

Route to 66: 66 Years of Arts Library History

This year marks the sixty-sixth anniversary since the UCLA Arts Library first opened its doors to the public in February of 1952. Originally dedicated to serving the then new art and art history departments, the Art Library later absorbed the Architecture and Urban Planning Library and the Theater Arts Library to form the Arts Library in 1991, eventually moving from Dickson Art Center to the Public Affairs Building in 2002. Today, it is home to a number of unique collections in the areas of architecture, architectural history, art, art history, design, fashion and costume, film, television, photography, theater, and urban design. This exhibit showcases just a few highlights from current and historical collections as well as selected pieces of ephemera that reveal how this singular library came to take the shape that it has today.

1952
UCLA Art Library begins operations in new art building (today's Perloff Hall) led by its first librarian, Mary DeWolf; holds 2,650 volumes

1965
Fourth copy of the Princeton Index of Christian Art established at Art Library

1977
Holds 52,220 volumes, 867 current serials, 46,626 pamphlets and microfiche/film

1991
Collections from Architecture and Urban Planning Library and Theater Arts Library transferred to combined Arts Library

2002
Arts Library moves from Dickson Art Center to Public Affairs Building

2018
Holds 300,000+ volumes in Arts Library and Southern Regional Library Facility

1952

2018

1961
Elmer Belt Library of Leonardo da Vinci's complete facsimiles transferred to Art Library, adding 10,000 volumes, 1,500 which are rare

1966
Art Library moves to second floor of Dickson Art Center; holds 16,162 volumes

1984
Judith Hoffberg collection acquired, materials span 1960-1984 including 2,200 volumes and supporting materials and archives

ca. 1985
UCLA Art Library designated as UC resource for artists' books

1995
Additional 1,500 titles acquired from Judith Hoffberg; Robert Heinecken donates personal library

2009
Threat of Arts Library closure due to statewide budget cuts inspires successful "Save the Arts Library" campaign garnering 4,000 signatures on an online petition