

# Evolving Art Librarian

ARLIS/NA 37th Annual Conference  
Saturday, April 18, 2009

Laurel Bliss

Fine Arts Library, San Diego State University

Cathy Carpenter

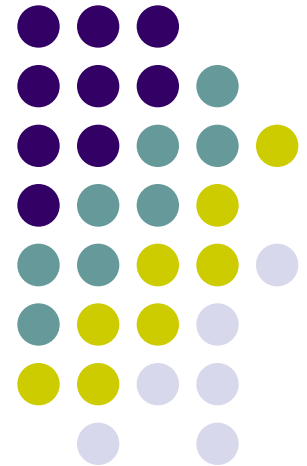
Architecture Library, Georgia Inst of Technology

Catherine Essinger

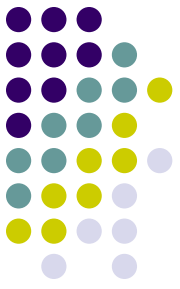
Architecture & Art Library, University of Houston

Alyssa Resnick

Brand Library, Glendale Public Library



# Introduction



- Welcome to the **Evolving Art Librarian: Convergence of our Traditional Roles** session. I am Alyssa Resnick and will be the moderator and a speaker. This session came about because the speakers each submitted similar session proposals and we were asked to merge together to present a session on the evolving art librarian from the perspective of various types of art libraries.
- In the past, an art librarian's job duties consisted of clearly defined tasks in the realms of collection development, reference, and instruction. Major trends have now changed this paradigm. Technology has made many job duties obsolete and allowed librarians to take on new tasks. A more democratic work environment with flattened hierarchies has given librarians more autonomy. The current emphasis on team support of strategic goals has provided opportunities for art librarians to expand their skill sets. Today's librarian is juggling a multitude of roles, and may engage in teaching for-credit courses, event planning, marketing, exhibitions and public relations activities. Many librarians are taking on more technical responsibilities, as well, by managing digital collections, data sets, and the adoption of emerging technologies. While the work of art librarians is rapidly evolving, customer expectations of librarian job duties range from traditional library services to the new and emerging technologies within libraries. Many librarians feel challenged by efforts to redefine and market their new roles.
- These presentations will include the results from a survey of 145 art librarians working in academic, public, and museum libraries, as well as new art librarians. The panelists will also present mechanisms for exploiting this time of change to the benefit of libraries and to the patrons they serve. They will also share personal anecdotes from their daily responsibilities at their current or past institutions.

# Catherine Essinger



...will present the evolving academic art librarian. She is the Coordinator of the William R. Jenkins Architecture and Art Library at the University of Houston. She is the former Secretary of the ARLIS Texas-Mexico Chapter and the Vice President/President-Elect of the Association of Architecture School Librarians. She has recently presented at the Association of College Research Libraries and the Texas Library Association, where she serves on the state-wide Leadership Development Committee.

# Laurel Bliss



...will present the view point of the evolving Art & Design School librarian. She is currently the Fine Arts Librarian at San Diego State University. She is the current President of ALA's New Members Round Table, and is on the ARLIS/NA Membership Committee.

# Cathy Carpenter



...will present the evolving museum librarian perspective. She is currently at the Georgia Institute of Technology but has previously worked in Museums. She is not with us today but Catherine Essinger will present her paper.

# Alyssa Resnick



I will present the viewpoint of the public art librarian, and my varied background of working in art libraries, outsourcing and consulting work, sales work and academic libraries will be further detailed in my presentation. I have been on the ARLIS/NA Membership Committee for the past 3 years, and am currently the Vice Chair/Chair Elect for the ARLIS Southern California Chapter. I also serve as the moderator for the Public Librarians Interest Group.



- **Laurel Bliss** will end the talks with a brief perspective of the New Art Librarian.
- We should have time for Questions & Answers at the end.