

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016, Seattle – Conference Session

Diversity Forum

Libraries are serving an increasingly diverse community of users. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) from 2007-2018, enrollment of Hispanic/Latinos in institutions of higher learning will increase by 38% and projections include 32% for American Indian/ Alaska natives, 29% for Asian/ Pacific Islanders and 26% for African Americans or Blacks. In the National Endowment for the Arts 2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, about 26% of non-Hispanic whites, 15% of Hispanics, 12 % of African Americans, and 23% of adults in other racial/ethnic categories (largely Asian Americans and Native Americans) visited an art museum or gallery in that year.

A Diversity Forum will assist in better preparing the membership to: discuss and learn more about diversity and inclusion issues that they may encounter within the profession and the workplace; the Academic College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Diversity Standards: Cultural Competency for Academic Libraries guidelines; the forthcoming diversity section of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan, and facilitate making natural connections between them. This Diversity Forum concept is not new. In March 2003, at the Baltimore conference, the former chairs, along with ARLIS/NA President Allen Townsend and Past-President Daniel Starr, organized a Diversity Forum to discuss diversity issues. There was another Diversity Forum in 2008. It has been 8 years since there was a Diversity Forum at the annual conference. The joint conference is the perfect venue to discuss commonalities we encounter between Visual Resources and Art Librarianship.

Participants will learn about current issues facing librarianship within the context of diversity and further how art librarianship fit into it. Participants should be prepared to actively engage in group learning experiences and will take away tips on how to move forward with diversity and inclusion issues in the workplace and ARLIS/NA.

Moderator:

Kai Alexis Smith, Librarian-in-Residence, University of Notre Dame

Speaker:

Trevor Dawes, Associate University Librarian, Washington University St. Louis

Facilitator:

Mary Evangeliste, Co-owner, Fearless Future