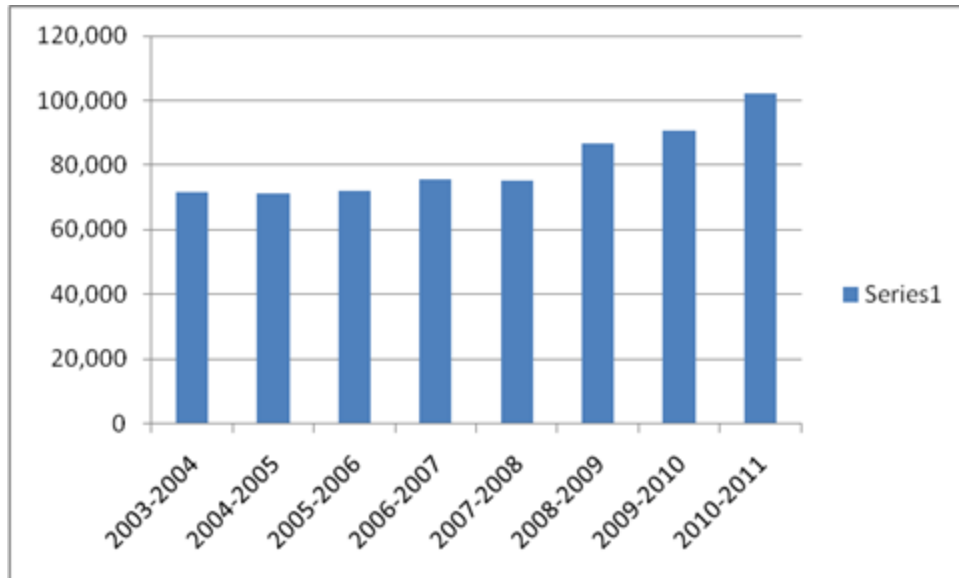


## **Barbara and Leonard Littman Library Annual Report**

*"When I get a little money I buy books;  
and if any is left I buy food and clothes."*

Erasmus of Rotterdam, (1466 - 1536)

Academic Libraries have been increasingly viewed not only as repositories of knowledge but also as educational centers, social places, where users can exchange information and work together, and as sites for exploration and inspiration. The latest seems particularly important for libraries specializing in art, architecture and design. At the Littman Library we are trying to improve access to various scholarly resources, to provide more personalized services focused on patrons' needs and to create an inspiring environment. This goal has been increasingly challenging as for the last few years our budget has remained unchanged while the addition of new programs caused the size of the student body and the number of classes to grow rapidly. (The number of students has increased by almost 9% in 2010-2011 alone.) Nevertheless, our staff strove not to pass along the decrease in funding to our patrons particularly since we've seen an increase in library usage. With support of the administration the Library was able to maintain its 72 hours per week service and has remained a very busy place. Over the course of FY 2010-2011 we saw a nearly 13% increase in visits.



Littman Library visits in FY 2003-2011.

Our students still rely on print materials. Recently revealed data demonstrates that “more books are published now than at any other time in history, and the number of new works published each year is growing fast”<sup>1</sup>. The last year statistics demonstrated that still more than 50% of all university library transactions occur in areas related to the College of Architecture and Design (CoAD) curriculum. This suggests that information resources critical to their fields of study are still typically available only in print format. Unfortunately, given the increasing cost of both print and digital resources our ability to maintain already lower levels of acquisition has been further hampered. We had to cancel several periodicals and slash our funds for book acquisition in order to maintain our subscription to the remaining journals and databases. In 2010-2011 we were able to acquire only 500 titles (compared to 800 in 2009-2010) while the materials to support programs of the School of Art and Design have yet to be funded. This is especially critical as we approach our initial accreditation visits for these new design programs.

<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Shaw “Gutenberg 2.0”, *Harvard Magazine*, May-June (2010):36-41, 82-83.

To increase our acquisition activities we tried to improve access to scholarly materials freely available via the Internet. Records for digitized books, Open Source journals, databases and collections of images are being incorporated into the NJIT online catalog or linked to from the library website. With Dean Gauchat's assistance, the Library received a gift of recent UN Habitat program publications and more books were donated by the college faculty, students and alumni.

We continue to work closely with the CoAD administration and faculty to integrate Information Literacy instruction into the curriculum to help students to build research skills and to be able to meet Middle State accreditation standards. In 2010-2011 the Library managed to expand our operations in



areas related to Information Literacy. A total of 60 information literacy sessions were conducted in 2010-2011 which represented a 36% increase over the previous year. They included classes offered to all freshmen in both

schools as well as course-integrated instruction focused on research for specific history or studio classes. To make instructional materials available even when the library is closed, and to accommodate the needs of those patrons who prefer to learn on their own, we continued to create our Research Guides. We improved their format using LibGuides software and have added guides which cover a variety of topics ranging from instruction on how to conduct research in architecture, art and design, to those designed to support specific courses, such as School of Architecture summer programs in Spain and Italy. Our guides, along with those designed by librarians at the Van Houten Library, are currently available via the Library website at: <http://researchguides.njit.edu>

We continue to further develop our digital projects: [Littman Library Image Database](#) and [Digital Archive of Newark Architecture \(DANA\)](#)



DANA is currently garnering wider recognition and is actively used by NJIT community, visiting scholars, and the general public. We expanded the archive coverage by introducing such categories as "*Buildings*", "*Architects*", and "*Public Art*" and added more textual and visual materials, including those from the collection of the Newark Public Library. Currently we are exploring various options of converting DANA from the browsable website to a fully searchable database.

We continue to maintain both traditional and electronic reserves. The latest were introduced five years ago in response to growing expectations of easy access to the library collection and since then has become very popular among faculty and students.

To advertise our collections and services we continue to distribute newsletters, exhibit book covers and use the [Library website](#) and social media.

The Library maintains its presence on [Facebook](#) where we post information on library materials and services as well as news in architecture, art and design.



It also allows us to keep in touch with both current students and college alumni.

Littman Library is being viewed as a valuable place for research and studying. The majority of respondents to the questionnaire distributed during the "Snap Shot Day", conducted across the state of New Jersey on April 2011 characterized it as "invaluable source of information" with "kind and helpful" staff, which is a "great place to work" that helps students "to stay focused".

We hope to have adequate funding to be able to provide our patrons with resources critical for their research, and to create a library environment, which motivates them to learn cooperation and communication, and helps to inspire.

### **Staff transition**

We were happy to welcome Susan O'Connor who joined NJIT in June 2011 as the new Architecture Library Specialist. Susan holds a BA in English and Visual Arts from Albion College, MI and a Master of Library and Information Science from Rutgers University, NJ. She has educational and visual art background, as well as experience in teaching, publishing and librarianship. Her most recent appointment was at the Bradley Beach Public library where among numerous activities she was responsible for teaching computer classes, publishing newsletters and using social media to advertise library resources and services. Susan brings a number of strengths and valuable expertise which will benefit the library and the College of Architecture & Design at NJIT. Among other things she will provide reference assistance, participate in teaching Information Literacy and in further development of the Littman Library digital projects. Susan will work 12:30-8:30 during the fall and spring semesters and can be reached at 973-596-5755 or soconnor@adm.njit.edu.

### **Professional activities:**

#### **Publications:**

- "*Digital Archive of Newark Architecture*" - a column in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) December 2010 Newsletter (Gervits)

- "*Historicism, Nationalism, and Museum Architecture in Russia from the Nineteenth to the Turn of the Twentieth Century*" in *Visual Resources*, Vol. 27, No. 1(Gervits)
- "*Digital Archive of Newark Architecture*" in *Art Documentation*, Spring 2011. (Gervits and O'Donnell)

### **Conferences and presentations**

- In January 2011 Gervits and O'Donnell participated in the VALE conference "*Strengthening Connections: Keeping Our Libraries Vital*" at Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, in Piscataway, NJ.
- Presentations of *Digital Archive of Newark Architecture* at Rutgers New Brunswick and Rutgers Newark (Gervits).
- In March 2011 M. Gervits participated in the Association of Architecture Schools Librarians (AASL) conference in Montreal, Canada. She is currently involved in design of research guides for the AASL Career Guidance Task Force.

### **Professional Societies**

- **Susan O'Connor** maintains membership with American Library Association (ALA) and with New Jersey Library Association (NJLA), and the Association of Architecture Schools Librarians (AASL).
- **Maya Gervits** maintains membership with the Association of Architecture Schools Librarians (AASL), Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS), Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), and Association of *Historians of Nineteenth-Century Art (AHNCA)*.