Annual Report 2013
Museum Division

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The moderator for 2012-2013 was Doug Litts (Head, Smithsonian Libraries). Allison Hausladen (Cataloger/Reference Librarian, Art Institute of Chicago) is the moderator for 2013-2014, Catherine Petersen (Library Director, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art) is the vice moderator/incoming moderator, and Meg Black (Associate Museum Librarian, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York) is the AWS news contributor.

Membership:
The Museum Division consists of over 500 members and represents over 150 institutions.

2013-2014 Highlights:

Increase online activity:
In response to a survey of the Museum Division membership that was sent out last year, we have increased our online activity by having two online chats co-sponsored with the Professional Development Committee-Education Subcommittee.

1. “How to Start a Museum Library Friends Group”\(^2\) with Eric Wolf (Head Librarian, The Menil Collection) and Jennifer Hennessy (Membership Coordinator, The Menil Collection) held October 25, 2013.

2. “Library Instruction for Museum Docents”\(^2\) with Linda Seckelson (Senior Reader Services Librarian, Metropolitan Museum of Art), Melanie Emerson (Head of Reader Services, Art Institute of Chicago), Lou Adrean (Head, Research and Public Programs, Cleveland Museum of Art), and Alba Fernández-Keys (Head of Libraries & Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art) held March 28, 2014.

At the annual meeting we will solicit membership to see if there is interest in a separate listserv, blog, wiki, or social media involvement for the Museum Division.

Art Museum Libraries book prospectus:
Suz Massen (Chief of Public Services, Frick Art Reference Library) and Heather Slania (Director, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts) have been selected as the new editors to lead the proposed 2\(^{nd}\) edition of *Art Museum Libraries and Librarianship*\(^3\). They will be presenting their draft prospectus at our annual meeting, and we hope that a lively discussion will ensue. Alongside this project and in conjunction with the Public Policy Committee’s desire to survey museum libraries, we hope to update the *Survey of Small Art Museum Libraries*\(^4\) created by Joan M. Bendetti in 2002 to include all sizes of art
museum libraries, possibly using some of the language from the IMLS’s new *Museums Count Survey*, which is anticipated to be conducted in 2014.

**Public Policy collaboration:**
We are also beginning to work with the Public Policy Committee to get out a statement regarding the recent cuts and closures to museum libraries and are looking into a team to write a survey or white paper regarding cuts/closures/recent collaborations with nearby universities and to study the larger pressures on museums that are impacting their libraries.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan Alignment:**

**Goal I: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession**
We see the 2nd edition of *Art Museum Libraries and Librarianship* as a fulfillment of this goal. It will not simply be a book about our history, but will be forward thinking and establish talking points for art librarians to demonstrate their continued value to museum administration, thereby providing a path for our future. We are excited to discuss this project at the conference as this critical time in our profession is the moment to come together, reevaluate, and plan.

**Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills**
In order to reach those members who are unable to travel to the annual conference, we’ve hosted two interactive online chat sessions. We hope to expand the use of this chat feature, possibly having quarterly Museum Division chats so that our members can have interactive, real-time discussions throughout the year.

**Goal III: Create Stronger Leadership through Promotion, Cooperation, and Advocacy**
We hope to collaborate more strongly with the Public Policy Committee to give voice to our positions so that our silence does not speak for us. Our Division should be in communication with the Society of American Archivists and the Association of Art Museum Directors, either directly through our own members or through other ARLIS/NA committees.

**Goal IV: Emphasize our Collections and Stewardship Role**
The survey or white paper we hope to conduct with the Public Policy Committee on recent cuts/closures/collaborations of museum libraries with university libraries will study the risk management issues that come along with the shift from institutional ownership to reliance on licensing resources and purchasing on demand. We must study how this paradigm shift which has already affected academic and public libraries may differ in a museum library setting.

**Goal V: Strengthen the Society’s Communication and Operational Infrastructure**
More fluid communication between the committees, divisions, sections, chapters, and special interest groups needs to take place so that members of these different groups can more strongly collaborate. Perhaps there should be quarterly reports that the Executive Board shares with all those serving leadership positions in the Society and a welcome message when a new person takes a role.

**Issues for the Executive Board:**
The Museum Division urges the Executive Board to release a statement regarding the recent cuts and closures to art museum libraries.

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