ARCH 415 – Nineteenth Century Architecture, 1750 to 1920
Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00am – 12:20pm
Prof. Heather Grossman (hgrossma@illinois.edu)

Henri Labrouste, National Library, Paris, France, 1859-1875

The history and practice of architecture is driven by innovation, but also is full of moments in which architects and patrons looked to the past for both form and meaning. This course examines various architectural movements in Continental Europe, Britain, and America from c.1750 to 1920 (with some comparison to parallel movements in South America, Asia, and Africa). During the “long nineteenth century,” both historical architectural styles – revived to suit current aesthetic tastes and ideological notions, including modern nationalisms – as well as new architectural modes – sparked by the technological innovations of the Industrial Revolution or societal developments such changing gender and class norms – were common. We will investigate ancient and medieval architectural revivalism (alongside the rediscovery of historical monuments themselves) as anchors for political and cultural meaning in the modern world, and we will also investigate architectural innovation in this period, including the development of iron- and steel-frame structures such as the Chicago skyscraper. Governmental, commercial, cultural, educational, health, transportation, religious, and residential structures, as well as nineteenth-century urban development, will be examined.

3 UG/Grad hours. Pre-requisite: ARCH 210 or ARTH 112, or consent of the instructor. This course satisfies an Architectural History requirement for Architecture students, and also will be of interest to Art History, History, CHAMPS, Landscape Architecture, and other humanities students.