Annual Report 2015
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 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.

One of the ideas proposed at the 2015 SIG meeting was to connect via the listserv about six months after the conference to conduct virtual round-robin style updates of what members are up to at work. Reporting on events, interesting activities and acquisitions, personnel and organizational changes, and any other news. A few members participated, however, we may try this again in 2016 with the hope of encouraging more contributions.

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 2016.