

MAY 2010

From the Editor

Editorial



Welcome to the latest edition of the Arclib Bulletin. Looking at previous editions, it seems de rigueur for the editor to start by saying: "there hasn't been an issue of the bulletin for a while..." This is indeed the case again, but it is anticipated that there will be two issues per year, one in August/Sept which will to review the conference just gone, and one in May.

Belated thanks to Phil

Pearson, the previous editor whose light touch illuminated those bulletins he produced; and thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter, including reviews of last year's Cardiff conference.

I'm very excited to be off to South Africa at the end of June to see a World Cup quarter final in the new Port Elizabeth stadium—a visit purely for architectural research purposes of course.... I hope to see you this July in Portsmouth, when I can tell you all about it!

Feel free to contact me with any articles, reviews, news, photos you have to go in the next newsletter.

Richenda Gwilt

University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury



Diligent Committee members reconnoitre the Portsmouth set-up, May 2010



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ARCLIB 2010

Bookings must be received by Friday 4 June.

See page 3 for full information.

From the Chair

Dear ARCLIB members,

Spring is upon us and ARCLIB is coming to life. Applications for this year's annual conference, organized by our committee secretary Greta Frigens at Portsmouth,

are already open, and this promises to be another stimulating and fun event to look forward to before we all shoot off on our much deserved summer holidays. Meanwhile Joan Shaw, our member-

ship secretary and web developer, has uploaded on our website all those great presentations from last years' conference organized by Sarah Nicholas at Cardiff.

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From the Chair, continued

As I write, Richenda Gwilt, our newsletter editor, is putting the final touches to this newsletter, with all the latest news and, among others, a great article from Sarah on her experience of organizing a conference, which is sure to inspire you to follow her lead!

So, if after reading Sarah's article, revising last years presentations and looking at this year's conference programme, you feel encouraged to organize future ones, I'm very much looking forward to hearing from you! Thanks to our treasurer of many years, Norman Ashfield, ARCLIB finances look very healthy, which in the present crunch is a most agreeable situation.

As life goes on and people's careers evolve, the Committee reluctantly said goodbye to our exiting Chair,

Jane Oldfield, the only Chair that stayed in office for the whole 5 years of her mandate, and to our very long serving members, Hinda Sklar, secretary, and Philip Pearson, bulletin editor. Jane has now moved to new challenges at the London Library, which we hope to be invited to visit, and Philip is now the undisputed Lord of Metadata at Westminster. But they have not abandoned us completely as they have stayed as ARCLIB personal members, and Hinda is also still a member, so we can look forward to seeing them all at future conferences and events. I'd like to thank Jane, Hinda and Philip on behalf of ARCLIB for their support over the years.

I hope we will be able to organize a late spring visit in the time honoured ARCLIB tradition, and look forward to seeing you either then or at the Portsmouth conference in July.

Carla



Carla Marchesan,
Princes Foundation for the
Built Environment

ARCLIB Conference 2009

Cardiff University

Sarah Nicholas organised a very enjoyable, interesting and packed conference in Cardiff last year. My personal highlights were: seeing the secret Art Nouveau room above Burger King on the guided walk; the conference dinner – a wonderful harpist (see Philip's article on p.12), and a very entertaining after-dinner speech from Liz Walder, director of the RIBA Welsh office; the talk from Andrew Roberts of CEBE about architectural education and the crucial role of problem-based learning.

All presentations from the conference are now available via the link on the ARCLIB website: www.arclib.org.uk

There are reviews of the Cardiff conference on pages 10-12, and Sarah's perspective on her experience of being conference organiser is on page 4-5 – it could be you next year...

Richenda Gwilt

ARCLIB 20th Anniversary Conference 2010**Reflections**

University of Portsmouth

Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th July

This year, [ARCLIB is returning to Portsmouth](#) to hold its annual conference. It was back in 1992 when the conference was first hosted here. Undoubtedly the city and the University have changed remarkably since then.

*Portsmouth Cathedral*

The theme is 'Reflections' allowing us to take stock of where we have been and where we are heading - and of course it might conjure up images of the seaside which we promise you will get to visit. If you fancy an early morning swim, the sea is just a 5 minute walk from the accommodation. Bring some jelly shoes, the beach is a little pebbly!

On **Wednesday** evening we will walk through Old Portsmouth to Gunwharf Quays and a guide will take us up the 170 metre tall [Spinnaker Tower](#) to take in the breathtaking views of the area.

At the drinks reception you will meet the University Librarian and the Head of the School of Architecture. After dinner, a stroll along the historic seafront will take us back to the accommodation.

Thursday promises to be a full and interesting day with some talks, workshops and an opportunity to share projects with colleagues. John Paul Nunes, will open the conference with an introduction to the RIBA Education Programme and the day will continue with an educational theme, looking at graduate specification and information handling skills, a map librarian's perspective, the 'Tall



Buildings Site,' from the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, and visual information with VADs. We will be squeezing in an architectural tour by vintage bus too.



The conference dinner will be held in the [Royal Marines Museum](#). (see photo above)

Friday's theme is centred on the internet. We will hear about the ups and downs of social networking and other web developments including Second Life.

To round off the day there is an opportunity to take a relaxing boat tour of [Portsmouth Dockyard](#) with its historic ships and buildings as well as its current naval activities.



For a full schedule and booking form, visit the [Arclib website](#) and navigate to the Conference Programme.

All bookings must be received by Friday 4th June.

You too can host an ARCLIB conference: a personal perspective by Sarah Nicholas

It was under the setting sun of London town, after a thoroughly enjoyable visit to the Laban Centre, that I rashly invited the ARCLIB conference to Cardiff. I blame the happy glow following some excellent food and great company.

Two years later, I played host to 26 ARCLIB members and twelve additional speakers. Those two and a half days of presentations, visits and eating had involved eleven months of planning. Some of the eleven months had been stressful indeed, but I know I gained much more from the experience than a handful of additional worry lines.

So, for those toying with the idea of hosting our next ARCLIB conference, I here's how I feel benefited from it – but first:

The downsides:

- ♦ I was dealing with the introduction of RFID and a minor refurbishment in the Architecture Library at exactly the same time as the conference. In addition to my usual role. I was working long hours, was physically exhausted and occasionally emotional.
- ♦ I couldn't switch off from the conference between January and July and became a 'conference bore' to my friends and family.
- ♦ I'd created my ideal conference but attended almost none of the presentations



The Upsides:

- ♦ The conference really stretched my organisational skills. It REALLY stretched them. And I had to retain so much detail, that my memory muscles had an excellent workout. If you need convincing, just ask me what you like to eat!
- ♦ I am far more confident in my powers of persuasion. I remain astonished at the number and calibre of people who agreed to offer their services for free.

Which is why...

- ♦ ...I gained a renewed belief in others' generosity. Truly the conference was a team effort and it was genuinely heartening to see how many people were willing to help. The conference revived my ability to trust that others would do as I'd asked, something which had been eroded following a few difficult professional and personal episodes. And the camaraderie offered by the ARCLIB committee could not be underestimated!

Continues overleaf.....

You too can host an ARCLIB conference continued

- ♦ Having you all visit gave me the perfect opportunity to showcase buildings that meant a great deal to me. I am desperately proud of the city in which I was born and raised and loved being able to share it.
- ♦ Whilst organising the drinks reception at the Senedd, I came to a greater appreciation of the openness and inclusivity of the Welsh Assembly Government. I'd begun to take this, and its relevance to the day to day life of the people of Wales, for granted.
- ♦ That my organisational skills were challenged and the conference went to plan did not go unnoticed by the higher echelons within my department. Occasional compliments found their way to me. And still do.
- ♦ The conference left me with an enormous sense of personal achievement. Since July 2009, there hasn't been an obstacle I've faced that has felt insurmountable. Undoubtedly, this feeling will pass, but I'm enjoying it for the time-being.
- ♦ The conference fulfilled all my Blue Peter needs. I had good, honest fun laminating signs and making badges.

Has this awakened even the vaguest of desires to have a go yourself? You too could be hosting a friendly (and mostly harmless) group of architecture librarians. Have a chat with someone who's hosted before and make yourself known to the ARCLIB committee. Go on!

Sarah Nicholas

Subject Librarian to Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University



Enjoying the drinks reception in the beautiful Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales. Building designed by the Richard Rogers Partnership.

Architect's Daughter

ARCLIB member Daphne Chalk-Birdsall, Architecture Librarian at London Metropolitan University and daughter of Archigram founding member Warren Chalk, reports from the launch of the Archigram Archival Project at University of Westminster on Monday 19th April.

Archigram Archival Project

The Archigram Archival Project makes the work of the seminal architectural group Archigram available free online for public viewing and academic study. The project was run by EXP, an architectural research group at the University of Westminster. It was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and made possible by the members of Archigram and their heirs, who retain copyright of all images.

More Than 200 Projects are included in the Archigram Archival Project. The AAP uses the group's mainly chronological numbering system and includes everything given an Archigram project number. This comprises projects done by members before they met, the Archigram magazines (grouped together at no. 100), the projects done by Archigram as a group between 1961 and 1974, and some later projects.

You can view the archive at: <http://archigram.westminster.ac.uk/>



Warren and Phyllis Chalk: two architects who met at Croydon, London County Council.

Archigram Archive launch this went much better than expected despite two members holed up in NY due to volcanic ash!

The Westminster Uni's network had crashed all day so Clare Hamman the Project Officer was on 'tenter hooks' waiting for the link to the internet to be connected.

Eventually they got it up and running by 8pm (we were all quite merry by this time).

The intro. was done on Skype from a NY flat with Dennis and 'Spider' Webb using gadgetry that was very in the moment and of the time. Peter Cook was there in person, with his visual review on the 'afterburn of Archigram', keeping the spirit alive by urging us on with his challenge for more risk taking creativity and exploration.

David Greene and his wife Jane Mary, Fraser Murray, Kester Rattenbury, John Bold, Simon Herron and his family, Kate Herron who were all on the Steering Group welcomed guests.

I was there with all my family and Gail Murray, my sister and her family were there too. Plenty of champagne and wine flowed with generous supply of canapés so it was very enjoyable.

Old colleagues joined together such as Diane Jowsey, Hazel Cook, Tony Dugdale, and Dennis Postle. Colleagues like Catherine Phillpotts, Architecture Academic Liaison Manager and Anne Markey from the ASD Project from London Met. Uni., were among the many who came along.



Zoom Amazing Archigram 4 drawn and designed by Warren Chalk.

From little acorns . . . growing an architecture collection at the University of Limerick

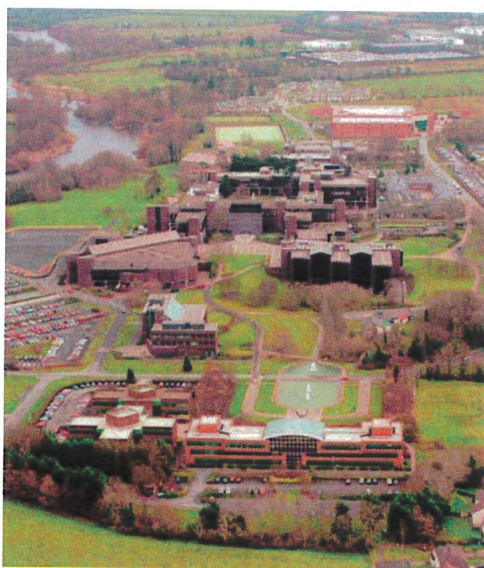
The School of Architecture (SAUL) at the University of Limerick (UL) in the Republic of Ireland enrolled its first students in September 2005. In the five years since then the University's Glucksman Library has grown a small but carefully selected collection of art and architecture books.

The School of Architecture at UL is located in a rural landscape along the banks of Ireland's longest river, the Shannon. Most architecture schools have been traditionally located in cities. This rural environment at UL plays a strong role in the pedagogical approach of the school, and gives students a holistic understanding of the problems posed by the use of an environment. The head of school, Prof. Merritt Bucholz, in a 2005 interview expressed a wish that everyone could study architecture so that society would become more attuned to the built environment.

The programme at UL is a 5-year undergraduate degree in architecture. The objective of the school is to educate architects with a strong set of integrated skills, balanced with the



environment - built, existing and imagined - and vital to professional practice. The programme has approximately 25 students in each year and we hope to graduate our first class of architects later this year. As an integral



part of this programme's history and future the

Glucksman Library is working on the development of a strong and unique library collection while also pursuing elusive classics on the second-hand market.

The University of Limerick currently has 11,500 students and the Glucksman Library is home to the materials for all programmes. Finding space for outsized architecture books was the most immediate physical challenge that the library faced. Ultimately we found ourselves on the top floor of the building.

Armed with the ASLIB Guide to Information Sources in Architecture and Construction, valuable input from an architecture librarian colleague and significant guidance from the newly appointed Professor of Architecture, Merritt Bucholz, we set about building a new architecture collection. In addition to collecting the works of major designers, we aimed to develop an Irish architectural strength in our collection.

Continues on next page...

From little acorns growing an architecture collection at the University of Limerick continued

The initial phase consisted of identifying and acquiring 1,500 titles under the headings of:

- ♦ modern and contemporary
- ♦ architectural and aesthetic theory
- ♦ arts
- ♦ Irish
- ♦ pre-modern
- ♦ landscape
- ♦ planning
- ♦ practice
- ♦ representation

Phase two involved the purchase of approximately 3,500 specialised monographs. With faculty consultations and extensive contributions from our humanities librarian we identified, priced, ordered, catalogued and shelved approximately 75% of the titles we set out to acquire. Every department in the library interacted with these new books as an architecture collection became a reality at UL.

Our goal now is to mature and deepen the collection, constantly updating our resources with international and contemporary architectural monographs. The Glucksman Library is a copyright deposit library and as such is entitled to receive a copy of all new Irish publications thus allowing us to develop a unique Irish perspective in our collection. The School of Architecture is located within the Faculty of Science and Engineering and will benefit from purchases of monographs in:

- ♦ drawing and architectural education
- ♦ engineering structures
- ♦ materials
- ♦ planning and urban studies
- ♦ ecology
- ♦ energy and design

Our greatest challenge is to acquire out of print material. Inevitably, we rely heavily on inter library loans for hard to source material. This is frustrating for our students. Moreover, our journal subscriptions are in their infancy as they began at the same time as the school. It is a long term goal to purchase complete back runs of significant titles. Our use of electronic resources is limited to bibliographic databases for the most part but we subscribe to ARTstor, Grove ART, and the Avery Index.

We are pleased that usage reports on our architecture collection show a higher than average turnover for the architecture books, which indicates a successful collection supporting a dynamic and involved student body. The Library participated in the RIAI accreditation * process earlier this year and is actively involved in acquiring sets of drawings as required by the School of Architecture.

We have reached a critical point in the development of this collection. We face 2010/2011 having utilised fully the generous donation that has allowed us to proceed this far. As with all other disciplines we are looking to central university funding for future acquisitions. Our wish list of monographs continues to grow, alongside our longer term goal of acquiring specialist items with which we hope to distinguish our collection.

In the immediate future, we continue working towards our objective of carefully building this very ambitious architecture collection for our University and for our region.

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From little acorns growing an architecture collection at the University of Limerick continued

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* The Architecture course at the University of Limerick was granted 'Provisional Approval' by the RIAI in 2006. The RIAI will re-visit each year



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ARCLIB Treasurer

Due to impending retirement, we have a vacancy for a treasurer, after the finances of this year's conference has been concluded in the autumn. There have only been two people covering the post so far - Ian Mayfield and Norman Ashfield, and we have one expression of interest in continuing the tradition.

Is there anyone else with a crusading desire to manage the accounts, which through the generosity of members and by prudent housekeeping, ARCLIB has been fortunate to keep well in the black up until now?

Contact Greta Friggens, the ARCLIB secretary: greta.friggens@port.ac.uk

ARCLIB Committee



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ARCLIB 2009 Cardiff Conference reviews

This was my first time in attendance at the Arclib conference and I found it an invaluable experience with a varied program of speakers. The theme to this year's conference was 'Librarians as educators' and the morning session began with a presentation by Katya Hoskins from Cardiff University who spoke about the subject of dyslexia and learning differently. The speaker said she had learnt more about education from working with dyslexic students than any other group of students and explained that studies show that dyslexics have above average spatial and visual literacy, which could explain why there are high numbers of dyslexic students in design subjects.

There are many common barriers to learning for dyslexic students: poor design of printed text, use of capitals, justified text, being asked to read out loud with no preparation – all traditionally designed methods and learning materials. We (librarians) were urged to anticipate these needs when designing learning activities, and this would benefit all students not just dyslexics. It was emphasised that librarians should aim for diversity of learning and high expectations for all students; it is also crucial that we have a tolerance for error: if it is anticipated that mistakes will be made then this can be supported and planned for in our lessons – this is crucial so that students do not feel vulnerable and are able to turn their mistakes into opportunities for learning.

Andrew Roberts from CEBE (Centre for Education in the Built Environment) spoke about CEBE and its website, which has great resources to assist teachers to teach and students to learn, plus 2 online journals – *Transactions* and *GB*.

Andrew spoke about issues in the education sector which affect student learning: for example the 'mini-me' culture where a master designer tries to create architects in his image. The way forward is to move towards inclusivity in the field with principles and questions regarding student led and teacher led ideas, artistic or evidence based endeavours, knowledge or values and transmission or knowledge or integration of training.

The curriculum content of Architecture & Design courses is growing, with sustainability, new technologies and new professional criteria on the agenda; this is pitched against less time, more students and the need to encourage research skills. Research led and problem based learning with problem solving and project work as an alternative to lectures are effective ways of adapting, and many of these techniques fit very neatly with developing research/information skills with architecture librarians taking a pivotal role.

Andrew Baldwin – Civil Engineering student's information seeking strategies

At Loughborough University within the department of Civil & Building Engineering there was a one year project funded by CEBE to review students searching strategies.

The project started with a review of existing literature relating to information searching, module specifications were reviewed, and previous dissertations were looked at to review the number and range of references used and grades achieved for the dissertations.

To record the students' searching strategies, the project team used Camtasia, a screen capture software tool. 54 students took part and 90% responded that they felt the literature review process was important. Before undertaking the online searching exercise, students reported they felt very confident in recognising bias, and anticipated problems of information obesity.

Results revealed that when searching online, students moved rapidly between different sources, on average using ten words per search session. They searched for the same terms in different databases, narrowing searches by adding more terms and widening by subtracting terms. Problems that impeded their on-line searching behaviour were the lack of training and issues related to information overload. The exercise highlighted difficulties with selecting appropriate databases to search in Metalib, selection of appropriate keywords, evaluating results, authentication issues, inconsistent presentation of summaries and access to full text not always possible. These are all things that we as librarians aim to teach students in our sessions with them.

Emma Mires from the University of Westminster



Outside the Cardiff Uni halls of residence

Cardiff Conference reviews continued

Greta Friggens – Enhancing online learning environments

Greta spoke about the importance of learning to think visually starting with mind maps and holistic ways of thinking; she also extended this to the physical environment with displays of student work and encouragement between peers.

At Portsmouth they have a voluntary induction – with the goal of communicating what the library & librarian can do for them (student focused). There is also an aim to assist lecturers in enhancing online information via visual information. Greta runs sessions to educate lecturers on image resources and also organised additional sessions in how to incorporate visual information into the VLE with copyright information.

In addition to this Portsmouth have a resource which is called 'Findit@Portsmouth', which has video clips and short learning objects for students and lecturers to engage with. They liaise with lecturers to find out what they think students should be learning at different stages of their course. There is also another resource called 'Prep-up' for students who are considering applying with information about the course and library as well as other social networking facilities – this is useful as it allows the students to interact with the library before they begin their studies.

Keith Wilson, Technical Information Director, RIBA Enterprises -

Postgrad learning and development: a librarian's contribution to CPD

Keith began by discussing definitions of CPD within the construction industry and elaborated on the need for architects, and other professions, to maintain their 'integrity'. He emphasised how RIBA can provide support and resources through the British Architectural Library; CPD Department; the CPD Providers Network; the RIBA Regions; RIBAnet, the online community for RIBA members; and new initiatives and resources such as RIBA Knowledge Communities and RIBApedia.

A wealth of other resources are available to architects, including: special interest groups; other professional institutes; research bodies providing resources, such as BSRIA's webinars on topics such as: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems; blogs, such as Paul Finch's Letter from London; NBS' Learning Channels; BD Online; LinkedIn; public broadcasts, such as Bath University and BRE's Innovative Construction Materials, to name but a few.

CPD has many benefits on a personal and interpersonal level and makes commercial sense too. Individuals are encouraged to develop lifelong professional skills which allow them to work in a context of professional sympathy, with added benefits: increasing confidence and credibility; opportunities for showcasing achievements and earning more; providing handy tools for appraisals; achieving development goals and embracing change. CPD encourages individuals to adopt evaluative, reflective and evidence-based practice, resulting in the synthesis of growing knowledge and experience. Several practices have provided feedback on their experience of the benefits of CPD, such as Hawkins Brown in the July 2009 issue of RIBA Journal. I have been impressed by the practice and CPD related articles that feature regularly in journals such as Architect (Washington, DC).

Keith concluded his discussion by returning to the question of the librarian's role and influence in the process of CPD, raising several very interesting points for consideration. It is important to get students to consider themselves as future alumni who should regard their institutes as a continuing source of information and support. Librarians can feed into postgraduate support by working with practices and collaborating with the RIBA Regions; by providing extension activities for information literacy programmes; by supporting their HEI's employer engagement strategy and through research engagement with the results of HEFCE studies. We are in a strong position and should be competing in the online CPD environment.

Alison Chew, Assistant Librarian, RIBA

Cardiff Conference reviews continued

Nigel Morgan & Sonia Haerkoenen – Cephalonian method

Nigel & Sonia demonstrated an original technique for library induction/orientation used in large groups. They had decided to revamp the traditional induction technique to inject spontaneity, and to encourage attendance at later IL sessions. The format is very interactive with the illusion of being student delivered, humorous and interesting and to present librarians in a favourable light. The idea and name came from a colleague's experience of a questions session in Cephalonia. Coloured cards with questions on are distributed to students at the beginning of the session, and each of these questions coincide with a pre-prepared slide.

Potential pitfalls of the technique can be that it is unpredictable for presenter, shy students (ask if students are happy to contribute at the beginning of the session), audibility, colour perception (write the colour on the slide as well) and preparation time. The advantages are that it forms a good icebreaker, versatile, encourages creativity, each session is unique and it is a non linear approach ideal for the web generation. Students did react very positively to the technique with 98.1% considering it an effective introduction to the library, 79% thought it would be beneficial to attend further IL sessions based on this experience.



The Conference dinner at the fabulous National Museum of Wales. (Harpist out of shot)

Harping on

To me there is no instrument more architectural than the harp. It sweeps; it imposes; its harmonic curve insists its grace. Others may propose the piano, but I find I can never get past its mechanical nature. The piano is a feat of engineering to be sure, but because of that it sits there like a machine. The harp is the Eloi of the instrumental world. It sits in Elysian Fields, whilst the piano sits in the midst of the Industrial Revolution. The other strings may try to compete, but their pizzicato pretensions are a pale imitation.



Siân Angharad Williams provided an excellent evening's entertainment and admirably demonstrated its range power versatility subtlety and tone. For one, I could have sat there all evening and listened, and I think I'm not the only person there charmed into buying one of her CDs. As it happens, I was so charmed I even acquired a harp (pictured) on which to do some learning, though it is much smaller without the rather impressive pedals. Siân performed a wide variety of music, from folk to classical (though I didn't notice any jazz), all of which suited the event. I was also interested to see the 'fake' book (goodness knows why such things are so called) she has collected together, which enabled her to spring into action on (most) of the requests she received from the audience.

Many thanks to Siân for a wonderful evening, and to Sarah for organizing it.

Philip Pearson, University of Westminster