

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

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New Voices in the Profession

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Submitted by Moderator:

Alice Whiteside, Reference & Instruction Librarian, Rhode Island School of Design

Session Q & A:

Wrangling a Ringling: The Personal Art Library of a Circus Magnate

Mēgan Oliver, Assistant Librarian, The Ringling Museum

Beyond Paper, Beyond Art: Ai Weiwei and Contemporary Art Documentation

Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, PhD Student, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Instagram in Art Librarianship: Sharing a Snapshot and Taking a Shot at Using Instagram as a New Librarian

Stacy R. Williams, Head, Architecture and Fine Arts Library, University of Southern California Libraries

Belonging: A Brief Study on Artists' Books and Institutional Classification

Eva Athanasiu, 2015 Gerd Muehsam Award Winner

Q & A

Following the four speakers, who each spoke for ten minutes, there was a question and answer period:

Question for Megan: Regarding the book club she spoke about, how does it work?

Answer: Megan works in special collections, so it is an interesting way to bring folks in. One of two adult programs that occurs from September to May is free and includes arts-based books from *Madame X* to Hemingway's autobiography — a variety of titles. There were 40 participants at the last event, typically there are 15-30. (Many snowbirds — those from the North who spend the winter in Florida — live in Sarasota.) The event takes place the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. or another time if it conflicts with another event at a library, a book club, etc.

Question from Jon Evans: How are faculty members receiving news of research tools via social media or using social media as research venues? What do faculty think?

Answer from Stacy: Stacy experiments by using them for one-shot sessions, as long as more academic sources are also introduced. The students are already using social media, so she teaches them how to use it effectively.

Answer from Lauren: When on the reference desk, Lauren is asked by undergraduates how to use them without getting into trouble. She shows them how to use and cite them properly, so they have the library's endorsement when presenting to faculty members who are skeptical.

Question from Alice Whiteside, moderator: Have you developed or have you seen a guide to citing these tools?

Answer from Lauren: Lauren mentioned YouTube and the OWL site: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. She would like her institution to create native guides and for others to create such guides as well.

Question from Alex Watkins: In terms of popular versus scholarly sources, Alex does not agree that there are no differences and asks the speakers to explain their thoughts on that.

Answer from Lauren: They are on a continuum rather than a binary; some things fall in the middle and are still useful.

Answer from Eva: Eva is working on a new project related to aboriginal Internet art. In terms of approaching popular sources, they have a bias just as scholarly sources do.

Answer from Lauren: Help students identify what is appropriate for a specific topic; for example, there are not a lot of published items for contemporary artists. Help students locate relevant materials.

Comment from Alice: This brings to mind the new ACRL framework:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework>. It is helpful to think of Instagram as a primary source.

Question for Eva: Have you considered private collections?

Answer from Eva: The short answer is no. There is more interest in public collections to improve services, allowing the public to participate.

Question from Alice: How do you use guides on citations and social media as a source? What is something art librarians use to engage?

Answer from Lauren: It is okay to experiment and to let students know what we do not know how to find. We have the authority to do that. It empowers them because they are told there is a specific way to do research, but there is room to experiment. There are social networks of which even Lauren is not even aware. Starting the conversation is good.

Questions from Alice to Stacy: How does Instagram help you develop professionally?

Answer from Stacy: It is beneficial to Stacy as an art librarian. Her library does not have an Instagram account. What will your mission be in this regard? She dropped in as the head of the library, hired as a reference/instruction librarian. She is stumbling through, using Instagram as a space for exploration, etc.