

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

#MugLibrary : A Ceramic Experiment — *Ann Lindell*, Head, Architecture & Fine Arts Library, University of Florida and *Bridget Fairbank*, MFA Candidate, University of Florida

This project partners an academic library, an MFA candidate and ceramic artists from both the local community and across North America. The collection started with 18 handcrafted cups, each by a different artist, and is growing in size as interest grows from makers and patrons. In its inaugural 6 weeks, the collection logged 65 individual check-outs and there are rarely more than 2 or 3 cups available on the shelf. Project goals are to provide an opportunity for experiential learning and to increase personal experience and exposure to handcrafted objects for an audience not so immersed in the sometimes insular culture of art or craft. The library provides an accessible venue for handling and viewing the cups. This environment can seem less “threatening” than a retail, gallery, or art show booth environment that is perceived as more about commerce than experience. Includes images of artworks from the collection, and details about packaging, workflow, and circulation policy and procedures developed to facilitate access for these not-so-usual library materials. We will present circulation statistics, and results from an optional user survey used to assess user experience.