Every semester finds something new going on in the library. This semester more powerful computer workstations were installed in the Architecture Library featuring software titles new to the library as well as updated versions of some longstanding favorites:

- 3DS Max 2014
- Adobe CS 6 (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.)
- AutoCAD 2014
- ArcGIS Desktop 10.2
- Revit 2014
- Rhino 5.0
- Sketchup 2013 & 2014

Stop by today and take them for a spin!

Architectural graduate student Austin Pontius didn’t realize he was going to redesign the entire archives space when he began working here in the fall semester. The space-saving plan he created involved moving every single drawer and cabinet but we were able to do it over the holidays while everyone was away. We also added brand new cabinets, thanks to a generous donation by Ewing Miller, FAIA. If you haven't had a chance to see the redesign of the archives space, you might want to stop in before you leave for the summer.

Not everything in the Architecture Building Material Samples Collection in the Visual Resources Collection makes for a good sample. Some are too big, like a tree grate or a bench, and others are too complicated, like architectural lighting. In these cases the VRC has product literature from manufacturers that includes technical specifications and photographs of the items. But student assistant Susan Smith (Architecture, 4th year) thought the VRC could do more with these materials. She proposed creating Revit files for selected items in the collection in the hopes that “students will see it as an opportunity to utilize the library’s material resources in a format they can actually incorporate into their projects.” Visual Resources Curator Cindy Turner enthusiastically supported the plan, and the University Libraries IT department set aside server space to host the project. Smith began modeling materials from the VRC in summer 2013 and now there are more than 80 files available for use in Revit,

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Bridging the Gap from Archival Drawings to 3D

By Carol Street, Archivist for Architectural Records

Our Indiana Architecture X 3D initiative brings historic architecture to life using contemporary 3D model and print technology that you can download to your computer or print on a 3D printer. It enables students, faculty, and researchers to analyze and discover designs from long-lost buildings that once graced Indiana environs.

The project launches with the Wysor Grand Opera House built by Henry W. Matson for Jacob H. Wysor in 1891. This Romanesque Revival opera house typified the exuberance and style of Muncie’s gas-boom era. Converted to a movie theater in the early 20th century, the building remained a theater until it was razed in 1967. Until now, photographs and the architect’s original drawings were the only methods researchers had to explore the ornate façade or intricate ironwork of the interior. Using the original ink on linen drawings, first-year architecture graduate students Chris Hinders and Austin Pontius modeled significant details and the entire building using Rhino and printed them on CAP’s 3D printer. During the process they not only pushed the limits of the 3D printer, but they also developed a new appreciation for the original drawings.

The online collection in the University Libraries’ Digital Media Repository will be available soon. If you’d like to view the files or 3D prints now, just stop in the archives.

“I was inspired to suggest the project because I thought it would be a great way to attract students into the VRC,” says Student Assistant Smith. It turns out the project also benefited her. “[It] has definitely improved my personal Revit skills, and it has helped improve my overall speed in creating a model, which has vastly improved by dexterity in designing.”

Smith graduates this May, but Turner is already looking for a student assistant to help carry on the project. Interested parties can contact Turner at 01LKTurner@bsu.edu or 765-285-5865.

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