

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Documenting the Ephemera: exhibitions history — *Isabel Ayres Maringelli*, Head of Library and Museum Archives, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo

Methods for documenting ephemera at Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo. Involves a project for integrating collections in the library and the archives, in a unique Portal, which enables users to perform meta-search in the available databases: general collection (books and prints), controlled vocabulary of subjects, special collections (photographs, posters and others), archival material and records of exhibitions held by the Museum. This project allowed Pinacoteca to join exhibition documents that we stored in the Library and that are now being transferred to the archives. We believe that exhibitions studies bring out the curatorial practices and its changes over time. By studying exhibition history, it is possible to create a reflection between museum's directions and its relationships with artists and other cultural aspects. Both Archives and Library hold files related to the exhibitions. The archival holdings include photographs, business letters and contracts and the library holdings include paper cut clippings, invitations, catalogs, and printed material and general, posing other difficulties for information recovering. The portal integrates archives, library and the exhibition database in order to create a unique information source to researchers that can be guided through the collections connected by this tool. Considering that exhibitions themselves are ephemeral, it is very important to create ways to create methods for the documentation and preservation of the exhibitions remains.