

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 during the first couple of years the emphasis was on building a sufficient library for the students and staff of the department. It kind of still is.

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 countrywide 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 this year and in the next year:

-A new website for the Academy was opened in August 2008 and changes are being made constantly. The library is more visible now and we hope that the new website has made us more visible to both students and other users.

-In January this year we received a large book donation from the Architects Association in Iceland. That gave us a chance to fill in the gap of Icelandic books. All the material hasn't been catalogued yet, but will hopefully be finished this fall.

-The library started a cooperation in a digital repository for student thesis and research publications with three other universities in Iceland. Both full text and abstracts.

-A digital archive of photos for the Academy was opened in April.

-The most important change this year was of course the financial crisis and we are looking into a period of cut downs at all universities in the country. All aspects will be affected and changes will be made in the fall.