

Association of Architecture School Librarians  
2016 Annual Conference Report

Prepared by Viveca Pattison Robichaud, Special Collections Librarian  
Architecture Library, University of Notre Dame  
2016 Recipient of the Frances Chen AASL Conference Travel Award

The 2016 annual conference of the Association of Architecture School Librarians took place early this past March, in conjunction with the Art Libraries Society of North America and the Visual Resources Association's joint conference. Having been a member of ARLIS/NA for some time, and a participant in the Architecture Section, this was my first experience with the Association of Architecture School Librarians. Participating in the conference and meeting the members of the association has left me excited to be a member and eagerly looking forward to next spring when we will all get together in Detroit. Attending this conference proved to be a tremendous experience for me and one that I will remember for years to come.

Having recently joined AASL, when the call for papers went out last summer I was excited to submit my proposal on a project that I have been working on in the Architecture Library at the University of Notre Dame on the historic architecture of South Bend. Last summer my colleagues and I were in the process of working with an architecture faculty member on using our tool, Building South Bend, in the classroom. This faculty member, who also serves as the local director of Indiana Landmarks, was teaching a class on historic documentation in South Bend and he wanted his students to work on still-extant buildings that we had not yet researched and documented during the semester, which would then be incorporated into our project. My proposal for the AASL annual meeting sought to present the Building South Bend project, including providing background on its inception and its current status, as well as discuss how we are able to use this project in the classroom and engage students and faculty in the work that we undertake in the library.

After participating in an engaging few days of the ARLIS/NA + VRA joint conference, I was happy to present my work in the very first session of the AASL Annual Conference, *Building New Models: Library as Learning Lab*. This session brought together interesting ways that architecture libraries are engaging with space to serve their patrons. From the University of Utah, where we were presented with a collaborative way to engage users in the design and renovation process, or how the University of Maryland's Architecture Library is adapting to different methods of access when there is no longer a budget for staffing the library. Hearing about the different ways that librarians are reacting to issues of space and access to their resources certainly peaked my interest, especially considering that we are in the process of designing a new Architecture branch library inside a new School of Architecture building here on the Notre Dame campus in Indiana.

The lightning round *Co-Constructing and Documenting Place* offered the opportunity to see into many different types of libraries in a rapid form. Dan McClure presented on a renovation project that had just been completed at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Stacy Brinkman demonstrated that its possible to change your space effectively without using much funding at all, through repurposing space and furniture from other areas of Miami

University. For Robert Adams at The Boston Architectural College Library, the real use of library resources happened outside of the library with the inception of the mobile studio library. This discussion really peaked my interest and is something I have brought back to my library and am interested in seeing if there is any interest among faculty and students.

I was very honored to have been chosen as the 2016 recipient of the Frances Chen AASL Conference Travel Award and I would like to thank awards committee for their work. I would also like to thank Mar González Palacios and the members of the programming committee, Jessica Aberle, Beth Dodd, and Katie Pierce Meyer for all of their hard work in planning such a successful conference. It served as a great introduction to the Association and I am already looking forward to meeting next year. Having the opportunity to able to engage with my peers in this smaller, more intimate conference, is definitely something that I am looking forward to and am eager to participate more with this Association. Onwards, now, to Detroit!