



ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

35th Annual Conference
Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-May 1

Solo Librarians Discussion Group
Saturday, April 28, 2006, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Ardmore Room

Moderator: Natalia Lonchyna, North Carolina Museum of Art

Recorder: Cary Wilkins, Morris Museum of Art

Attendees:

Joan Benedetti, retired
Loree Bourgoin, Lynn Academy College of Fine Arts
Jennifer Hudson Connors, Stark Museum of Art
Lois Crane, Wichita Art Museum
Alison Dickey, Currier Museum of Art
Barbara Furbush, Getty Research Library at the Villa
Leslie Holland, Memphis College of Art
Natalia Lonchyna, North Carolina Museum of Art
Susan Poorbaugh, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe
Debra Royer, Portland Art Museum
Eumie Imm-Stroukoff, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum
Lindy Narver, Laguna Art Museum
Tatum Preston, Birmingham Museum of Art
Cary Wilkins, Morris Museum of Art
Tom Young, Philbrook Museum of Art

Agenda

- I. Welcome and introduction
- II. Business
- III. Museum handbook
- IV. Discussion of specific issues
- V. Wrap up

Welcome and introduction:

Natalia Lonchyna (North Carolina Museum of Art) introduced herself and welcomed everyone present at the Discussion Group. Introductions followed around the table.

Business:

Cary Wilkins (Morris Museum of Art) agreed to be the recorder for the session.

Minutes from the meeting in Banff, Alberta, May 7, 2006, were approved.

Alison Dickey (Currier Museum of Art) volunteered to be the new moderator of the Discussion Group.

Natalia explained that the ARLIS/NA Assessment Task Force had been charged with looking at the infrastructure of ARLIS, and in light of their recommendations, did the Solo Librarians Discussion Group want to continue as a Group? There was a general consensus among the Group to remain as it has been.

Natalia suggested keeping in touch through a blog or a wiki. Other ways to stay in touch that were mentioned were: send out information to an email list of solo librarians; disseminate information on ARLIS-L; send information to the News section of the ARLIS web site, followed up by an email message to ARLIS-L; create an RSS feed when something is posted on the blog; and doing all of the above. Loree Bourgoin agreed to set up a blog for the Solo Librarians Discussion Group using Blogger.

Museum handbook:

Joan Benedetti showed the completed handbook *Art Museum Libraries and Librarianship*, which she edited, published by Scarecrow Press and ARLIS/NA in 2007. She pointed out the chapter on solo librarians by Cheryl Siegel and the fifteen brief sketches, with statistics, of art libraries. Joan was congratulated for the book.

Discussion of specific issues:

Web 2.0: Natalia mentioned that the North Carolina Museum of Art and the State Library of North Carolina are talking about Web 2.0 and the different ways available to disseminate information. For example, some libraries are using blogs instead of setting up web pages.

Other topics of interest:

Approval plans from book distributors were discussed. The following issues were raised: the problem of some libraries not having a consistent budget throughout the year; approval plans using slips being better than an automatic sending plan; not enough titles, such as institutional catalogs, being on an approval plan; some distributors having a more detailed scope suitable for art libraries; and the problem of duplication for libraries on an

automatic sending plan who also participate in a library exchange of publications.

Online catalogs: Lois Crane (Wichita Art Museum) announced that their catalog is online; they are partnering with Wichita State University Libraries.

Space problem: Some libraries have limited space, sometimes sharing an area with other departments and staff. Grants were mentioned as a possibility for obtaining more space.

Circulation: When online systems cannot be used for circulation, manual systems such as index cards and a sign-out sheet can be used.

Library collaboration: Collaboration with other libraries can be achieved by simply contacting them when you need advice or help, becoming a member of a regional network like SOLINET, joining a regional chapter of ARLIS, and working with public libraries and other institutions on a formal or informal basis.

Survey of small art museum libraries: Joan Benedetti mentioned that this survey, which is on the ARLIS web site, is out of date and needs to be updated. Thirty-four libraries participated in the original survey.

Integrated Library Systems: The issue of using integrated library systems for museum collection management was discussed. The problem of different kinds of collections requiring different kinds of cataloging was mentioned. A warning was given about systems that strip out MARC tags. The Mystic Seaport Museum is reportedly working on a project to use Endeavor for both library and collections management. Software systems from Re:discovery and TLC (The Library Corporation) were also mentioned. The Museum Computer Network was mentioned as a resource for help with integrated library systems.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.