

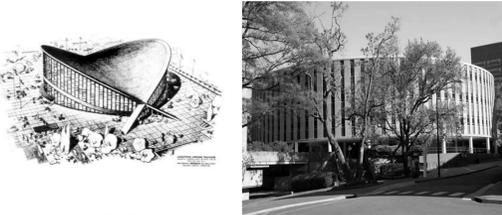
Changing the Landscape of Architectural Records Processing

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Project

Proposed
 2-year, CLIR-funded project to arrange, describe, and make available six modernist architect and landscape architect collections:
 40,000 original drawings + project files
 Approximately 1,200 linear feet



Accomplished
 Year 1: Processed all six of the proposed grant collections, which measured 1336 linear feet
 Year 2: Processed 43 additional collections measuring 1089 linear feet, for a 2-year total of 49 collections and 2425 linear ft.

Methods

(1) Consulted with potential users about which metadata are most important to them.



(2) Adapted and applied *Standard Series for Architecture and Landscape Design Records: A Tool for the Arrangement and Description of Archival Collections* by Kelcy Shepherd and Waverly Lowell and "More Product, Less Process: Pragmatically Revamping Traditional Archival Processing" by Mark A. Greene and Dennis Meissner



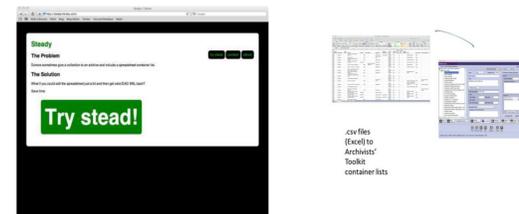
(5) Collected and used information from a variety of sources, especially donors and, in one case, an appraiser.



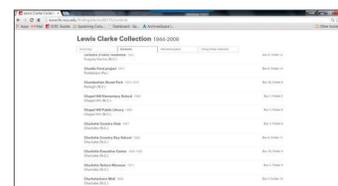
(6) Improved storage of architectural collections.



(7) Collaborated with digital libraries staff, who created a script that allowed us to be much more efficient in creating container lists and thus, finding aids.



(3) Described material at project level.



(4) Had student workers collect information as they re-housed drawings and files



(8) Collaborated with building services staff, who built a cart that allowed us to move large drawings more easily and safely



Challenges and benefits of processing architectural collections

Benefits

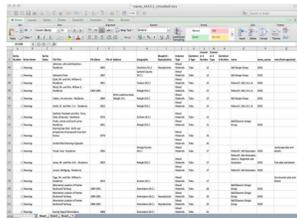
- These collections are critical to understanding the environment in which people live, work and define their community
- They have wide appeal and research value beyond the field of architecture
- They document professional activity and are artistic artifacts

Challenges

- Architectural drawings are large and therefore require a great deal of space for both processing and long-term storage
- Architectural collections tend to be large as practicing architects are required to save materials for legal purposes
- Large amounts of supplies are required for most architectural collections and the supplies themselves are large
- Cost of processing large collections of large materials

Goals

1. Streamline methods of collecting and recording data and of creating finding aids.



2. Improve the physical processes of moving and storing collections.



For further information

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