
**DRAFT - SUBJECT
TO CHANGE, WITH
MORE SESSIONS
TO BE ADDED**

**ARCLIB
Conference 2026**

Abstracts and
biographies



Our Lady and St Nicholas, Liverpool
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Working with student partners: improving engagement with architecture resources

Date TBC | Time TBC

In this talk, Liz will provide background on Manchester Met's collaboration with student partners and the variety of work and projects they have done with the Academic Engagement and Teaching Services Team and other teams within the Library. This has provided library staff with valuable insights into students' perceptions of the library, enabling the use of this feedback to enhance library spaces, teaching sessions, and online tutorials.

Liz will then share her experience of working with one of the student partners, who is conveniently a MArch student, on a variety of projects including collating a resource list of architectural resources from India, reviewing teaching material and gathering feedback on how architecture students use print journals.

Liz Peet

Liz is an Academic Liaison Librarian at Manchester Metropolitan University with responsibility for the Manchester School of Architecture, Sociology and shared responsibility for the School of Digital Arts.

Walking tour: The Merchants & The Masterpiece

Friday 3 July | Time TBC

A bespoke walking tour focussing on the architectural powerhouses of the Waterfront, Castle Street, Dale Street, and the St George's Quarter.

The Waterfront: A study of the "Three Graces" and the evolution of the Pier Head.

The Civic Heart: We'll explore the stunning bank buildings and commercial heritage of Castle Street and Water Street.

The Culture Quarter: St George's Hall, the Museum, and the Walker Art Gallery.

We'll conclude the tour by calling into Liverpool Central Library to visit the Oak Room. Here, we'll view Audubon's Birds of America - seeing one of the world's most significant plate books in its magnificent architectural home is always a standout moment for librarians and historians.

ArtsGroupie

ArtsGroupie is a Liverpool based community interest company that is promoting and providing access to the arts in the North West and beyond.

We achieve this through developing our own touring theatre and music productions, and by facilitating educational workshops for both adults and children in creative writing and spoken word.

Ethically, our productions are created in collaboration with local artists to champion North West talent. We then take theatre and writing showcases to overlooked areas where access to the arts is limited. This has previously included Liverpool's most deprived areas and rural areas nationally.

Our workshopping and educational opportunities for the community have previously been taken to schools and community hubs in Liverpool. As an organisation we have a particular interest in producing and promoting work that champions women, older people and the LGBTQA+ community, and our work promotes positive attitudes towards these groups.

RIBA Library & Collections: On the move

Date TBC | Time TBC

The RIBA Library & Collections are undergoing a series of complex moves, with the Library and Photographs collection having left 66 Portland Place for the refurbishment of the building, and the upcoming move of the Drawings & Archives collections from the V&A.

Interim services allowing continued access to the books, journals and photographs collection are now underway through a partnership with The London Archives and at a RIBA store based at Crown Fine Art, in Stockwell. Interim services to allow access to the RIBA Drawings & Archives Collection will be set up at The National Archives.

Dr Adrian Steel, Director, Library and Collections, and Cathy Wilson, RIBA Library Services Manager, will discuss how these temporary services were planned and set up and in particular how we foregrounded the needs of our users throughout. We'll outline the interim services, problems encountered and lessons learnt so far, hoping that this may help others who may find themselves having to deliver a temporary relocation and service.

Adrian Steel

Dr Adrian Steel is Director, Library and Collections, at RIBA. He joined the organisation in 2018 and has had responsibility for the RIBA's 4.5million item historic collections on architecture as well as the Library, Digital Services, Public Programming, Learning and Fundraising. A qualified archivist, Adrian had a number of professional roles before in 2003 joining the postal heritage charity which became The Postal Museum, becoming its Director in 2009. As Director, he led the creation of The Postal Museum and Mail Rail ride in Central London which opened in 2017, including raising capital funding and creating a new archive/research service for the histories of the post, Royal Mail and the Post Office.

Cathy Wilson

Cathy Wilson is an experienced library professional, who has worked in a number of roles at the RIBA Library and in the RIBA Drawings & Archives Collections since 2004. Principally she has provided support to RIBA members, researchers, architectural students, the public, and RIBA staff on all aspects of the built environment, construction and architectural industries. She has a wide knowledge in current architectural practice, legal and regulatory standards, and a particular interest in the RIBA's institutional history, the development of the architectural profession, and the history of women in architecture. She became Library Services Manager at the end of 2024.

Teaching information literacy to architecture students in a post-truth society

Date TBC | Time TBC

Traditional methods of teaching information literacy have not kept pace with the habits of information users, nor a multitude of widely-used techniques designed to trick the eye and mind, such as artificial intelligence, altered images, and media manipulation.

Rather than relying on the traditional time-consuming and difficult processes that many students already ignore or only grudgingly follow, educators would do well to arm students against misinformation and improve their critical thinking by focusing not on the facts presented but the way the students individually process those facts. By teaching students to examine how and why they value, organize, and either accept or reject information, instructors can prepare them to engage more deeply with their data and address it from multiple perspectives in their output.

This paper will summarize changes in information literacy instruction at the University of Houston's Architecture, Design, and Art Library and offer a framework for presenting the qualities of misinformation, methods of disinformation, and the psychology of information processing.

Catherine Essinger University of Houston

Catherine Essinger is the Head of the William R. Jenkins Architecture, Design, and Art Library at the University of Houston. Her published work appears in Collaborative Librarianship, Cite, the Texas Library Journal, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture News. She also contributed a chapter to the Handbook of Art and Design Librarianship for Higher Education. She presented papers at the Association of Architecture School Librarians conferences in both the United States and Canada, as well as the Art Libraries Society of North America, and ARCLIB in the United Kingdom.

They say they love us, but do they? Early findings from an architecture faculty survey

Date TBC | Time TBC

Architecture librarians are often asked to support two very different worlds: the fast, visual pace of studio teaching and the more traditional expectations of academic research. We hear “we love the library” a lot, but what does that actually mean in practice, and what do faculty really want from us?

In this talk, Sara Mautino, Amy Hunt, and Stefanie Hilles share early themes from a multi-institution survey of American architecture faculty perceptions of architecture libraries and librarians. We will sketch our method and highlight the patterns emerging in faculty language about student research, teaching support, and “library value.”

We’ll wrap up with take-home ideas you can use right away: questions that open better conversations with faculty, studio-friendly information literacy micro-interventions, and simple approaches to showing impact without turning your life into spreadsheets.

Consider this the trailer for a longer publication to come, with plenty of usable takeaways.

Sara Mautino

Oklahoma State University

Sara Mautino is an Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University and the Architecture and Design Librarian for OSU Libraries, where she has managed the Cunningham Architecture Library for the OSU School of Architecture since 2021.

Stefanie Hilles

Miami University

Stefanie Hilles is the Arts and Humanities Librarian at Wertz Art and Architecture Library at Miami University, where she liaisons to the art, architecture and interior design, and theatre departments, manages their collections, and instructs information literacy sessions.

Amy Hunt

Oklahoma State University

Amy Hunt is the library coordinator at the Cunningham Architecture Library for Oklahoma State University Libraries.

Collaborative teaching in civil and architectural engineering: or, *With a little help from my friends*

Date TBC | Time TBC

Clair will share her experience of collaborative teaching on a first-year project module with academic colleagues from Civil Engineering and Architecture. Students work in groups to plan low-cost solutions to real-world design challenges, run by Engineers Without Borders, based in Kibera, Kenya.

This year, the teaching programme was redeveloped to expand the time given for library input on information discovery, critical awareness and referencing. Uniquely, the students are given access to the University's reading list system (Talis Aspire) to share the resources they've found within their groups and to help format their references.

Library staff are also invited to give feedback to students when they make interim and final group presentations which in turn give us an insight into how effective the teaching has been.

As the title of this talk suggests, there may be more references to Beatles song titles throughout the presentation, *From me to you!*

Clair Sharpe

University of Liverpool

Clair (she/her) has been a Liaison Librarian at Liverpool for longer than she cares to remember, with responsibility for the School of Environmental Sciences, and shared responsibility for the School of Engineering and the Department of Chemistry for good measure.

Hearing *Eyes of the Skin*

Date TBC | Time TBC

Have you ever considered what it might be like to reimagine the concept of a book? As we stand on the precipice of the 4th Industrial Revolution, how can we encourage students to move beyond the AI summary and find value in the effort of immersion in a good book?

I would like to share my experience of collaborating with academics, students, an architect, and a musician in creating an audio soundscape of Juhani Pallasmaa's seminal architectural text, *The Eyes of the Skin*, originally published in 1996. Might this approach encourage students to connect with this poetic and important text?

Greta Friggens

University of Portsmouth

As Faculty Librarian for Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Portsmouth, I enjoy the freedom to work with a diverse and interesting range of subjects, staff and students. Where possible, I try to reflect the nature and creativity of the studio within library workshops, challenging myself to incorporate elements of multimodal learning to stimulate participation and engagement.