

THE ARCHIVES DAP-NEDUET

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Accessibility to substantial resource material is integral to development of pedagogical and investigative activities. Architectural research and education requires information through multiple types of material from various disciplines and the resources at the Department of Architecture and Planning (NEDUET) are housed in a library and archives. The Archives DAP- NEDUET started as a small-scale thesis library at the conception of the department and now in 2009 has more than 4000 holdings and is working as a multi-dimensional resource and research centre facilitating students, architects and scholars alike. The unit has so far self-generated the majority of its funds and was initiated by Professor Dr. Noman Ahmad and Associate Professor Fariha Amjad Ubaid. A small group of highly motivated faculty and staff are involved in research activities, resource-build up and digitization of data. The coordination is being carried out by Lecturers Saadia Bano and Rabela Junejo and Jr. DEO Azeem Ahmad Khan.

Eleven different sections have been developed according to types of material and resources available, which include sections on Books, Newspapers, Maps, Multimedia, Catalogues etc. Archives possess a range of material, 1300 books, 537 periodicals, 870 Reports, 250 Thesis, 300 Newsletter, 300 maps, 720 Slides etc. to mention a few. The expansion of the Newspapers and Maps Archive Section into Karachi Archives has been a major achievement of this year.

The compilation of newspaper clippings has been successfully completed in 11 volumes and is being accessed not only by students and faculty but also numerous researchers and government officials. The newspapers received in the department are marked for important news items on subjects such as architecture, art, planning etc. and are then compiled through systemized process of cutting and pasting, data entry, filing, editing, photocopy, binding and reproduction. Work on a Bibliographic publication on Karachi is also underway where basic data collection and software development has been completed.

The expansion of the Maps Section in this year has facilitated students and warmly welcomed by the architects and planners in the city as public access to this kind of information was previously either non-existent or very limited. The Archives team has worked tirelessly to collect the maps of several cities of Pakistan specially Karachi from more than fifteen government and non-governmental organizations. Liaison has been formed with several urban units and the research work on digitization of maps on parks of Karachi has been an outcome of this exchange. Numerous maps of Karachi have already been digitized and coordination is going on. A visual catalogue of the maps has been prepared and loaded for access on computers of the Multimedia Section. Research and compilation work has also begun for the comprehensive digital map and information data base of Karachi.

Strategic developmental processes were carried out for building up the resources. Liaison with second hand book vendors of Khor Garden, Urdu Bazaar etc. was consolidated for supply of books. With status recognition and funding support procurement of books can be extended to new material as well. Country wide NGO's and organizations were contacted for increasing the number of newsletters. Libraries and Resource Centers in the city were approached for sharing their catalogues as most of these are not accessible through the internet. Procurement of ... no. of catalogues so far has facilitated the sharing of resources. More than 200 encyclopedias, documentaries etc. are available for viewing on computers. Printing pool of the archives provides specialized quality printing to students and faculty alike on affordable rates. Scanning, spiral binding and plastic coating facility is also available. Recent Governor's visit and Heritage day printing was facilitated by Archives. Students are encouraged to read avidly and widely. The Book Club and Movie Club were initiated for this purpose and is being coordinated by the Archives team. Build up of team work and human resource development has been integral to the success of Archives. Conscious effort is made in this regard and training of staff whenever required is arranged and facilitated. Naib Qasids and Jr. DEOs have been trained and mentored in several areas which range from proficiency in basic computer skills to complex functions of library management, administrative procedures and research works. In 2009, after the completion of first phase of conservation work, one more room was provided and the Archives is now housed in two rooms in the first floor of the old building.