

Updates on the Fine Arts Library

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Tue 5/1/2018 8:58 AM

Sent Items

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Dear College of Fine Arts Faculty, Students and Staff,

As we wind down the spring semester, we are already looking ahead to preparations for the fall semester. One of our key priorities for the summer months is working with UT Libraries to implement our recommendations for the Fine Arts Library. Those recommendations are available in full on the [Future of the Fine Arts Library web page](#), but to recap briefly they are:

1. Keep and expand, as feasible, the Fine Arts Library collection on the fifth floor of Doty Fine Arts Building
2. Improve average retrieval times for materials from remote locations
3. Refurbish the Fine Arts Library's fifth floor in DFA
4. Form a standing COFA faculty and student advisory committee for the Fine Arts Library

The provost has already committed permanent funding to improve retrieval times from the Library Storage Facility (LSF) on the Pickle Campus. UT Libraries are working now to acquire the equipment and hire additional personnel to put the enhanced retrieval procedures in place over the summer. In the fall semester, they expect to reduce retrieval time from the LSF to one business day. (Retrieval times from the Joint Library Facilities (JLF) remain an ongoing concern to be addressed by the COFA Fine Arts Library advisory committee.)

Many thanks to the provost for providing funding for refurbishing the Fine Arts Library's fifth floor. She has approved project funding for the following enhancements:

- Clearing out the clutter of old furniture, files, discarded pianos and other cast off materials stored by the Libraries on the fifth floor
- Improving inconsistent WiFi coverage
- Improving the appearance, comfort and functionality of furniture to make the fifth floor a more inviting and productive research environment. The refurbishing will include
 - Installing new carpet throughout the floor
 - Purchasing new furniture (tables, chairs, etc.) that will be more attractive and comfortable to use and that will also be easier for students to configure to their purposes as needed.
 - Adding much-needed power outlets
 - Expanding the shelving capacity to enlarge the collection.
 - Relocating UT Libraries staff currently housed on the fifth floor and repurposing the existing office space. This will require relocating some archival materials and special collections that currently reside in DFA 5.104; liaison librarians will be in touch with COFA faculty to consult about items needed close at hand.

Our goal is to have the refurbishing project completed before fall semester classes begin. The college has been assured that there will be thorough consultation with the faculty and students throughout this process. UT Libraries will create a project page on the [Fine Arts Library's web site](#) with opportunities for input and regular updates for you as we move through the summer.

Finally, we are working to establish the outlines for the Fine Arts Library advisory committee so they may begin their work in the fall semester. Senior Associate Dean Holly Williams will serve as co-chair on the council with Catherine Hamer, Director/Academic Engagement at UT Libraries. Each department chair and/or director will be asked to recommend two faculty members and two students (one undergraduate and one graduate) to serve for a 1- to 2-year term on the committee.

These are all positive developments that support our faculty and students. We look forward to working with our colleagues in UT Libraries to create a more functional library space.

Sincerely,

Doug Dempster