



## **38th Annual Conference Boston, MA | April 23-26, 2010**

### **Session/Meeting Name: Art & Design School Library Division**

**Date: Sunday, April 25, 2010 (4-5pm)**

Moderators welcomed attendees, passed around an attendance sheet, and introduced themselves: Ellen Petraits (Rhode Island School of Design) and Moira Steven (Maine College of Art)

Moderators introduced this year's vice-moderators, who will be the 2011 moderators: Elinor Nacheman (Rhode Island School of Design) and Gabrielle Reed (Mass College of Art)

Moderators asked for volunteers to be vice-moderators next year and 2012 moderators: Heather Koopmans (SCAD-Savannah) and Deborah Evans-Cantrell (Indiana University MLIS candidate) volunteered

At least five members of ADSL presented at ARLIS/NA 2010 conference: congratulations to all of them, and thanks for raising the profile of our division and of art & design schools within ARLIS/NA.

### Open Forum Topics:

- ADSL blog <http://artdenschlib.wordpress.com/>
- The blog is not currently very active (only 12 posts over the last 3 years).
- The purpose of the blog is primarily communication among division members (as opposed to communication with other divisions, ARLIS as a whole, or the general public). It is a way to continue discussions begun at the annual division meeting and discuss new topics throughout the year.
- The blog is currently on WordPress. One possible barrier is that people have to be invited as contributors. Invitations are sent by email to all division members after each conference, but this leaves out anyone who joins the division mid-year, anyone whose correct email address doesn't make it to the list. In addition, the email invitation may be overlooked or labeled as spam.
- One benefit of the blog is that it allows everyone to receive the information by their preferred method: those who prefer receiving information by email can subscribe to the RSS feed, while those whose email inboxes are already overwhelmed can visit the blog or use a separate RSS reader.
- Maybe TEI can provide some technical assistance and/or advice to improve the blog?
  - Maybe there is a solution that is better, more streamlined, and/or more visible than WordPress?
  - Maybe there could be a single enrollment for all ARLIS blogs?
  - NOTE: it is very important to members to keep the functionality of posting images
  - Moira & Ellen will look into various solutions to improving the blog or setting up another way to communicate among ADSL members

## Managing in tough economic times

- One librarian commented that the higher-ups at her institution are very pleased that she's able to provide all the library services with only one full-time librarian. She also has three part-time librarians (20 hours/week). There are no library schools nearby, so she doesn't have any graduate student assistants. She is interested in ideas of how to convince her administration that although she seems to be maintaining services with the current staff, it's worth adding a second full-time librarian position. Other members offered several ideas:
  - Create an instruction program, keep track of how many people attend, and (hopefully) point out that you can't keep up with the demand
  - Keep thorough statistics, including not just the number of student interactions but the amount of time spent with students
  - Find out where you fit into the strategic plan of the library director, dean, and school
- At another university, no one has received a budget for this year, including the library. The librarian is essentially continuing to spend as if her budget were unchanged. Although no other members have experienced this, they offered several ideas about how to proceed:
  - exceed last year's budget to demonstrate that you need more than you've been getting
  - get the dean involved – having a budget for the library is important to the dean's responsibility of supporting education
  - be proactive rather than reactive – draft your own budget and try to get it approved
- Several libraries have had to give back some money from their budgets, and one librarian was told to just stop spending, out of fear that there wouldn't be enough money next year.
- One librarian successfully used benchmarking to get an additional full-time librarian position approved. He looked at the FTE, staff count and volume count of libraries at similar institutions. All the other libraries had a higher staff to FTE ratio, so he used that information in lobbying for an additional position.

## The fate of reference collections in A&D libraries

- Many libraries are now integrating reference volumes with the circulating collection. Interfiling within the stacks increases access. Some volumes remain non-circulating, but many are allowed to circulate.
  - One library has always interfiled – the students really want to check things out and won't use anything that can't be checked out; they do not have any volumes that are truly rare, precious or fragile; and the increased access is worth the price of having to replace any lost or damaged items.
  - One library is planning to interfile but hasn't done so yet – the reference collection, with approximately 2000 volumes, has essentially become a librarian's collection; they are planning interfile to increase access, and will simultaneously start circulating some volumes.
- One librarian recommends Credo Reference. She has found it to be a very valuable resource, with the ability to search across all books (over 400 titles). It is especially helpful for studio artists who need information on a non-art topic (for example: an artist working on an installation who wants information on bio-informatics ... just needs a reference book, just a college-level bio-informatics text). It also has a concept map feature that's great for visual learners. It's also highly customizable. For example, you can provide links to appropriate pages from your library website and a link to a Google search based on the search terms a user inputs.

- Related to reference, many libraries are opening the reserves for browsing, to increase access, allow browsing, and allow the comparison of several works. In this arrangement, staff manually keep track of browsing so that they can include it in usage statistics. One library, however, has closed their previously-open reserves because so many items were left lying around the library

#### The library as exhibition space

- Different libraries exhibit student work in many different ways. One has a couple of walls dedicated to a class project in which students make information plaques for posters. Another displays entries in a wine label design competition; the awards reception is also held in the library. Another has a rotating display on student work; the works are changed monthly and documented on the library website. Several libraries display the work of students in graphic design course, such as posters. One library displays posters from a graphic design course in the otherwise bland restrooms.
- Libraries also display their own archival materials and special collections, such as artists' books. One library has "open case days" when students can come into the library and handle the artists' books.
- An instructor at one institution acquired a large collection of old National Geographic magazines and had the students create sculptures out of them. The sculptures were related to and installed in the library.
- Several libraries are used as sites or customers for student projects. One library is used as a site for senior theses. Another is used as a client for a graphic design course (the students design wayfinding materials, logos, etc. for the library ... the library now uses many, but not all, of these materials). Another library is a popular choice for students working on an assignment to create a piece of public art and find a place on campus to install it; the library gets to act as a consumer of public art. Students at another school created an installation in the library that included a peephole into the special collections.
- One library not only exhibits student work but gives them a chance to present. Students' sketchbooks are displayed and each student has a time to present something about their work and their process.
- One library welcome student performances. For example, the glee club performed in the library, and someone filmed the performance on an iPhone and then posted it on the library website.

#### Access to back issues of Vogue

- Parsons has a full run of Vogue, but the (bound) issues from the 1940s and earlier are now in special collections because they are falling apart. They have no plans to digitize this collection, and the librarian would like to provide better access.
- Many members agreed that students love back issues of magazines. Many libraries have had to split their collections between the stacks and special collections based on the age and condition on the back issues, even when they are bound.