

## Fine Arts Library Integrated Learning Environment

11/20/04

The College of Fine Arts desires to create a student center on the east side of campus, one that is on neutral territory. The Doty Fine Arts Building (DFA) is that earmarked space. This building currently holds The Dean's office, the art history faculty offices, the Visual Resources Collection, the Career Services Center, a cafeteria, and the Fine Arts Library. Plans have been drawn out to create a desirable food vendor and enjoyable seating/lounging area in the basement of DFA. Currently most students who arrive by bus are dropped off near DFA and have virtually nowhere to nourish themselves. Furthermore, our new DFA could bring students to the building who are not Fine Arts students.

The College and the University of Texas Libraries are interested in collaborating to make DFA the most desirable space possible, not only for social gathering but for studying, learning, and teaching. As the Fine Arts Library occupies three of the five floors in DFA, both administrative bodies have begun to examine how to improve the library spaces.

Many of the changes outlined in this document are obvious and sorely needed. Our patronage has brought much of these changes to our attention, both informally and through formal channels such as libqual. The Fine Arts Library plans on taking additional input from our constituents using the following methods:

- Surveying our users in the Spring with one very important question: How would you like to use the Fine Arts Library space?
- Focus groups in the Spring with graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Fine Arts
- Attending faculty meetings and asking faculty in the College for input

**Seminar rooms.** The Fine Arts Library has three seminar rooms. One that currently holds 25 individuals (DFA 4.104) and two that hold 15 individuals (DFA 4.110 and DFA 4.112). These rooms are used for music classes, CoFA classes, library instruction, doctoral defenses, group listening and viewing, study spaces, and the like. The furniture and equipment are sorely outdated, neither have been updated since the building opened in 1979. The College and the Library have pooled resources to begin to upgrade the audiovisual and computer technology in the larger seminar room. Similar equipment needs to be purchased for one of the smaller rooms (DFA 4.110). All rooms need new furniture that is flexible and works in conjunction with group study and seminar style teaching. Furthermore, as we move towards an environment of hands on learning, 20 laptops need to be purchased for an on-demand hands on classroom in DFA 4.104.

**Media center.** Currently, the Fine Arts Library has 62 carrel spaces which house tv monitors, DVD players, videocassette players, worldwide videocassette players, laserdisc players, u-matic players, compact disc players, audiocassette players, record players, reel-to-reel machines, and slide carosels. There is also a channel listening system that is hardwired into the floor. This area both furniture and some audiovisual equipment needs to be upgraded. Furthermore, we must integrate audiovisual technology with computer

technology and move from the audiovisual playback/viewing model to a media center to both play back, view, and manipulate media while we retain equipment to playback or view older technologies such as u-matic and records. This may mean closing the Fine Arts Microcomputer Lab and integrating some of their specialized hardware and software into our new media center space. Over the years, we have upgraded the audiovisual technology piecemeal and some of it we would incorporate into our new space. We would also continue the individual laptop checkout program initiated by the FAML.

Hand-held technologies. This semester the Fine Arts Library began to check on portable cd players for two hours. This service has been well-received. We are now considering making all audio reserves and image reserves available. We would need to use Windows-based hand-held devices so that we could continue to authenticate the user. (ipod, ipaq, palm os, windows ce)

Furniture. The furniture in the Fine Arts Library consists of carrels and rectangular tables and chairs. The carrels are underutilized and should be replaced with flexible/moveable furniture that can be manipulated for a variety of studying styles. Furthermore, comfortable couches and chairs would make the space much more inviting. We have a set of comfortable chairs and couches right outside the library in the lobby area and those are occupied most of the time.

Writing center. A true learning environment hosts a variety of services for researching as well as improving writing skills. Up to this time, the Flawn Academic Center has been the outpost for the Undergraduate Writing Center. Furthermore, a Graduate Writing Project has been kicked off in the last two years. The Fine Arts Library would be a perfect environment to host both a satellite Undergraduate Writing Center staff member as well as a graduate student involved in the Graduate Writing Project.

#### Fine Arts Library Facts

##### Collections

36,812 cds

4,379 cassettes

470 DVDs

6,639 microfilms

3882 videos and laserdiscs

290,466 books, scores, journal volumes

407,804 total number of items

Historical Music Recordings Collection: 64,222 items cataloged of approximately 400,000 items (one of the largest archival sound recordings collections in the country).

#### Our patrons

	Art and Art History	Music	Theatre/Dance	Totals
Undergraduates	675	313	427	1,415
Graduate Students	137	385	109	631

Faculty	61	73	36	170
Totals	873	771	572	2,216

### Snapshot October 03

Unit charges	321	2.02%
Faculty	2552	16.02%
Professional staff	629	3.95%
Graduate students	7242	45.46%
Classified staff	618	3.88%
Undergraduates	3527	22.14%
Special borrowers	104	.65%
Courtesy borrowers	937	5.88%

### Circulation:

- We have the third largest circulation of materials after PCL and UGL at 258,508
- 40% of our circulation is paged materials (either a/v or reserves)

### Staff:

3 professional librarians  
 8.5 FTE classified staff  
 3 ½ GRAs  
 20 hourly students

### Ideas for furniture

A/V playback and computer pods  
 Comfortable seating  
 Collaborative environments  
 Independent spaces  
 Moveable tables and chairs for three seminar rooms

### Estimates

\$75,000 carpeting  
 \$35,000 gutting what we have  
 \$70,000 furniture  
 \$70,000 technology

Redesign entire third floor. Shoot big, flat panels for all stations, laptops for classroom