

Ricker Randomized Exploration Activity

Name: _____

The Ricker Library of Architecture and Art (Architecture Building, room 208) is a playground for exploring and discovering new ideas. Learning how to navigate and utilize the library is a foundational skill that prepares students for academic success and can help students create more meaningful designs. Use the Ricker Library to answer the following questions. Do not hesitate to ask library staff for assistance.

Part 1 - Use the provided dice to find random books in the library.

Toss #1 - Aisle/Section: Toss the die to select which aisle you will enter. Aisles/sections are labeled with large numbers. If you don't see your number, check the other end of an aisle or the books along the wall of the library. *Note: There are ten sections. If you get a number above 10, add the number's digits together until you have a number less than or equal to 10. This note applies to tosses 1-4.*

Write down your number(s) here: _____

Toss #2 - Steps: Toss the die again to select the number of steps to move within the numbered section. Stand at the start or end of the aisle if you are in the stacks and to the side of the section if you are along the wall.

Write down your number(s) here: _____

Toss #3 - Left or Right: Toss your die for a third time to determine if you will look to your right or left of the aisle/section to find a book. If you roll an even number, look to your left. If you roll an odd number, look to your right.

Write down your number(s) here: _____

Toss#4 - Shelf Number: Toss your die a final time to determine your shelf number. First, count how many shelves are in your section. Roll the die until you get a number that fits within that range. Note: You may add the digits together to get your number.

Write down your number(s) here: _____

Part Two - Browse the shelf to find a book with images/topics you find interesting. Once you've found that book, bring it to your seat. Write down information about the book. Hint: Look on the book's spine for the call number or ask for assistance. (Example Call #: 720.453 S37dn). (5 min)

Title: _____

Author: _____

Call Number: _____

Why did you choose this book?

How might this book relate to your current practice? How does it differ?

What methodologies did the artist use to convey their message?

Look up the book in the online catalog. Website: library.illinois.edu What are three related subjects (found under Details) that you want to learn more about?

Part Three - Find another book by repeating parts 1+2. Write information about the book below.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Call Number: _____

Why did you choose this book?

How might this book relate to your current practice? How does it differ?

What methodologies did the artist use to convey their message?

Look up the book in the online catalog. Website: library.illinois.edu. What are three related subjects (found under Details) that you want to learn more about?

What interesting things did you find during this exercise?

Did you find anything that you wouldn't have thought to search for in a catalog or online?

Do you want to learn more about any particular topics, architects, or artists?