Annual Report 2017

Book Art Special Interest Group

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Leadership: Sha Towers, Coordinator. Due to changes in jobs and responsibilities, Allison Jai O’Dell was unable to continue serving as co-coordinator.

Membership: During 2017, we received 405 notifications of new and renewing members interested in joining the Book Art SIG.

Activities:
The ARLIS/NA Book Art SIG met in New Orleans on Tuesday, February 7th with 29 people present. Meeting included two book arts dealers who presented the SIG with nine book arts gifts as “door prizes” for SIG members. The bulk of the meeting was a new approach for the group that we were calling a “NanoUnConference” focusing on the informal exchanges of ideas. The attendees determined the agenda (various topics of discussion) and led a variety of simultaneous small group conversations. This “birds of a feather” approach, where people with a common interest get together to ask questions and share ideas and experiences, was highly successful. Discussion groups included: funding and developing donors, circulating collections for artists' books, use of images in library catalogues, teaching with artists' books, marketing and promoting, issues of preservation and physical organization of collection, and exhibition issues and best practices.

In an effort to explore more ways for the members to easily share ideas and questions, We established new communications modes with a listserv (book-art_sig@arlisna.org) and a Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/bookartSIG/) with 86 participants.

Members of the SIG proposed a 90-minute conference session for the 2017 annual meeting: “Book Art Boot Camp: Everything You Need to Manage Artist Book Collections.” The proposal was not accepted.