Sabbatical Leave Report
Submitted by Susan V. Craig, Art & Architecture Librarian, Aug. 11, 2009

I was granted a 5-month leave by KU to complete and make available the 2nd edition of the Biographical Dictionary of Kansas Artists (active before 1945.) I'm happy to report that, as of August 10, 2009, this has been accomplished and the electronic book can be found at http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/handle/1808/1028.

I split my sabbatical time into two sections with a two-month leave from Oct. 4-Nov. 29, 2008 and the remainder of the time used from Mar. 8-June 13, 2009. This split was beneficial both for my usual job as head of the Art & Architecture Library as well as for the progress of the sabbatical work. I was available in the Art & Architecture Library to start each semester and to provide the necessary instruction and collection development as classes got underway. I also was able to keep in touch with staff in the library so they did not feel abandoned during the year. For purposes of the project, I was able to apply several weeks of concentrated work and travel on the book project then set it aside to return with fresh eyes and energy.

During the fall, I spent a week in Washington DC using the artists’ files at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Library and spent a week using similar files at the Wichita Art Museum’s Library. During these visits I not only used the libraries but also visited art museums and private collections where I saw artwork by the artists that I was documenting. When not traveling, I usually could be found in my home office using both printed and electronic resources in my search for biographical information and information on Kansas art museums, art schools, and art organizations. I made extensive use of Interlibrary Borrowing to review items not owned by KU including hundreds of reels of microfilmed city directories and biographical files from the Kansas State Historical Society Library.

I resumed my sabbatical in March. My work included a trip around Kansas visiting art museums where in addition to visiting with curators and using their files, I began compiling an image collection of Kansas art. One unexpected spin-off from my work has been invitations to speak to academic and civic groups about Kansas art. I expect these images, although not included in the book, will be valuable resources for future presentations.

In June, I corresponded with the staff at KU Scholarworks about how best to present the new edition of my work. I wanted to make sure that libraries and scholars who had cataloged or bookmarked a link to version 1 would be directed to the revised and expanded version. I also was interested in preserving version 1 since it has some historical value. I was very pleased with the solution suggested by Brian Rosenblum and his efforts to make everything available.
The new edition of my book includes 900 additional artists’ entries as well as enhanced entries for art museums, schools, and art organizations. I clarified the criteria for inclusion so that artists born in the state of Kansas by 1945—even if his/her significant artistic contribution was made elsewhere—are included.

Besides being accessible through KU Scholarworks, I gave permission to a commercial product, *AskArt*, to harvest artist information from my work to include in their database and, in return, they give KU a significant price reduction for our subscription to their product. They did this with the first edition and the editors are now harvesting the new information from the new edition.

Since being posted in KU Scholarworks in August 2006, the first edition of the book has been downloaded over 11,000 times and frequently is reported to be among the top items in usage statistics among the more than 4500 titles in KU Scholarworks. I regularly field emails from users all over the United States who have found the information and have questions, corrections or additions for the book. I am hoping that the 2nd edition, which is nearly 200 pages longer than the original, will prove even more useful to anyone interested in the artistic heritage of our state.