

Architecture

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the School of Architecture within the School of the Built Environment. The collections serve all staff and students in the School.

Research interests

The current research areas of the School of Architecture within the School of the Built Environment are listed at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/CME/research/cme-research.aspx> and also include Architecture practice in architectural education

The School has links with other Depts/School most notably Construction Management and Engineering, but also Real Estate and Planning and the School of Art and Communications Design

The current vision in the Operating Plan is “developing the relationship between architectural practice and the construction industry”

There are a number of interdisciplinary areas shared with other subjects, most notably smart sustainable societies, urban design and retrofitting and regeneration.

Dimensions of teaching and learning

Starting with a cohort of 40 undergraduates in 2016 numbers of undergraduates are predicted to rise to approximately 160 by 2019 including a number of international students. Additional numbers of masters and research students will be recruited from 2019.

Current Undergraduate courses (to be prescribed by ARB and in future validated by RIBA) are detailed on the school website: www.reading.ac.uk/architecture. Proposed postgraduate courses start in 2019

Current holdings

The main classification ranges for architecture are 720-729 (architecture and building design including inclusive environments) and construction management 690-699 (building), and 658.99 (construction management) together with general management books in the 650's. The book and journals stock was completely reviewed in 2011 as part of the Library wide

collections project, parts of the books collection updated and pre 1990 journal volumes moved to the off-site Store. Collections are regularly assessed and weeded;

For more detail see the Architecture *Subject guide (planned)*

Books and e-books

Collections of BIM and sustainability titles have increased in recent years.

There has been significant recent growth in access to electronic sources

There are useful titles in the Taylor and Francis e-book collection and via MyiLibrary and e-books are increasingly bought where available. Relevant full-text resources are also available from British Standards Online, Business Source Complete, Construction Information Service and the Institution of Civil Engineers' Virtual Library

Periodicals and e-journals

Many current periodical subscriptions which are directly relevant to Architecture are available electronically. A number of relevant titles are 'shared' with other departments, including Real Estate and Planning and Economics. The Construction Management Resource Centre also has some periodical subscriptions. A School collection of professional and industry magazines is to be established.

Relevant e-journals are available via Enterprise, Summon and the e-Journals Finder. These are part of various subscriptions, bundles and publisher packages including *Wiley Online Library*, *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, *IEEE Xplore*, *Business Source Complete*, [SpringerLink](#), [Cambridge Journals Online](#), [Oxford Journals](#) and EBSCOhost EJS.

Reference materials – print and electronic (inc bibliographic databases)

Significant reference items relating to Architecture in the print collection include: *Knight's Building Regulations*, *Spon's Architects' and Builders' price book* (also available electronically); *Construction Standards Manual* and *RICS Appraisal and Valuation Standards*. There are also a number of directories. The Library also has relevant reference items within its large general science and arts collection - both print and electronic resources such as *Credo*.

Other subscribed reference sources – dictionaries and encyclopedias - are also available electronically and links to freely available key websites such as the *Planning Portal* are included in the subject Guide. Key subject-specific databases are available, e.g. the *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals*, *ICONDA* (International Construction Database), *isurv*, *BCIS running costs*, *BCIS Online*, *Digimap* including contemporary Ordnance Survey maps, *Historic Digimap*, *Geology Digimap* and *Environment Digimap* and several general science and legal databases of relevance. ISI Web of Knowledge which contains the *Science Citation Index*, is useful for calculating journal citation information and h-indexes (a calculation for impact analysis). Additionally the University subscribes to SCOPUS and SciVal for use in research assessments as well as for subject searching and checking the ranking of journals academic staff in the department are published in. See the Architecture, Construction Management and Engineering, Real Estate and Planning and Law subject guides for comprehensive lists <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/architecture> (planned)

Strengths, exclusions and areas for development.

Areas where collections need to be maintained and developed include, for example, twentieth and twenty first century architecture, contemporary building and interior design, sustainable buildings and renewable energy, BIM, large scale infrastructure projects and

socio-technical research. There will be a demand for multiple copies of key texts and they are being bought in increasing numbers. The Course Collection can also be used.

The implementation of the Talis Aspire reading list software is a welcome development and expected to improve the management of the purchase of multiple copies, later editions and new additions to reading lists.

The [University Museums and Special Collections Services](#) (UMASCS) add to the breadth and depth of support for research with collections such as the *Waterhouse Collection*, *Landscape Institute archive and library* at MERL, the recently acquired *DEGW archive* and other collections and archives containing items on architecture, art (including very early art history) and design.

Collecting level

The collections are currently largely at study level with some resources supporting research. Support for undergraduate and taught postgraduate dissertations will be sufficient. The introduction of the Summon discovery tool has improved access to resources and mitigated demand for additional databases.

Research level support has improved through the subscriptions to large ejournal packages of research periodical subscriptions.

We aim to maintain the reference collection with up to date handbooks.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

Inter-Library loans for undergraduates (where necessary), postgraduates and staff are funded by the School. Staff and Research postgraduates in the School order Inter-library loans online via the Library catalogue. Undergraduates and taught postgraduates use a printed form which can be counter-signed by a tutor or supervisor.

Other information resources in the University

The School of the Built Environment has its own Resource Centre for Construction Management which holds a number of periodical titles (mostly trade journals), product information, books, some videos and also MSc, BSc and PhD student dissertations. Some items are bought, or come as a result of a School membership of one of the construction bodies (e.g. CIRIA publications), but many are freebies or donated by staff. The Resource Centre operates independently of the University Library, although close contact between the Liaison Librarian and the Resource Centre Manager is maintained. Overlap between the collections is generally minimal.

Undergraduate and postgraduate courses within the department will be supported by Blackboard.

The Resource Centre in the School of Construction Management and Engineering has a section on the School's Blackboard portal where there is further information on opening hours etc and a link to their e-resources. There is also 24-hour access to a dedicated individual studio work space on the London Road campus.

Use of other libraries

The location of Reading University allows easy access to specialist Library and Information Centres in London and the South East. Examples of such resources that are open to students and staff include: The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), CIOB and IMechE Library.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

Second hand material is only purchased as a last resort if the text required is out of print. Conference Proceedings will only be bought if they are highly relevant. Texts in English are preferred.

Donations of relevant Conference Proceedings are usually accepted.

Some historical texts are retained for research purposes, for example classic works should be kept.

Withdrawal projects focus on areas where teaching and research is no longer happening.

Policy written by Helen Hathaway, Architecture Liaison Librarian, September 2015.