



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

ARLIS/NA Collection Development Discussion Group
Atlanta, Sunday April 29, 2007
1:30-3:00pm

Moderator: Timothy Shipe, University of Iowa

Recorder: Chris Sala, Columbia University

The two main topics on the agenda were the future of the Collection Development Discussion Group in light of the ARLIS/NA reorganization and a roundtable discussion of issues and concerns raised by the 26 attendees.

After introductions, an informal survey of attendees was conducted on whether the group should continue in its current status or become an interest group with some leadership and project work. It was unanimously agreed that the group should continue in some form and that it would be desirable to seek recognition as an interest group. Future projects of the group were discussed. One was the desire for a Collection Development website as part of the ARLIS/NA website. A Collection Development website existed in the past, and the attendees agreed that it would be a good idea to revive that website. The old website was maintained by Amanda Bowen on behalf of the former Collection Development Committee. The old website had a very useful Out-of-Print dealer list that should be updated and added to the new website. Other ideas for website content included collection development policies, gift policies, and evaluation forms. It was suggested that sending out a call to the ARLIS/NA listserv might elicit other people who would be interested in contributing to the group. Paula Gabbard, Lindsey Reno and Timothy Shipe agreed to form a working group to explore making a proposal to headquarters about forming a Collection Development interest group.

Next on the agenda were five topics raised by the attendees. The first was cooperative collection development. The problem of breaking subject areas down by LC classification, communication among collecting institutions, and lending were discussed. A major problem is the coordination among institutions. It requires a lot of time, every institution wants the freedom to buy, but not every institution is willing to loan.

Gifts and gift policies were a big concern. Is unconditional acceptance a good idea, and how do people deal with that? How much review needs to be done? Should gifts be accepted at all? Everyone agreed it is a burdensome and time consuming

activity. Once books are accepted and added to collections how is donor information made available in catalogues, if at all? Electronic book plates were discussed. As for all those gift books not added to collections, Better World Books of South Bend, IN was suggested as a vendor who will buy any unneeded books as an alternative to book sales.

Collection development policies was the next topic. Policies that are on websites need to be updated and defined and redefined as needed. ARLIS/NA published an Occasional Paper on collection development policies in 2000 (Occasional Paper No. 12) that is good place to get advice on producing a collection development policy. Two options are replicating an approval plan statement or writing a narrative. Policies can be useful in dealing with gifts and for weeding projects. The consensus was that collection development policies should state principles and not specifics.

Finally the lack of online periodicals in art and architecture was discussed. Less than ¼ of art and architecture journals are available in full-text. It was suggested that this could become a lobbying issue. Librarians have opportunities to talk to vendors to advocate for more journals with online access.