Annual Report 2014
Manuscript, Archive, and Special Collections

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Leadership Update: Marcie Farwell started MASC SIG in the summer of 2014 and is currently acting as the group’s coordinator.

Activities, membership, plans: As of February 16, 2015, MASC includes 243 members, with new members joining almost daily. A website for the group was launched in January of 2015 (http://masc.arlisna.org/) as well as a Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/masc.arlisna) and an Instagram page is in the works. Since the needs of individual members are hard to discover via a website, a listserv for the group hosted by Cornell University is also in process (it needs to be approved by our IT Department.) Since there has been a lack of comments on the website, we hope that the listserv may prove useful so that we can communicate news or additions to the website more easily. A survey may also help in this area so that the energy of the group can be better focused on the desires of the majority of the membership.

Unfortunately, since we’re still working on getting the SIG up and running, we were not able to put together a meeting during the upcoming conference in Ft. Worth. Hopefully, by creating a listserv we may be able to expand the leadership circle so if one person is unable to attend a conference, another may be able to step in. We will try to put together a virtual meeting in the next few months. And the Facebook and Instagram pages may also act as a central place to post ideas that can then also be added to the website.

As far as how MASC goals align with the overall ARLIS strategic plan, there are many areas where MASC can play a role.

Goal I: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession

Pending: Through the use of a survey, MASC would like to determine how many of its members come from more traditionally archival or special collections and whether they are aware of the growing interest of artists in library and archival materials. Many of these professionals belong to other organizations such as the Society of American Archivists so the survey may also include questions about how we can attract more of these professionals to ARLIS.
Goal II: Expand Mentoring, Management, and Transition Skills

**Progress:** For those members who may be new to the archival/special collections profession, or find that their position in a library requires a new set of skills. The MASC website offers lists of possible professional development opportunities via workshops and classes. We will continue to make additions to that list and updates when new classes are offered.

Goal III: Create Stronger Leadership through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy

**Pending:** MASC seeks to expand the Society’s programs to attract professionals from a wide array of institutions that may not have seen themselves as “Art Librarians” in the traditional sense but who are interested in serving the needs of artists. As we move forward, working with other professional organizations, such as SAA and RBMS, will allow for a greater dialog about how we can work together to use these materials in creative and thought provoking ways and at the same time bring more attention to our collections from a wider audience than we may have expected in the past.

Goal IV: Emphasize our Collections and Stewardship Role

**Pending/Progress:** Via the website, Facebook and Instagram pages, MASC hopes to bring more awareness to the wealth of materials that can be found in manuscript, archival and special collections and the artists who are already using them as sources of inspiration. As we progress, one of the goals is to also act as a meeting place for both artists and professionals working within these institutions.

**Pending:** While we traditionally fund scholars in these collections, there is a growing desire to fund work created by artists. MASC would like to reach out to those institutions that have begun funding artists within their archives and special collections. By offering examples of how some institutions have created these kinds of opportunities others may be able to follow suit. By collecting examples of successes in this area more of us may be able to make a case for our institutions to try it.

**Issues for the Board:** The only one I can think of might be the necessity of a ARLIS offered Listserv. It came up in another SIG that I am a part of and for MASC I am fine with using a Cornell Listserv while I am coordinator but the next coordinator would have to create something new. I think overall I have received more feedback via the ARLIS listserv than I have from the website.

Submit electronically to:
- ARLIS/NA Headquarters: [info@arlisna.org](mailto:info@arlisna.org)