

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2014: 42nd Annual Conference
Washington, D.C. | May 1-5

Auction Catalog SIG Meeting

May 2, 2014

Submitted by Erika Hauser and Prima Casetta

Co-coordinators: Erika Hauser & Prima Casetta

Welcome & introductions, Erika Hauser (Met, erika.hauser@gmail.com)

Erika provided some background on the Auction Catalog SIG, which was formed in recognition that the topics discussed at recent years' SCIPPIO Users Group had expanded beyond the focus of using and contributing to SCIPPIO, and to hopefully encourage more participation from ARLIS members.

The group has an intentionally broad range of interests: acquiring, cataloging, archiving, providing access to print and born-digital auction catalog and related materials that document auction sales. We were happy to see that the agenda of the meeting reflected the wide-range of topics of interest of the group.

Erika thanked Debbie Kempe (Frick) for suggesting and encouraging the founding of this group; Rodica Tanjala-Krauss (Frick) who along with Prima was a founding member of the group and helped put together the agenda for this meeting; and to the ARLIS board for approving the SIG.

Erika also welcomed Dennis Massie, OCLC Program Officer, who attended on behalf of OCLC for Glenn Patton, and thanked OCLC for their support of the group.

RDA discussion, Prima Casetta (Getty, pcasetta@getty.edu)

Prima shared a short checklist she created for using RDA for SCIPPIO bibliographic records (available on request from her). A few libraries, such as the Getty, Frick, and National Gallery of Canada are creating, or looking into creating, RDA records in SCIPPIO. Prima emphasized that while it is still optional to create either an AACR2 or an RDA record for SCIPPIO, once an RDA record has been created, members must follow OCLC RDA policy, which includes not changing any elements of an RDA record back to AACR2.

OCLC is interested in working with members of this group to draft guidelines for cataloging auction catalogs using RDA, to complement the existing SCIPPIO cataloging formats and standards. Dan Lipcan (Met) recommended that this subgroup liaise with the ARLIS cataloging advisory committee. Prima and Rodica have already volunteered to work on this project, but we are looking for additional members to help with this effort!

Announcements & updates

Price list project, Erika Hauser (Met)

This collaborative project continues successfully. Project partners include: the Met, Frick, National Gallery, Getty, Cleveland, and new member the Grolier Club. The National Gallery of Canada reported they are close to joining. An estimated 15,000+ current price list pdfs have been added to our shared Amazon S3 account and made available through links in records in SCIPPIO and libraries' local catalogs. The workflow allows libraries to distribute the work of archiving price list files. We still welcome contributors, whatever the amount. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dan Lipcan (dan.lipcan@metmuseum.org).

Dan Lipcan and Erika Hauser have written an article about the project: "Results in the Cloud: Using Web Storage for Auction House Price Lists," in *Art Documentation* volume 33 Issue 1 / Spring 2014: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/675706> or <http://www.arlisna.org/publications/art-documentation> (to access via ARLIS website).

There was a question about contributing older price lists to the cloud. So far the project has been concentrating on born-digital price lists downloaded from auction house websites but scanning older price list files, uploading them to our shared Amazon S3 account, and adding links to the bibliographic records in SCIPPIO is something that could be considered.

Cataloging auction house websites, Mark Bresnan (Frick, bresnan@frick.org)

Mark described a project at the Frick to catalog auction house websites for auction houses represented in their collection. The records were added by interns, under supervision by library staff. The website records include links to both the current auction house website URL and to any archived versions captured by the Internet Archive's Wayback machine. In addition to the NYARC catalog Arcade, the records are also available in Worldcat; examples: oclc 854636643, 854874654.

Web archiving program, Sumitra Duncan (NYARC, duncan@frick.org)

Sumitra provided an overview and update on NYARC's web archiving initiative, including plans to incorporate born-digital auction catalogs and auction house websites. (Background on the NYARC web archiving grant can be found in the Oct. 2013 press release: <http://www.nyarc.org/sites/default/files/NYARCborndigitalgrantOctober2013.pdf>).

They plan to approach houses that were captured as part of the original 2010 phase for permissions, concentrating on U.S.-based houses. Sumitra will provide updates on the project as it progresses.

Sumitra also mentioned an article written by Gretchen Nadasky, a former intern at the Frick who was involved in preliminary research for NYARC's web archiving initiative as it concerns digital auction catalogs: "Preserving Web-based Auction Catalogs at the Frick Art Reference Library," was published in *D-Lib Magazine*, March/April 2014, Volume 20, Number 3/4: <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march14/nadasky/03nadasky.html>.

Erika asked if other libraries are currently capturing digital auction catalogs. Watson Library has been downloading and storing auction catalog PDFs from selected houses in ContentDM; these catalogs are cataloged in SCIPIO but are only accessible on-site in Watson due to copyright issues.

Other topics for discussion

Rodica (krauss@frick.org) reported on the Frick's project with Brill to digitize 3,000 auction catalogs from their collection, to be made available through Auction Sales Catalogues Online.