

Iceland Academy of the Arts

Department of Design and Architecture -Library-

Iceland Academy of the Arts was founded in 1999 after the merge of the Iceland Drama School and Reykjavik Arts School. The academy is the only institution in Iceland providing higher education in the fields of art (visual arts, music, drama, dance, design and architecture).

The Library:

Two years after the academy was founded the Design and Architecture Department was established. The library for the department was non-existing when the department was established and the first couple of years the emphasis was on building a sufficient library for the students and staff of the department.

You can say that the emphasis is still on acquisition of books and journals for the department and the library has never since the department was founded received a special budget to finish it beginning stages of the acquisition. We are still waiting for that special budget.

Cataloging and resources:

All material is cataloged in the union catalog (consortium) for Icelandic libraries, known as Gegnir.is. In 2002 it was decided that all libraries in Iceland should join a union catalog, which we found highly useful.

We get many of our electronic resources from the Icelandic countriwide access portal to electronic databases and e-journals. It is the Iceland consortia for electronic subscriptions´ and the website is hvar.is.

We also have extra subscriptions to Proquest/CSA´s ABM and DAAI and other databases.

The most important changes in the next year:

-The Academy is working on it´s new website which will be ready in the spring 2009. That will make a huge difference for the library. We feel like we haven´t been able to make the library visible for the students because of the website.

-In the fall this year we will receive a large book donation from the Architects Association in Iceland. That will give us a chance to fill in the gap of Icelandic books that we have.

-Better user education (information literacy) for both teachers and students will be set up in the fall this year.

-A digital archive of photos for the Academy is on the plan at the same time as the new website.

Lisa Z. Valdimarsdottir, Iceland Academy of the Arts