

Excerpted from comments from Elizabeth Fowler, December 2017:

So: here are some homework questions I hope you'll take on. How are the collections more than simply a volume of warehouse space that has to be shoe-horned into the building? How are the collections part of the fabric of teaching, study, and making, and so how can they be part of spaces dedicated to those activities? Can the collections help us with the problem of orientation and wayfinding in the building? Can they express the organization of knowledge as we receive it from the generations of faculty, librarians, and students who have bought and arranged books here? What's the relation of print culture to newer and more fragile digital formats? Can the incorporation of books into the building produce a built environment that, like the Pavilions on the Lawn, teaches the history and value of the disciplines? These are questions about what books *mean*—questions that we scholars might take for granted, but that we must articulate, so that the architects can appreciate how Alderman's collections are the heart of the living material culture of our UNESCO site.