

Insights for the Future: Exploring Trends and Issues in Academic Art Libraries



ARLIS/NA 2019 Annual Conference

State of Academic Art Libraries 2019 Report

...

<https://www.arlisna.org/publications/arlis-na-research-reports/1659-state-of-academic-art-libraries-2019>

**Exploring current trends
and challenges facing
academic art libraries.**

Project Team Members

Andi Back, University of Kansas

Caley Cannon, Brand Library & Art Center

Emilee Matthews, University of Arkansas

Ginny Moran, Macalester College

Becca Pad, UT Austin

Mary Wasserman, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Roger Lawson, National Gallery of Art, Editor

Methodology

- Literature review
- Academic Library
Division survey
- Case studies

Literature Review

- Print and electronic collections
- Library spaces
- Digital scholarship
- Subject expertise
- Advocacy

Academic Division Survey

- 100 survey respondents
- 72 academic librarians
- 67 US institutions, 4 Canadian institutions
- 45 academic librarians - public institutions
- 25 academic librarians - private institutions

Case Study Institutions

Colby College

Indiana University Bloomington

LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York

McGill University

Northwestern University

Temple University

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Top Insights

- Library spaces
 - Collections
 - Subject liaisons
 - Advocacy
-

Library Spaces

**77 % report space
change in their
library**

Highest reported areas of change:

- Collections
 - Learning commons
 - Technology enriched classrooms
 - Makerspaces
 - Data or digital scholarship labs
-

**80% reported space
change impacted library
collections**

Responses to collection impacted space change

1. Moving collections to offsite storage
2. Collection reduction
3. Consolidating materials
4. Changes in collection development policies

The redesign of library spaces has implications for arts research.

- How scholars engage with collections
 - Graduate students ability to conduct research
 - Opportunity to learn transliteracies
-

Collections

**60% report that
buying e-books is
not a priority for
art publications**

Unique and in transition:

- Primacy of print
 - Challenges of digital
 - Centralization and automation
 - Financial landscape
-

Challenges of Digital:

- Availability
- Access and discovery
- Not all-encompassing

**67% reported not knowing
their collection budget for
electronic resources in the arts**

**80% report
having at least
one art approval
plan**

**49% report not
having a collection
policy for art
resources**

Subject Specialists

**95% indicate using
subject expertise a
“moderate amount, or
great deal.”**

Knowing all the things

- Expectation of deep subject knowledge and experience
- Agility with other disciplines for ideation
- Required functional knowledge

31% have digital scholarship or related functions as part of their jobs

Job duties have expanded

- Digital assets management
- Collection management
- Research & instruction

Reliance on collaborative relationships

Advocacy

**68% consider
advocacy a key
aspect of their
role**

Focus of advocacy efforts:

- Space and collections
- Outreach and partnerships
- Donors and gifts
- Data and documentation



**13% reported that
feedback from librarians
is not regularly included
in decisions.**

Understanding the college or university library from multiple perspectives is one starting point for advocacy.

1. Departmental meetings (35%)
2. Administration meetings (23%)
3. Email (20%)
4. Task force/committee service (14%)

Recommendations

- Communication strategy
- Advocacy tool kit
- Partnerships
- Reframe ideas
- Consider unique needs

Insights from Case Studies

Sarah Carter, Indiana University Bloomington

Margaret Ericson, Colby College

Small Group Q&A

1. What insights from this report relate to your own institution?
2. In the past, have you ever had to advocate for the library you were employed? If so, what were some successes and/or failures related to your efforts?
3. What takeaways from this report will be most useful to you at your own institution?

Questions?