There were no outside activities other than the annual meeting held this year on March 23, 2015 during the Fort Worth Annual Conference. Our special invited guest was Terry Covington, Past President of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA). Mr. Covington was invited to discuss the history and activities of the TGRA which is an affiliate of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). The purpose of their organization, founded in 1976 now with 30 affiliate groups across the United States and Canada, is to raise money for charity and change people's stereotypical images of gay men and lesbians.

After Terry's presentation, we continued with a Q&A session including a question wondering if and where the archives and memorabilia of the TGRA were being housed. To our dismay, we were told that a collector was storing memorabilia in his basement in Fort Worth but after he died the collection vanished as far as Terry knew! Although Terry did mention that Individual members keep their trophies, hats, vests, and other items related to their rodeo experiences but there is no ‘official’ museum or archive anywhere yet.

Attendees then went on to discuss reasons for such a small turn out and decided that having our meeting time changed from Saturday afternoon to the following Monday morning, the last day of the conference, was probably the cause since many of our members were already heading to the airport!

Edward Lukasek, the LGBTQ SIG Coordinator brought up the serious issue of what is the purpose of this SIG – are we a professional group? – a social group? – a political group? – and what is our relevance in ARLIS/NA? No answers or solutions were reached so Edward suggested having a survey sent out to the members in order to rethink who and what we are and to possibly clarify and refocus the group.

Summary of past activities of the ARLIS/NA LGBTQ SIG:

The ARLIS/NA LGBTQ SIG met in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 3, 2014 with special guest Philip Clark, Member of the Board of the Rainbow History Project, who discussed the archives and current projects. Philip also focused on some of the challenges of operating as an all-volunteer nonprofit LGBTQ organization. The Rainbow History Project is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and promoting an active knowledge of the history, arts, and culture relevant to sexually diverse communities in metropolitan Washington, D.C.
In Pasadena in 2013 we presented a very successful session entitled: **QUEERING OUR COLLECTIONS: THREE IMPORTANT LGBTQ ARCHIVES** where representatives from three of the Los Angeles area’s major LGBTQ collections, the **ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives** at University of Southern California, the **Tom of Finland Archives**, and the **Mazer Lesbian Archives** at University of California Los Angeles presented on their LGBTQ holdings. These collections have materials and resources dedicated to the art and lives of gay artists, such as posters, art, museum objects and other artifacts from artists’ lives.

At the 2012 Annual Conference in Toronto our SIG met and toured the **Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives** or **CLGA** which is the largest independent LGBTQ archives in the world. With a focus on Canadian content, the CLGA acquires, preserves and provides public access to information and archival materials in any medium and is a trusted guardian of LGBTQ histories now and for generations to come.

**Addendum:**

Please remove Deborah Evans-Cantrell as co-coordinator of the LGBTQ SIG.

Thank you

Submitted by:

Edward Lukasek
Coordinator of the ARLIS/NA LGBT SIG
April 16, 2015