

2/20/09 Podcast Transcript: The NEW Interior Architecture Library

<http://iminervapodcast.blogspot.com/2009/02/new-interior-architecture-library.htm>

Remarks for the opening of the Interior Architecture Departments new library

by Mary Jane Conger

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I am here to speak briefly about the organization of this room. I first met Anna Marshall-Baker, Associate Professor in Interior Architecture and saw the lovely space in Feb 2008. We met in here to determine what would be the best way to organize the materials. It soon became clear that it would be worthwhile to share the valuable resources with not just the department but with the university and others who search our online catalogue.

The Dean of Libraries, Rosann Bazirjian, graciously gave my staff and me permission to begin cataloging the materials in Interior Architecture Library (IARC Library). The real work of cataloging and organizing started in mid June. So what does it mean to catalog a library?

When new staff or groups of library science students come to visit the cataloging department the first time I always tell them that the role of the cataloging department is to make order out of chaos. Acquisitions can order all the books, receive gifts, but without cataloging, no one would be able to find anything. We decide on call numbers, describe the physical material, determine subject of material and assign subject headings.

With many emails and meetings, Anna Marshall-Baker, Patty Rowland (Administrative Assistant) and I established the best way to organize and arrange various materials. The first time I brought staff over to work on the collection, it really was trying to make order out of chaos. Books were piled high on the filing cabinet and the floor as well as boxes on the floor. Additional bookcases were brought in. Slowly but surely materials were organized and the books cataloged.

Over the last eight months a dedicated group of cataloging staff and students has steadily chipped away at the various piles. As of February 18, the IARC Library had 1,222 titles in it, composed of 833 books, 68 periodical titles and 12 undergraduate theses and 131 items in the sample section.

While most of the cataloging of the books is completed, work on cataloging the samples is about 50% done. Only a small number of the theses have been done so far. I was mostly responsible for the organizing and coordinating work to establish the library collection and make it available in the online catalog. What you see in the room today would not have happened without the hard work of some talented people in the Cataloging Dept. Jennifer Ormsby and Katherine Nunnally with the help of Stephanie Turner and Jason Alston did the bulk of the actual cataloging for books, serials, and samples. Jennifer and her student assistants Denise McKibben and Callie Moss put all the labels on these materials.

Several in this group built up their muscles by carrying various items between Jackson and here. Paul Hessling offered me valuable advice on how to catalog the samples and undergrad theses. In my

personal experience, I had not had to figure out how to catalog and describe piles of fabric swatches, bricks, wood samples, stones or sample books. Patty Rowland's smiling face and can-do attitude made her a great person to ask numerous questions and relay information to Anna.

As a result of your materials being available in the online catalog and books cataloged using an international database, people outside of Interior Architecture will know of your resources located here. The major push for adding materials in IARC is done. Cataloging was fortunate to have a graduate student and our diversity fellow have a rotation in cataloging their materials. How fast the rest of the materials are added will depend on the availability of funding and the time available to regular staff. We do hope to set up a practicum experience for LIS students interested in cataloging.

Now for a brief description of what you see and highlights of some material:

The call number order is the same as Jackson Library

Oversized at the end

Dvds, cds, and cr rom programs in the next section.

Working section for grad students and cataloging staff

Samples, flooring, walls, furnishing are in this back section against the wall, These are cataloged using the CSI scheme which was new to me. It is the Construction Site Industry scheme so that all flooring materials are shelved together and subdivided by types of flooring, all materials used for walls are together, furniture, etc.

Next is shelving for the Interior Architecture 501 projects which are required for all 5th year students in the project. Older 501 projects are in paper, new are electronic on CD ROMS. Finally there is a display of currently received periodicals. Latest issue is shelved here and latest five years are shelved in the file cabinets.

While cataloging the materials we noticed that quite a few titles were quite rare in that the international database of library materials (OCLC) indicated that only a few libraries had cataloged certain of these titles.

Civic Trust. *The Silver Jubilee Walkway*. London: Civic Trust for the London Celebrations Committee for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, 1977. This is an illustrated guidebook that marks a route through London that was chosen to illustrate the history of the city. It includes an "official" map that is separate from the book. A search on WorldCat shows that few libraries in the US hold this book, and the map was only found at a library in Perth, Australia.

Larsen, Knut Einar. *Architectural Preservation in Japan*. Paris, France: ICOMOS International Wood Committee, 1994. This book holds a letter from the author to Professor Stipe notifying him of the publication of this book, and thanking him for support. The book is found on the East Coast at Harvard Library, but other holdings are the Midwest and West Coast.

Price, Charles F. *A Time that will not Wait; Restoring the Visual Order Guilford County N.C.* Guilford County Planning Board. 196? This is a book that was prepared by the Guilford County Planning Department with a HUD grant. It appears to have been written in the 1960's. This is held in very few libraries in the US, and in NC, only East Carolina and State University maintain copies.

North Carolina and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (*An Interim North Carolina State Plan for Historic Preservation*. Raleigh, N.C.?: State Department of Archives and History?), 1970. A search on WorldCat found three copies of this volume; in NC one is held at NC State, the other at Chapel Hill.

Frank Lloyd Wright/Steelcase A small pamphlet about some furniture Frank Lloyd Wright did for a building called Steelcase. Only two other libraries in the world have this.

Complete Hafele Furniture Hardware, a comprehensive catalog of furniture hardware which only nine other libraries have cataloged and none in North Carolina besides us.

In the DVD section are DVD's on various construction materials such as timber, rubber and plastics, usually only one other library in North Carolina has cataloged these materials.

I think I speak for other in the Cataloging Dept that it has been exciting to watch the unorganized collection be tamed by our skills. We hope that students and faculty will find our efforts helpful in their projects and research. Our plans are to have an ongoing practicum experience for Library and Information Science (LIS) students that LIS students will get hands on experience with organizing and cataloging materials and the Interior Architecture Dept. will continue to have a well organized library containing materials they need for their studies.