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 Lilie 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