

 THE LIBRARIES OF   
**MFA**  *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

A Chronology of the Hirsch Library

1924	MFAH Watkin building opens
1926	Library established
1927, 1930-31	Library committees were extant
1939	Volunteers ran day-to-day library operations
1938-40	Annual reports list volunteer Lillie Seymour Johnson as Acting Librarian
1940s	Ida Kirkland Mullen Memorial Library Fund established
1947	Collection of Renaissance art books from the estate of Percy S. Straus
1958-74	Library located behind Cullinan Hall Full-time staff also assigned as Acting Librarian:
1956-57	Abby Foss, Publicist and Sales Manager oversees Library
1958-60	Edmund Nielson, Curatorial Research Associate oversees Library
1961-64	Edward Mayo, Registrar oversees Library
1964	First professional Librarian, Debra Neu
1965	Edward Doro hired as Librarian
1965-71	Aida Alonzo West serves as Librarian
1969	Gift from Kenneth Franzheim II for library development
1971	Assistant Librarian Patricia Gilbert Baca serves as Acting Librarian
1973-89	Linda Nelson Shearouse serves as Librarian
1973	Joe Albritton contribution for purchase of Lester Beall collection
1976	Library moves into Brown Pavilion space
1981	Hirsch Library Endowment established by General and Mrs. Maurice Hirsch
1982-87	Trustee committee established for Education/Library
1983	Slide library transferred to Hirsch Library
1984	NHPRC grant established an Archives; Kathleen Robinson hired as first archivist
1985	Gregory Most, full-time professional slide librarian, was hired
1985	Bayou Bend Library administration transferred to Hirsch Library

- 1987 Hirsch Library becomes member of Research Libraries Group. Mrs. Hirsch funded the computer equipment necessary to participate in RLIN
- The Education/Library committee divided into two committees; Winifred Hirsch chairs Library committee until 1990
- 1989-2004 Jeannette Dixon serves as Library Director
- 1991 Subscription to first online periodical index, *Art Index*
- 1998 Library established first full automated online catalog to holdings
- 2000-01 Closed for expansion project, more than doubling space (lower level)
- 2002 Slide Library became part of Registrar's office; eventually becomes the Photo Services Department
- 2004-10 Margaret Culbertson serves as Library Director
- 2004 Archivist began reporting to Associate Director of Finance and Administration
- 2010 Kilroy Visitor and Education Center opens at Bayou Bend, housing the newly opened Kitty King Powell Library and Study Center
- Margaret Culbertson becomes Librarian at Powell Library
- Jon Evans becomes Chief Librarian at Hirsch Library
- 2012 University of Houston and MFAH share access to physical collections and MFAH gains access to online resources
- 2013 MFAH acquires the Manfred Heiting Book Collection of 25,000 books on photography
- Rice University and MFAH agree to share space at Rice's off-site storage facility and to share collections with students and faculty
- 2017 The Archives becomes a part of the Library Department once again