

LibQUAL+ Survey Analysis of Comments re: Architecture Library Summer 2003

I. Physical Environment

>> FACULTY / STUDENT COMMENTS:

- *"I would like to see more spaces that will allow for quiet individual study as well as for group discussions."*
- *"The architecture library is absolutely NOT conducive to quiet, individual study....there are signs but they're not enforced, people feel free to roam around, socialize and talk on their cell phones in the library, ridiculous!..I need the library for research and study! please help!"*
- *"It would also be nice to have dome lounge-type seating within the architecture library for more comfortable reading."*

>> LIBRARY'S RESPONSE:

Space in the Architecture Library is very limited. An expansion of the library is needed in order to provide additional space for quiet, individual study, as well as group study facilities. Since expansion is unlikely in the near future, we must continue to make the best possible use of existing space. The biggest challenge is accommodating 42,000 volumes in a facility designed for a maximum of 20,000! A shift of the entire collection will be completed this summer, in order to relieve overcrowding in the stacks, and allow for more growth. This will NOT displace any seating. At present, the library has 16 tables, which seat 64 persons; 12 individual study carrels; and 15 individual workstations in the computer lab. The carrels and workstations are seldom completely occupied, so the demand for individual study space is usually met. Unfortunately, there is not enough room in the current facility to create group study or lounge areas. Despite this, students occasionally occupy the tables for group discussions. These conversations inevitably disturb other patrons. Therefore, the Architecture Library does not permit group study, or the use of cell phones. Library employees are expected to enforce these rules. Please urge your fellow students to follow them. With everyone's cooperation, we will maintain an atmosphere conducive to quiet study and research.

Students seeking facilities for group study will be pleased to learn that plans are underway for state-of-the-art group study accommodations in the Main Library. An anticipated expansion of the Library West Commons will provide exciting new rooms and work spaces for groups on the 2nd floor West. Renovation may begin next spring, with a possible opening date of Fall, 2004.

II. Equipment

>> FACULTY / STUDENT COMMENTS:

- *"I wish there was more library like computers in the Architecture library [so] as not to take over the lab computers used for design to do word process[ing] or other work not related to Arch[itecture]."*

>> LIBRARY'S RESPONSE:

The five GTEL workstations at the service counter meet the current demand for access to the Library's catalog and databases. Additional workstations are unnecessary at this time. These computers are not intended for word processing, e-mail, etc. The equipment in the Architecture Library's computer lab will be upgraded this summer by the College of Architecture (which operates the lab). The current computers are outdated. This is the reason students use them

primarily for e-mail and word processing. Although the new computers will be equipped with high-end software, the College of Architecture presently has no plans to restrict their use to design-related applications.

III. Collections

>> FACULTY / STUDENT COMMENTS:

- *“However, both the architecture and the history collection, the two fields I use most at the library, are outdated.”*
- *“...also the book collection is lacking up to date books in our field of study, architecture.”*
- *“The architecture library collection is limited.”*
- *“The architecture library lacks volumes related to Industrial Design. There is a very small collection and much of it is dated.”*

>> LIBRARY'S RESPONSE:

The Library strives to provide the latest books in architecture and related fields (industrial design, building construction, and urban planning), to meet the instructional and research needs of the College of Architecture's academic programs. This has been difficult in the past year, due to state budget cuts. However, we were able to purchase many new books with funds from the Preston Stevens Endowment. Overall, the collection grew by nearly 800 volumes.

It is important to note that the industrial design collection is split between the Architecture Library and the Main Library. The Architecture Library does not have room to house the entire collection. The best way to find books on this subject is to search the Library catalog. The location of a particular item is indicated in the catalog.

You can help us identify specific areas of the architecture and industrial design collections which may be deficient. Please contact Kathy Brackney, the Architecture Librarian (kathy.brackney@library.gatech.edu, 404-894-4877) with suggestions for improving these collections. Recommendations for book purchases are always welcome. You may submit them online via our web site: <https://www.library.gatech.edu/architect/> (Click on “request a purchase”).

IV. General

>> FACULTY / STUDENT COMMENTS:

“The Architecture Library as a satellite is vital to maintain.”

>> LIBRARY'S RESPONSE:

The College of Architecture is very fortunate to have the only satellite library on campus. Architecture students and faculty, in particular, recognize the importance of the Architecture Library to instruction and research. Its continued existence should not be taken for granted. It is important to express your support for maintaining the Architecture Library, and lobby for expansion of the current facility.

