FTC SIG History:
The ARLIS/NA Fashion, Textile & Costume (FTC) Special Interest Group (SIG) was founded in February 2011 by Sandra Ley (Pima Community College, Tucson) who also functions as the group coordinator.

FTC SIG Purpose:
The purpose of the FTC SIG is to serve as a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas pertinent to fashion, textile & costume librarianship. Participants capitalize on the shared experiences and knowledge of the FTC library community. The group is primarily composed of members from academic, museum, corporate, and public libraries concerned with developing professional skills and knowledge in areas such as reference, library instruction, and collection development. (S.P. Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills - Extend and encourage professional development, continuing education, networking and mentoring opportunities, for both mid-career and senior career professionals.)

FTC SIG Membership:
From January 1, 2013 up till the present, the FTC SIG received 317 requests for membership. Each request was followed up with an e-invitation to join the FTC SIG blog. As the majority of our members belong to U.S.-based academic libraries, a special effort was made starting this year to increase membership, or at least blog followers, from among the following categories: Corporate fashion librarians, fashion resource information vendors & publishers, and non-USA academic fashion librarians. (S.P. Goal 1: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession - Identify new membership and development opportunities to move the profession forward. S.P. Goal III: Create Stronger Leadership through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy - Expand the Society's programs to attract those new to the art information profession and those from a diverse range of institutions. S.P. Goal III: Build stronger partnerships and programming with our North American, European and international organizations.)

FTC SIG Blog:  http://arlisftc.wordpress.com/
The FTC SIG blog was launched on February 24, 2011 and is the forum for communication and networking among our members. (S.P. Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills - Extend and encourage professional development, continuing education, networking and mentoring opportunities, for both mid-career and senior career professionals.)
Followers & Subscribers: The blog currently has 270 followers, with a significant number coming from institutions outside the USA. Only 73 of the blog followers have signed up for usernames and passwords which enable them to post on the blog. (Indeed, our greatest challenge at present is to engage Arlisians who express an interest in the FTC SIG via the online membership form but, either by inaction or choice, do not subscribe to the blog.)

Blog Posts: In the last year, blog postings increased significantly (245 posts in 2013 out of 380 total posts for the blog.) In particular, we’re seeing more notices of publications from our members, museum fashion and textile exhibition notices, conference and webinar postings, and free online resource sharing. In this last year, we’ve opened the blog to posts from information resource vendors dealing in our subject areas of interest. The SIG was approached by three new fashion information resource vendors which were highlighted on our blog: Trend Council, Stylitics, and the Bloomsbury Fashion Archive.

Blog Visits: WordPress blog statistics visits skyrocketed in 2013 with 35,891 views. (Considering the high number, I reviewed the blog’s WordPress statistics page twice and analyzed the monthly usage statistics since the blog’s inception; the number appears to be correct.) For comparison, blog visits in 2011 were 4,750; visits in 2012 were 7,783.

Views by Country: The majority of visits were from the USA (22,873), with the next highest coming from (in order) the United Kingdom (3,273), Australia (2,233), Canada (2,049), and India (1,188). Visits also originated from countries with top fashion colleges: The Netherlands (917) France (409), Italy (363), Japan (289), and Belgium (220).

For Board consideration: (S.P. Goal 1 - Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession: Identify new membership and development opportunities to move the profession forward)
1) ARLIS International Membership: The international interest demonstrated in the ARLIS/NA FTC SIG suggests that foreign membership options for ARLIS could be a fruitful area for exploration.
2) Fund-raising for ARLIS: Schedule a parallel study tour for fashion librarians to coincide with existing international study tours whenever plans are made to visit one of the major fashion cities (New York, London, Milan, Paris, Antwerp, Tokyo.) Open tours to international ARLIS members.

Online Fashion Librarians’ Resource Guide: [http://libguides.pima.edu/fashionlibrarians](http://libguides.pima.edu/fashionlibrarians)

Guide Description:
In early 2011, an online Fashion Librarians’ Resource Guide was created with the collaboration of our SIG members. It provides colleagues with a permanent and continually evolving list of recommendations for subject-area reference resources, key publishers and information vendors, information on trend forecasting services, important free websites. It also provides a link to the ARLIS/NA fashion design information competencies. This year, a new page was added to the guide that provides links to international fashion archives. (S.P. Goal IV:
Emphasize our Collections and Stewardship Role - Increase awareness of the importance of unique and special collections and their significance in supporting the missions of their parent organizations.

**Guide Statistics:** The online guide generated approximately 1,194 hits in 2013, demonstrating its usefulness to our members. It continues to be updated frequently. (S.P. Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills - Extend and encourage professional development, continuing education, networking and mentoring opportunities, for both mid-career and senior career professionals.)

**FTC SIG 2013 Annual Meeting and Conference Activities:**

**FTC SIG Annual Meeting:**
At the 2013 conference, the FTC SIG had its third annual meeting on 4/26/13 with approximately 23 attendees. Topics discussed included: Updates from Berg Fashion Library / Bloomsbury. Collaboration opportunities with the Librarian Wardrobe blog by Nicole Pagowsky (University of Arizona Library). Collaboration opportunities with Dr. Annamaria Poma Swank (Curator, Made in Vintage, Italy.) Updating the SIG LibGuide with a Fashion Archives page. Planning and brainstorming for ARLIS 2014. Call for SIG participants, suggestions.

**2013 FTC SIG-Related Conference Activities:**
(The FTC SIG-related 2013 conference activities were shared with the Board in the 2013 mid-year report and are summarized here.) The 2013 conference location in Los Angeles, a city with a thriving fashion scene, provided many opportunities for fashion, costume, and textile-related tours and presentations.

- **Conference Tour – 4/25/13:** Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (24 participants)
- **Conference Tour – 4/26/13:** Downtown L.A. Fashion District (Full attendance, number unavailable.)
- **Conference SIG Dinner – 4/27/13:** Attended by 15 members.
- **Conference Presentation – 4/28/13:** Character through Costume: Production Research & Costume Design for Film & Television (Linday King, Yale University; Anne Coco, Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences; Bobi Garland Western Costume Research Library & Archive) (S.P. Goal 1 - Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession: Provide opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship.)
- **Conference Presentation – 4/28/13:** Fashion Blogs from Creation to Preservation (Lisa Ryan, LIM College, Ari Seth Cohen, Advanced Style fashion blog creator, et all.) (S.P. Goal 1 - Leverage and promote the art information professionals' skills beyond the library context; Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession: Provide opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship.)