

**ARLIS/NA + VRA 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle**  
**Poster Session**

**Then and Now: most vital books in a design education** — *Robert Adams*, Manager of Collection Development and Outreach, Boston Architectural College Library

This details an initiative to showcase the most valued books our students, faculty and staff use for education, research and edification. In the spring of 2015 I was given access to the school's gallery space to hold a 3-day exhibit reflecting studio culture at the Boston Architectural College. Our gallery space is located on a very busy intersection with high foot traffic in downtown Boston. The school wanted the library to create a display that would engage both the BAC community and the general public. This as an amazing outreach opportunity for the library. Titles were sorted by decade. I then scanned their covers to create dynamic 9 foot posters that were large and visual, beckoning people from the street to come in. Additionally, I saved up 200 donated books and offered them for free in the exhibit. This enticed people to come into the school and interact with our community, bringing designers and non-designers together to create conversation. As an example, two Berkley College of Music students were drawn in by the promise of free books and struck up a conversation with one of our studio instructors. Out of this meeting blossomed a conversation on how music and architecture are related. Our instructor was able to give two music students an architectural lesson. By the end of the 3rd day we had given away every free book. Countless people off the street took flyers and brochures about our school home. I look forward to displaying one of our posters and sharing our experience with the library's outreach to our school and the public. Here is a link with some of our posters to the committee.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/baclibrary/albums/72157660555372955>