

State of Art Museum Libraries 2016

Anne Evenhaugen

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Smithsonian American Art & Portrait Gallery Library



Why are we here today?



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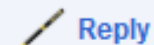
From: William Peniston <wpeniston@NEWARKMUSEUM.ORG>

Reply-To: William Peniston <wpeniston@NEWARKMUSEUM.ORG>

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Reply

Dear Colleagues:

Due to budget cuts, the Newark Museum's Library will be open on a reduced schedule: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 9 am to 5 pm, beginning Tuesday, April 23.

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State of Art Museum Libraries 2016 White Paper

About this Report:

[DOWNLOAD \[PDF\]](#)  Open Access

The ARLIS/NA Executive Board announces the publication of the State of Art Museum Libraries 2016 White Paper. The report demonstrates the current roles, issues, and challenges faced by art museum libraries in the United States.

Art museum libraries provide authoritative, relevant, and timely research service to their museum constituents and the general public, and act as fundamental partners in the art museum’s educational mission. Despite their importance, art museum libraries are facing pressures from many directions, and are increasingly required to provide value propositions for their existence. The historic and enduring value of the art library, and the employees who develop, promote, and safeguard its resources, cannot be emphasized enough to the staff, administration and the governing boards of art museums. This paper takes a closer look at these constraints in specific institutions and offers strategies to remedy the adverse effects.

Eumie Imm Stroukoff, President of ARLIS/NA, stated: “The white paper illuminates the issues faced by specialized art museum research libraries, and provides possible solutions as a constructive way to manage change.” The Executive Board and co-authors believe this paper will serve to move the profession forward in a positive and constructive manner. The co-authors of the white paper are: Anne Evenhaugen, Shaina Buckles Harkness, Alison Huftalen, Nicole Lovenjak, Mary Wassermann, and Roger Lawson (Editor).

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What we found:



Closures, Lay-offs or Restructurings of U.S. Art Museum Libraries

- Fine Arts Library at the University of Texas, Austin (2017)
- Peabody Essex Museum Library (2017)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art (2016)
- Fine Arts Library at Indiana University (2016)
- Barnes Foundation (2016)
- Toledo Museum of Art Library (2016)
- Santa Barbara Museum of Art Fearing Library (2015)
- Corcoran Library (2014)
- Baltimore Museum of Art (2013)
- National Gallery of Canada (2013)
- Chrysler Museum (2013)
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (2013)
- Newark Museum Library (2013)
- Indianapolis Museum of Art Stout Library (2013) and (2008)
- Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester (2012)
- Harvard Libraries, including the Fine Arts Library (2012)
- Dayton Art Institute Library (2009)
- MOCA Los Angeles (2009)
- And others?



“Things are tight,
but we manage.”

-Anonymous response from the 2016
Museum Division Current State Survey

What's next?



Immediate future:

- Problem-solving assistance
- Foster a stronger community among Art & Museum Librarians

Near future:

- Online Toolkit
- Outreach to powerful partners and advocates

Further future:

- “State of Art Museum Libraries 2021”

State of Art Museum Libraries 2016

Thank you!

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