

architecture library update



In the past five years, the architecture collection at the UTSA Downtown Campus has doubled. As it continues to grow, more students and faculty should be aware of this valuable asset. Architecture Bibliographer **Gary Woods** wants to emphasize his availability to help students individually.

What made you interested in architecture to start collecting?

I never studied architecture formally but a few years ago I wanted to design my own house. Though I hired an architect, I wanted to be completely active in the process and purchased about one hundred architecture and sustainability related books. I kept my personal collection at my new home but later purchased some of the same books for the library's collection.

How many books were there when you became the Architectural Bibliographer?

When I started five years ago there were approximately 8,000 books and in five years that number has doubled to about 16,000. Our goal is to reach 40,000 which is very possible with our excellent budget but will simply take time. We also doubled our new journal subscriptions and currently have about 35 titles.

How often do you purchase new books for the collection?

I do a lot of searching for out-of-print books at the beginning of the year but continue searching year-round for current titles using online databases such as Alibris. We purchase all new books in English but

ask advice from faculty for older, unknown, or different language titles. About 60% of our budget goes to retrospection buying, which means books or journals that are out of print. The hardest to find, though, are journals from Latin America and very old journals.

How can alumni, local architects, or the general public gain access to the library?

Anyone is free to visit the library. Local professional architects do come sporadically and they are always welcome.

What else would you tell architecture and interior design students about the collection?

I want faculty members to give students my name whenever they see deficiencies in a student's research. It is also important for faculty to know that I can put together a customized workshop on scholarly research in architecture for their classes and studios. I can put together a workshop for history of architecture, architectural practice, finding design precedents, sustainable architecture, and even landscape design and historic preservation. Furthermore, students should realize that we can find them almost any materials they need through Inter-Library Loan (<http://lib.utsa.edu/Services/III/>). One of the most common problems students have with library research is their assumption that they can find architecture resources online when actually about 95% of resources for architecture are available only on paper. Please feel free to visit or call me, Gary Woods, Architecture Bibliographer, or my colleague **Shari Salisbury** Art History Bibliographer; we will meet your needs even with materials we have to borrow.