

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

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

Book Arts Special Interest Group Meeting

May 2, 2014

Submitted by Michelle Strizever and Amanda Meeks

Welcome and Introduction: 29 Attendees

We've put a lot of work into guest posts on the blog and solicited posts throughout the year (with a focus in outreach using book arts), but prior to the conference we put out a survey to get feedback on the blog and discussed it at the meeting. Blog survey results (what we learned and where we are going with the blog):

- Most people check it 1-2 times per month
- Some suggestions we got for topics to cover on the blog: trends in book art publishing, exhibits, student work, more info on standardized terminology for artists books (Thesaurus), sharing professional development topics and artists books, and exhibit guidelines and best practices--how can we display books?
- Goals: better PR and marketing
- Theme to explore this year: Preservation and exhibition
- HOW TO GET INVOLVED: Be a guest blogger and email Amanda or Michelle with a topic proposal!

We discussed and gauged interest in creating a best practices and guidelines for exhibition sub-committee:

- Every display place is very different and has quirks, so it will be interesting to see how people resolve issues dealing with this
- Responsibilities will be to explore ways in which several institutions exhibit book arts and share results over the next year.
- HOW TO GET INVOLVED: Those who are interested should email Amanda: amanda.margaret3@gmail.com

Update on the Thesaurus Project by Heather Slania and Jay Fishel

- Project is a team of 5, but they are presenting on behalf of entire team (team members who are not present are Esther Marie Jackson, Allison Jai O'Dell, Suzane Rackover)
- Last year compiled terms from LCSH and RBMS
- Came up with a list of 158 terms--going through each individual term and creating scope notes and a definition that will help guide description and cataloging.
- 6 months away from being done and will then share it with the group for comments.

- It will have an editor once it is complete (similar to RBMS) who will upkeep the thesaurus
- It is expected that people will use more general terms as well as the thesaurus terms (very specific to artist books)
- Finished website will have images associated with each term, to help define them.
- HOW TO GET INVOLVED: Let team know if anyone is interested in participating in an editorial capacity once the project is completed

We also had time for a few questions posed and answered by SIG members:

How many institutions (in the SIG) have collection development policies for their artist book collections?

GMU has a collection development policy (it is short). It started because a professor requested JAB and it developed out of a curriculum based need. Brought in professors to help guide the policy.

Most do not have a set policy for book arts.

If yes, do you have a dedicated budget? What percentage is it of the overall book budget?

Small institutions that are special collections tend to just have one budget.

Others dont have a separate budget, but have liaison funds dedicated to book arts.

It's traditionally been really rare to have a designated portion of the budget for artists' books. It seems having flexibility in the budget is the key. Sometimes partnering with other departments to entice them into purchasing this genre for their departments. Partnerships and relationships with other departments really help in CD.

Looking into special funds that the library and budget leftovers (discretionary funds) can be applied and repurposed at the end of a budget year. Since this money has to be spent, it is likely you can entice people to get those funds very quickly (which is important in purchasing book arts since they are limited)

Is a percentage of the budget dedicated to acquiring the work of artists in your region? Students?

Many do this--it's great to have both good and bad examples of artists books for teaching opportunities. A broad collection.