Annual Report 2014
Public Librarians SIG

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Leadership:
Dayna Holz will continue as the Coordinator for the Public Librarians SIG.

Activities and Plans:
The Public Librarians SIG met at the 2014 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, with seven members in attendance. At the meeting the group discussed the need for more awareness of the role of art librarians in public libraries, and of public librarians within ARLIS/NA. We decided to, as a group, come up with a conference session proposal for the 2015 conference, to be endorsed by the SIG, which would highlight some aspect of the work that art librarians do in public libraries. The session, “Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice,” was accepted by the 2015 Program Committee and presented at the Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, TX. As a handout for the session, a bibliography describing collection resources for working artists was created, printed, and distributed by the group. (An electronic copy of the bibliography is included as an attachment to this report).

At the SIG meeting at the 2015 Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, seven members attended, two of whom were new to the group, inspired to join the SIG after seeing the previous days’ Public Librarians SIG-endorsed panel session. Acknowledging that there are more art librarians in public libraries than there are Public Librarian SIG members, the group decided to concentrate efforts over the next couple of years to seek out these librarians, make them aware of ARLIS/NA and the Public Librarians SIG, and create a list of institutional contacts for public libraries with significant art book collections. Heather Lowe, new to the Public Librarians SIG, has volunteered to lead the effort.

Addressing the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan:

**Goal I: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession**
- Advocate the art information professionals’ value and relevance so as to strengthen our membership’s standing within our institutions and their respective constituencies

Art subject specialists in public libraries are being phased out in favor of generalists at libraries all over the U.S. This is a critical time for professional advocacy and collaboration among art librarians in public libraries and the Public Librarians SIG seeks to remain a nexus for the exchange of information and ideas among professionals in this specialized area of art librarianship.

Our **ongoing action plan** is to: 1) maintain the Public Librarians SIG listserv (arlis_publiclib@arlisna.org) as a way to communicate with colleagues for support, idea-
sharing, and outreach; 2) meet as a group at the annual conference; and 3) act as a resource for librarians new to the area of art librarianship in public libraries to learn about this specialized field from colleagues.

**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

Public librarians constitute only a small number of total ARLIS/NA members, yet lend to ARLIS/NA's representation of a diverse range of institution types and specialized areas of art librarianship.

Because art subject specialists and art collection selectors in public libraries do not often identify professionally with ARLIS/NA, it is the intent of the Public Librarians SIG to identify potential members at institutions in North America, to inform them of our group within ARLIS/NA, and to invite them to join a list of institutional contacts for the Public Librarians SIG to enhance our professional network. The idea for this action item was proposed at the 2015 Public Librarians SIG meeting at the Annual Conference and is a pending action item for 2015-2016.

To inform and educate ARLIS/NA colleagues about the role public librarians play in the field of art librarianship, the Public Librarians SIG elected to endorse and submit a session proposal for the 2015 Annual Conference that would highlight some of the diverse work that ARLIS/NA public librarian members do around the country. The session was accepted by the Program Committee and Public Librarians SIG members Billy Parrott and Dayna Holz presented at the session “Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice” at the Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, TX. Action item completed.

**Goal IV: Emphasize our Collections and Stewardship Role**
- Define and articulate our role as stewards of our collections and provide guidance and language to encourage good stewardship

Public librarians have a unique opportunity to reach all members of society with unrestricted access to collections and services. Most art librarians in public libraries have different responsibilities to the art collections than academic and museum librarians, generally working with circulating materials which are not designed to be maintained as research collections. Within the Public Librarians SIG, members can exchange ideas about trends in collection development as they specifically relate to public library collections and create bibliographies for particular areas of collecting. This action item is ongoing, but in conjunction with the 2015 conference session endorsed by the Public Librarians SIG (“Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice”) a resource list of books to support working artists was created by the group and distributed at the conference. This aspect of the action item is completed.
Resources for Working Artists

Compliments of the Public Librarians Special Interest Group of ARLIS/NA

2015 Annual Conference Ft. Worth, Texas
Vocational Guidance for Artists

- *How to Grow as an Artist*, by Daniel Grant (Allworth Press, 2002)
- *How to Survive and Prosper as an Artist: Selling Yourself Without Selling Your Soul*, by Caroll Michels (Henry Holt and Co., 2009)
Writing the Artist Statement: Revealing the True Spirit of Your Work, by Ariane Goodwin (Infinity Pub., 2002)

Creative Thinking and Inspiration

The Artist in the Office: How to Creatively Survive and Thrive Seven Days a Week, by Summer Pierre (Penguin Group, 2010)
The Artist's Library: A Field Guide, From the Library as Incubator Project, by Laura Damon-Moore and Erinn Batykefer (Coffee House Press, 2014)
Creative Block: Get Unstuck, Discover New Ideas: Advice and Projects from 50 Successful Artists, by Danielle Krysa (Chronicle Books, 2014)
Cultivating Your Creative Life: Exercises, Activities, and Inspiration for Balance, Beauty, and Success as an Artist, by Alena Hennessy (Quarry Books, 2012)
Making Art a Practice: How to be the Artist You Are, by Cat Bennett (Findhorn Press, 2013)

Business & Marketing


Art/Work: Everything You Need to Know (and Do) As You Pursue Your Art Career, by Heather Darcy Bhandari, Jonathan Melber (Free Press, 2009)


Artist’s and Graphic Designer’s Market (Writer's Digest Books, published annually)


The Business of Being an Artist, by Daniel Grant (Allworth Press, 2010)


I’d Rather Be in the Studio!: The Artist’s No-excuse Guide to Self-promotion, by Alyson B. Stanfield (Pentas Press, 2008)


Selling Art without Galleries: Toward Making a Living from Your Art, by Daniel Grant (Allworth Press, 2006)

Legal and Financial

- *Business and Legal Forms for Fine Artists*, by Tad Crawford (Allworth Press, 2005)
- *Business and Legal Forms for Interior Designers*, by Tad Crawford and Eva Doman Bruck (Allworth Press, 2013)

Resources for Graphic Designers & Illustrators

- *Artist’s and Graphic Designer’s Market* (Writer's Digest Books, published annually)
- *Becoming a Successful Illustrator*, by Derek Brazel and Jo Davies (Fairchild Books, 2013)
- *Burn Your Portfolio: Stuff They Don’t Teach You in Design School, but Should*, by Michael Janda (New Riders, 2013)
- *Business and Legal Forms for Graphic Designers*, by Tad Crawford and Eva Doman Bruck (Allworth Press, 2013)

Field Guide: How to Be a Graphic Designer, by Ana Labudović and Nenad Vukušić (Rockport, 2009)

Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing & Ethical Guidelines (Graphic Artists Guild, 2013)


How to be a Graphic Designer, Without Losing your Soul, by Adrian Shaughnessy (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010)

How to Be an Illustrator, by Darrel Rees (Laurence King Publishing, 2014)

Start & Run a Graphic Design Business, by Michael Huggins (Self-Counsel Press, 2009)

Starting Your Career as a Graphic Designer, by Michael Fleishman (Allworth Press, 2014)


Words for Pictures: The Art and Business of Writing Comics and Graphic Novels, by Brian Michael Bendis (Watson-Guptill Publications, 2014)

Resources for Craftspeople

Business and Legal Forms for Crafters, by Tad Crawford (Allworth Press, 2012)

The Craft Artist’s Legal Guide (Nolo, 2010)


Grow Your Handmade Business: How to Envision, Develop, and Sustain a Successful Creative Business, by Kari Chapin (Storey Pub., 2012)
- *How to Sell Your Crafts Online: A Step-by-Step Guide to Successful Sales on Etsy and Beyond*, by Derrick Sutton (St. Martin's Griffin, 2011)

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**Resources for Photographers**

- *Business and Legal Forms for Photographers*, by Tad Crawford (Allworth Press, 2010)
- *The Law (in Plain English) for Photographers*, by Leonard D. DuBoff and Christy O. King (Allworth Press, 2010)
- *Photographer’s Market* (Writer's Digest Books, published annually)


Assembled by members of the ARLIS/NA Public Librarians SIG for the conference session *Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice*, March 20, 2015

Have suggestions for additional titles? Send them to the PL SIG listserv! arlis_publiclib@arlisna.org or to PL SIG Coordinator Dayna Holz, holz.dayna@gmail.com