

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2015: 43rd Annual Conference
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Collection Development SIG Meeting

March 21, 2015

Submitted by Paula Gabbard

Co-coordinators: Paula Gabbard, Chris Sala

Moderator: Paula Gabbard

Recorder: Christina Peter

Approximately 40 participants attending

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda previously circulated by Paula Gabbard.

- I. Discussion on born-digital collection development: Paula Gabbard introduced the topic suggested by Kathleen Solomon, who had been unable to travel to the conference. Numerous art libraries engage now in creating digital content, but quite a few of these initiatives remain isolated; sharing the metadata for newly created digital collections is of paramount importance for the entire art librarian community. Librarians also face the challenges of cataloging back lists being published as online/virtual collections. Dan Lipcan of the MMA's Watson Library set an example by having shared the MARC record set for all the Met's digitized titles with the ARLIS community via ARLIS/L. Some libraries (e.g. Columbia) have already downloaded these files in their catalogs; the download of the files is not complicated. The records have also been contributed to WorldCat and are available via OCLC, but batching them is not easy. Janis Ekdahl mentioned Princeton's Blue Mountain project. While the metadata for the digitized titles has not been made publicly available, the records are available to subscribers of Serial Solutions, and Princeton is working on making these records available as a file.

- II. Paula Gabbard introduced the subject of collective collection development, again suggested by Kathleen Solomon. Institutional politics often get in the way of developing shared collections. Amy Ciccone of USC pointed out that space crunch made it an imperative for libraries to rely on shared digital repositories – USC's policy was to dispose of the print version of titles available digitally via JSTOR. Mary Wassermann of the Philadelphia Museum of Art mentioned their project of weeding periodicals available online via the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries. Amy Naughton of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design said that they were deaccessioning pamphlets and small exhibition catalogs, some of them unique, as their library was not focused on research and it didn't have

sufficient staffing to process this material. A number of librarians offered to take in and process the deaccessioned material, as there was a general feeling that unique information of research value might get lost in the deaccessioning process.

- III. Paula Gabbard voiced her frustration at OCLC's forcing libraries to migrate from the FirstSearch interface to Worldcat Discovery Services (OCLC is going to phase out FirstSearch by the end of 2015). The new interface looks somewhat like the free Worldcat version; access to OCLC's beta version is difficult. Participants were urged to e-mail Linda Barr at OCLC to provide access to the beta version of Worldcat Discovery Services and to voice the community's needs. Jon Evans recommended communicating with Dennis Massey. Someone pointed out the existence of a listserv to facilitate communication among Worldcat Discovery Services users. The new interface will affect SCIPPIO as well.
- IV. Paula Gabbard talked about the ARLIS/NA Marketplace Proposal Committee, charged with proposing a plan for vendors to have multi-tiered membership, which would include the ability to blast email announcements to ARLIS/NA members. Gabbard's participation in the committee sprang from this group's concern last year that vendors and dealers were not allowed to post announcements to the ARLIS/L listserv. A proposal to this effect was submitted to the ARLIS/NA Executive Board during the conference. [UPDATE: The proposal was tabled by the Board for the near term, as it was impossible to initiate with a joint conference planned for 2016. Additionally, the Board felt that it would radically change the structure of the Society and the way we handle commercial activity, conference sponsorship, and the needs of our business members and partners. Some of what was proposed will be taken forward and used in other ways, some was food for thought. (UPDATE was a paraphrased message from Gregg Most to the committee)]
- V. Paula Gabbard talked about the ARLIS/NA Collection Development blog, which now has 135 registered users, and 18 posts. Paula encouraged attendees to submit posts.
- VI. Discussion about the present and future of electronic e-books, born digital material and the challenges of acquiring and preserving them. Bronwen Bitetti of the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College posed a question about how to handle electronic artists books not distributed by vendors (some libraries buy and catalog them and make them available via iPads). Amy Ciccone mentioned that some vendors sell ebooks only to individuals and not to libraries.

Further challenges: Some ebooks are published as apps or flash drives. While some libraries make these available to their users, the preservation of the content is a serious issue.

Amy Ciccone asked about libraries downloading PDFs. Dan Lipcan said that the Watson Library instituted the policy of soliciting e-catalogs from contemporary art galleries. They catalog them, put the PDFs in Amazon storage, and create metadata in OCLC. He admitted that Amazon storage was not an ideal solution. Galleries

currently produce a mix of print and digital catalogs. Archiving born digital exhibition catalogs is a necessity.

Debbie Kempe mentioned that the Frick Art Reference Library was planning to capture them.

Paula Gabbard recommended that the SIG sponsor a proposal for next year's conference on art e-books, and there was general support for this.