FTC SIG History and Current Leadership:
The ARLIS/NA Fashion, Textile & Costume (FTC) Special Interest Group (SIG) was founded in February 2011 by Sandra Ley (Pima Community College, Tucson). Sandra functioned as the group coordinator until spring 2014, when Lauren MacDonald (California College of the Arts) took over as moderator with Carla-Mae Crookendale (Virginia Commonwealth University) as vice-moderator. Helen Lane (Fashion Institute of Technology) and Diane Harter (Brigham Young University) assisted as FTC SIG blog managers. Sandra continued on as an advisor and membership 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: For calendar year 2014, the SIG received 124 membership requests from ARLIS members. For the current calendar year, the SIG has received 64 membership requests so far. Each request was followed up with an e-invitation to join the FTC SIG blog.

In 2014, Sandra Ley contacted the ARLIS/NA Board regarding S.P. Goal 1 (Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession: Identify new membership and development opportunities to move the profession forward). She suggested the following:

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. (This suggestion was raised at the 2014 FTC SIG annual meeting.)

E-mails were exchanged and one Skype meeting was held (August 2014) with Isotta Poggi (The Getty Institute) and Christina Peters (The Frick Museum). Guidelines for seeking European connections, and possibilities for an Italian study tour were discussed. Christina shared a list of Europe-based ARLIS members which resulted in three additional FTC SIG blog followers. While it is not known if this has increased actual ARLIS/NA members, it is hoped that the international exposure will prove positive for membership over time. (See section heading “Blog Followers & Subscribers.”

**FTC SIG Blog**: [http://arlisftc.wordpress.com/](http://arlisftc.wordpress.com/)
The FTC SIG blog was launched with the SIG in February 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.)*

**FTC SIG Blog Followers & Subscribers**: The blog currently has 307 “followers” and 101 blog “users.” (Blog “followers” sign up to receive e-mail notifications of blog postings, and “users” sign up for blog username and passwords which enable them to post content to the blog.) A former challenge for the SIG was to increase the number of blog followers to active blog users. As of February 2015, 101 out of 307 blog followers have also signed up for usernames and passwords (a 25% increase as compared with last year.)

As the majority of our members belong to U.S.-based academic libraries, and the SIG recognizes the value of an internationally and institutionally diverse membership, starting in 2013, a special effort has been made to increase diversity in the SIG. Following the Peters-Poggi Skype meeting, Sandra Ley contacted individuals from corporate fashion libraries, fashion resource information vendors & publishers, and foreign academic fashion librarians. As a result, we were pleased to add new members/blog followers from the following institutions:

Ralph Lauren (USA), Fossil Inc. (USA), Skywalker Ranch (USA), the University of Fashion Database (USA), ProQuest (USA), Bloomsbury Publishing (USA & U.K.), Schiffer Books (USA), MOMU Fashion Museum (Belgium), SACI Studio Art Centers (Italy), the Bunka Fashion College (Japan), Central Saint Martins (U.K.), Nottingham Trent University (U.K.), Istituto Marangoni (Italy), Il Museo del Tessuto (Italy)

Our Holland-based member, Fred Goudsvaard (AMFI / Amsterdam Fashion Institute), has been charged with delivering ARLIS/NA FTC SIG membership / blog brochures, designed by SIG member Carla-Mae, to European fashion librarian colleagues at the 2015 (February) Europeana Conference in Antwerp. *(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.)*
**Blog Posts**: Our blog subscribers posted 94 times in 2014, out of 320 total posts since our SIG was founded in 2011. This demonstrates a continuing upward trend in SIG communication.

**Blog Visits**: WordPress blog visits continued to increase in 2014 with 41,677 views.

- 2014: 41,677 (views)
- 2013: 31,891
- 2012: 7,783
- 2011: 4,750

**Views by Country**: We had blog visitors from 166 countries. The majority of visits were from the USA (20,269), with the next highest coming from (in order) the United Kingdom (2,498), Australia (2,314), Canada (2,004), and the Netherlands (950).

**FTC SIG Fashion Librarians’ Resource Guide**: 
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.

**Guide Statistics**: The online guide generated approximately 1,023 views in 2014, 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 2014 Annual Meeting and Conference Activities:**

**FTC SIG Annual Meeting**: At the 2014 conference, the FTC SIG had its fourth annual meeting on 5/2/14 with approximately 23 attendees.

**Leadership**: For the first time, the SIG adopted new leadership (see “Current Leadership” section, at top.)

**Discussion Topics**: General topics including membership and SIG resource reminders (blog and LibGuide). It was decided to allow information vendors to post as often as once a season (limits established to prevent spamming members.) Members were reminded to visit and thank fashion resource conference exhibitors. Fashion Cities Study Tour under ARLIS/NA proposed to garner interest; suggestions included major fashion cities with a consensus reached regarding interest in Italy. Invited guests: Bloomsbury Publishing, providing updates on Berg Fashion Library, and the new Fashion Photography Archive. Collaboration opportunities with the Librarian Wardrobe blog by Nicole Pagowsky (University of Arizona Library) presented. Planning and brainstorming for ARLIS 2015, though it was noted that there would not be significant tour options in Ft. Worth for our SIG.
**Conference Tour** – 5/2/14: The “Behind-the-Scenes Lace and Quilt Tour at the National Museum of American History” was shepherded by Sandra Ley and attended by 8 individuals.

**Conference Lunch** – 5/2/14: A conference lunch was provided by Kevin Ohe and Matt Kibble of Bloomsbury Publishing to solicit feedback on current and planned information resources. Eight SIG members attended.

**Submitted:** February 20, 2014

**Submitted electronically to:**
- ARLIS/NA Headquarters: info@arlisna.org