

Construction management and engineering

Collecting policy

User profile

This collection statement covers provision for the School of Construction Management and Engineering within the School of Built Environment. The collections serve all staff and students in the School.

Research interests

There are currently five research areas within the school:

- Business Innovation in Construction
- Digital Practices
- Healthcare Infrastructure
- Innovative and Sustainable Technologies
- Transition Pathways to a Low-Carbon Economy

In addition the Research Institute for the Built Environment (RIBE) acts as a focal point for research within the School and the Centre for Technologies for Sustainable Built Environments (TSBE) works to train research engineers via engineering doctorate qualifications in a 4 year programme involving taught modules. Its research is centred on sustainable buildings and services and energy management

The School has links with the Government through advising and influencing policy: this occurs on both a national and international level.

The current vision in the Operating Plan is to view “the built environment from a socio-technical systems perspective” via a research environment which is interdisciplinary, oriented “towards the needs of the construction professions with an understanding of technologically driven innovation” and “in a culture where engineers, designers, management specialists and social scientists work together”

There are a number of interdisciplinary areas shared with other subjects, most notably: management; environmental sustainability; law; systems engineering and developing research interests in corporate sustainability in the environment and across communities and socio-technical networks. The School works with other departments and schools across the University including HBS, REAP and the Walker Institute

Dimensions of teaching and learning

There are significant numbers of overseas students recruited at all levels, undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate. Numbers have reduced overall since the last policy document was written, but are now increasing and are back to pre 2012 levels.

There are part-time and distance learners – many overseas – and the School also runs short courses, bespoke CPD and modules of the MScs can also be taken for CPD.

The themes of sustainability and internationalisation are integrated into all teaching and a full-time MSc in sustainable building has run since 2013. Current Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses (accredited by RICS and CIOB) are detailed on the school website: www.reading.ac.uk/cme

Current holdings

The main classification ranges for construction management are 690-699 (building), 720-729 (architecture and building design including inclusive environments) and 658.99 (construction management) together with general management books in the 650's. For engineering the main range is 620-625 (includes civil engineering), with additional material at 531-532 (Mechanics), 333.79 (energy) and 669 (Metallurgy). The book and journals stock was completely reviewed in 2011 as part of the Library wide collections project, parts of the books collection updated and pre 1990 journal volumes moved to the off-site Store. Collections are regularly assessed and weeded; this weeding will in future be influenced by the need to anticipate potential use by students in the new School of Architecture.

For more detail see the Construction management and engineering [Subject guide](#)

Books and e-books

The Library has an almost complete collection of the Building Research Establishment Digests, in print as well as online via subscription to the Construction Information Service (CIS database).

There has been significant recent growth in access to electronic sources, and also provision of key texts in the Library's Course Collection.

There are useful titles in the Taylor and Francis e-book collection and via MyiLibrary and e-books are increasingly bought where available. Relevant full-text resources are also available from British Standards Online, Business Source Complete, Construction Information Service and the Institution of Civil Engineers' Virtual Library

Periodicals and e-journals

Most current periodical subscriptions which are directly relevant to Construction and management are available electronically. A number of titles are 'shared' with other departments, including Real Estate and Planning and Economics. The Construction Management Resource Centre also has some periodical subscriptions.

Significant sets of back runs include *International Journal of Engineering Science* 1963-1990 also available electronically from 1995.

Relevant e-journals are available via Enterprise, Summon and the e-Journals Finder. These are part of various subscriptions, bundles and publisher packages including *Wiley Online Library*, *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, *IEEE Xplore*, *Business Source Complete* and *EBSCOhost EJS*. ScienceDirect offers full text articles from 1995, including general managerial

journals and more specific science titles e.g. *Solar Energy*. In several cases there is both print and online access, e.g. for *Construction Management and Economics* as well as *Construction Law Journal*

Reference materials – print and electronic (inc bibliographic databases)

Significant print reference items relating to Construction Management and Engineering in the print collection include: Spon's Architects' and Builders' price book (also available electronically); Construction Standards Manual; RICS Appraisal and Valuation Standards; Knight's Building Regulations. There are also a number of directories. The Library also has relevant reference items within its large general science collection, both print and electronic resources such as *Credo*.

Other reference sources – dictionaries and encyclopedias - are also available electronically.

Some key subject-specific databases are available, e.g. ICONDA (International Construction Database), *isurv*, *BCIS running costs*, *BCIS Online* and several general science databases of relevance. ISI Web of Knowledge which contains the Science Citation Index, is useful for calculating journal citation information and h-indexes (a calculation for impact analysis). This information is used in research assessments as well as for checking the ranking of journals academic staff in the School are published in. See subject guide for a comprehensive list <http://libguides.reading.ac.uk/construction>

Strengths, exclusions and areas for development

The School has an international reputation in the field of construction management, and its specialist courses are supported to a large extent by the collections in the Library.

A range of engineering topics are also covered and there is a good collection of undergraduate text books. The e-book provision for distance learners such as Project Managers is good.

Areas where collections need to be maintained and developed include, for example, architecture (bearing in mind the new School of Architecture), sustainable buildings and renewable energy, BIM, large scale infrastructure projects and socio-technical research. There is always a demand for multiple copies of key texts and they are being bought in increasing numbers. The Course Collection is also used.

The implementation of the Talis Aspire reading list software is a welcome development and expected to improve the management of the purchase of multiple copies, later editions and new additions to reading lists.

The EBSCO resource *Environment complete* would be a useful addition to database provision.

Collecting level

The collections are currently largely at study level. Support for undergraduate and taught postgraduate dissertations is good (particularly with the support of the Construction Management Resource Centre) and growing. The introduction of the Summon discovery tool has improved access to resources and mitigated demand for additional databases.

Research level support has improved through the subscriptions to large ejournal packages of research periodical subscriptions.

We aim to maintain the reference collection with up to date handbooks.

Alternative access

Inter-library loans

The School is a relatively heavy user of the Inter-Library loans service. Inter-Library loans for undergraduates (where necessary), postgraduates and staff are funded by the School. Staff and Research postgraduates in the School order Inter-library loans online via the Library catalogue. Undergraduates and taught postgraduates continue to use a printed form which can be counter-signed by a tutor or supervisor.

Other information resources in the University

The School has its own Resource Centre for Construction Management which holds a number of periodical titles (mostly trade journals), product information, books, some videos and also MSc, BSc and PhD student dissertations. Some items are bought, or come as a result of a School membership of one of the construction bodies (e.g. CIRIA publications), but many are freebies or donated by staff. The Resource Centre operates independently of the University Library, although close contact between the Liaison Librarian and the Resource Centre Manager is maintained. Overlap between the collections is generally minimal.

Most undergraduate and postgraduate courses within the School are supported by Blackboard: a relatively large number of resources can be found as part of these courses, particularly lecture notes and journal articles.

The Resource Centre has a section on the School's Blackboard portal where there is further information on opening hours etc and a link to their e-resources. There is also a PC Lab available for construction students.

Use of other libraries

The location of Reading University allows easy access to specialist Library and Information Centres in London and the South East. Examples of such resources that are open to students and staff include: The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), CIOB and IMechE Library.

Selection, acquisition and stock editing

See the General Collection Development Statement for general principles.

Second hand material is only purchased as a last resort if the text required is out of print. Conference Proceedings will only be bought if they are highly relevant. Texts in English are preferred.

Donations of relevant Conference Proceedings are usually accepted.

Excess stock and other items may be donated to the Construction Management Resource Centre at the discretion of the Liaison Librarian.

Some historical texts are retained for research purposes, for example Building Regulations and classic works should be kept.

Withdrawal projects focus on areas where teaching and research is no longer happening, for example Mechanical Engineering, to make space for growth.

Policy written by Helen Hathaway, Construction Management and Engineering Liaison Librarian, September 2015.