "co-equal" with the faculty. This recognition helps

faculty and librarian to relate on an equal basis. He feels the librarian should attend faculty meetings and be actively involved in school affairs. This was later strongly seconded by a librarian who reported that though she has requested to be allowed to attend faculty meetings, she has met with much resistance.

Bruno Ghiberti feels that faculty and student involvement in collection development should definitely take place, but on an informal level, and that committee work should be avoided whenever possible. One of the first things a librarian can do to encourage student participation in selection, in his opinion, is to let the students know the librarian is interested in what they think and/or want. Building personal relationships is important. Knowing that the librarian's door is "open" is encouraging; many students feel they have no real input. He also suggested that a strong student group (AIAS, for example) can be a good vehicle for input from students, but that nothing can replace these informal one-on-one relationships between students and librarians.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH
ARCHITECTURAL PUBLISHERS**

Representatives from Rizzoli, Butterworths, Oxford, and Princeton Architectural Press each gave a summary of current and forthcoming titles. During the discussion period some of the AASL members commented that:

- * they would appreciate publishers not announcing publications until the date of publication is firm.
- * books with more gutter space and better binding would be helpful.
- * books go out of print too soon.
- * British editions need to be clearly indicated.

The publishers asked:
* How many books do we buy per year?
* How much does cost affect purchasing?
* Do we like dust jackets?
* Do we like square books?
* What out of print titles do we want reprinted?

Richard Rush of Butterworth's, said he would be glad to meet us again next year.

EBook ELECTRONIC LIBRARY OF ART

Judith Jones and Dr. Frederick Jones presented a new CD-ROM product available through their company Ebook, marketed through Ebsco. The product, The Electronic Library of Art, is described as an art and humanities periodical with pictures. Currently available is the first volume (one disc) of the product. Volume One contains 2000-3000 television quality images of painting, sculpture and architecture with a corresponding data-card identifying the artist, title, date, location, etc. Essentially this first disc would be comparable to a slide collection searchable via the fields indexed on the data-card, and manipulable by either faculty or students in preparing an image (slide) presentation. For example, a user could search for images by a particular artist, get a listing of the works available on the disc, then view the images one by one. A user could also capture a set of slides to create a subset of the entire disc which might then be used for a class lecture, or a study session. The hardware needed to run The Electronic Library of Art includes a standard IBM or compatible computer and CD-ROM reader with a color graphics monitor. An extra accessory of about \$300 would allow the images to be projected onto a TV monitor. Images and text may be printed on a black and white laserjet or color inkjet printer. The cost of the product is around \$1500 per year. Each subsequent disc will contain new images and an index to all previous discs. A sample disc is available for \$250. Purchase of The Library allows the owner/institution to reproduce the images for educational purposes. Use of the images for research or publication permission, which may be obtained through Ebook or their source supplier.

One of Ebook's upcoming products is The Electronic Encyclopedia of Architecture and Design. This will be primarily a textual database. Illustrations will accompany the articles. Ebook hopes to have additional discs on furniture history as well as a database of individual architectural projects which would include text and image documentation

Ebook (cont.)

The structure of these would be similar to that of The Electronic Library of Art described above--one to three discs per year each with new information but indexing and referencing the other discs in the set. The Jones' are very interested in the needs and concerns of librarians as they develop their products and seem eager for comments or inquiries. For further information on Ebook contact: Ebook, Inc. 39315 Zacate Ave., Fremont, CA 94538. (415) 794-4816

NAAB VALIDATION

Several conference attendants attended a discussion with Marvin Malecha concerning the validation process of NAAB. Several members of AASL formed a committee, along with representatives from ARLIS/NA, to make recommendations regarding the library review of the NAAB approval process. The Committee sent a proposal to James Barker, Chair of ACSA's Task Force on NAAB Validation. That task force is evaluating NAAB as an accrediting agency and reviewing its criteria and procedures. They will review the proposal for adoption and inclusion in the NAAB Criteria and Procedures handbook. An NAAB Validation conference will be held in September, and the proposal will be presented for final approval. More information will be included in the next newsletter regarding the outcome of the NAAB Validation Conference.

AASL/ACSA 1991 CONVENTION

Washington D.C. will be the site for the 1991 ACSA/AASL Conference. The Conference will be held April 5-9 at the Capital Hyatt. AASL will most likely hold registration early Saturday afternoon (April 6th) and meetings will take place Sunday through Tuesday. As usual, we will be able to attend ACSA programs and are eligible to register for their tours. If you have conference ideas or suggestions for programs, contact Berna Neal, Vice President, AASL, and 1991 Conference Planner.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

ARCHITECTURE LIBRARIAN. The University of Nevada-Las Vegas, a growing urban university with an enrollment of over 16000 students located in metropolitan Las Vegas, is seeking an innovative, service oriented librarian to fill a new position designed to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding program in architecture and allied studies. Position reports to the AUL for Public Services and is responsible for developing and providing branch library services and planning for a new facility; serving as a liaison between university library and architecture program; providing reference, instructional and database services; developing and evaluating architecture collection; performing branch budget and personnel functions.

Applicant must have a Master's degree from an ALA accredited program and a minimum of three years in a progressively responsible professional, public service position in an academic or special library; supervisory and communication skills; flexibility, ability to work independently and to work effectively with patrons and staff. Experience working with in an architecture library; collection development, reference and database experience; and a degree in architecture or a related field are desirable.

Salary range: \$31,113-40,000. Librarians at UNLV have tenure-track positions, 12 month appointments with 24 days per year vacation and standard package of fringe benefits including TIAA/CREF. Applications received by September 15, 1990 will receive first consideration, but applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. Send letter of application; resume; names, phone numbers, and addresses of three references to: Mary Dale Deacon, Dean of Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Conference business meeting minutes and Treasurers report; Washington D.C. Conference update.