Cataloging Section

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Leadership Update: Chantal Sulkow, Moderator
Emily Walz, Vice-Moderator

Activities

The Cataloging Section met at the 2017 ARLIS/NA conference in New Orleans. During the meeting, Sherman Clarke spoke about CAC’s Work with Art Genre / Form Headings and summarized the development of the progress of the LC Genre Form Thesaurus. The LC Genre Form Thesaurus was started because LC was separating the genre/form information from the topical headings, but discovery layers are more successful when the information can be readily distinguished by facets such as topic or genre form. For the Art Genre Form Project, the CAC submitted their terms to the Library of Congress around the new year which gave Janis Young and Libby Dechman from the Library of Congress a chance to review before they came to ARLIS in 2017. The CAC submitted 52 terms. Most are on Tentative List 1802a and the comment period ends in early February. The terms will be discussed by the LCSH editors in February. Approved terms will be included in LCGFT. List 1802a can be found at https://classificationweb.net/tentative-subjects/1802a.html

Marie-Chantal L’Écuyer-Coelho (Visual Collections Cataloguing Librarian, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec) spoke about the ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee’s participation in ArtFrame, a linked data project. In June 2016, the CAC had received an invitation from Columbia University to participate in a Linked Data 4 Production initiative to test BIBFRAME and other ontologies for practical application in libraries. Columbia is responsible for the art extension which received financial support from the Mellon Foundation for a period of two years. The objective of ArtFrame has been to evaluate the suitability of BIBFRAME for describing art objects as well as other linked data ontologies and initiatives in the art domain. Columbia reached out to the art cataloging community in museum and art libraries and CAC has participated in the discussions. The ArtFrame group with CAC has been holding frequent online meetings and has developed a list of use cases identifying the main research needs of the art community. In-person meetings were held with the ArtFrame group and the Rare Materials group in March 2017 and January 2018 at Columbia University.

Maria Oldal (Manager of Collections Information, The Morgan Library & Museum) put out a call for participation for a session proposal for the 2018 New York conference: Linked
Data for Art Information: ARTFRAME, BIBFRAME, LD4P (Linked Data for Production). Maria submitted a proposal in April 2017 for the 2018 NYC conference, which was accepted. The session brings in 3 non-ARLIS speakers, and received generous funding arranged by the conference organizers. The speakers will be Jason Kovari, Cornell, Melanie Wacker, Columbia, Amber Billey, Bard, and Marie-Chantal L'Ecuyer-Coelho, BAnQ. Maria will moderate the session.

Following these discussions, Tamara Fultz (Associate Museum Librarian, Cataloging & Reference, Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art) gave a slideshow presentation entitled “Beyond the Backlog: How the Thomas J. Watson Library Made Their Backlog Disappear.” Tamara spoke to the Section about how The Watson Library had reduced their backlog to zero.

The Section discussed the direction for the group over the next year (2017-18) and revisited the results of a 2016 survey organized by former Moderator Andrea Puccio in which members had indicated what they wanted to see from the Section in terms of action items and the professional community. Based on the results of this survey, Moderator Chantal Sulkow (Reference and Collections Librarian, Bard Graduate Center Library) proposed creating a blog as a forum for information, resources or content for the cataloging community. Chantal sent around a sign-up sheet and asked people to indicate willingness to contribute to a blog. Based on an enthusiastic response, this year, Chantal Sulkow and Emily Walz, Vice-Moderator, (Librarian, NYPL) launched a Wordpress blog, Catablog (https://catablogweb.wordpress.com/about/). A link to the the blog has been added to the Cataloging Section’s page on the ARLIS/NA website: (https://arlisna.org/organization/sections/96-cataloging-section). The inaugural post was Tamara Fultz’ presentation from the 2017 meeting in New Orleans, and as of this writing, future posts are in planning stages.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

Leadership and Advocacy:
- Action: speak and act on behalf of ARLIS/NA members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries, and train members to be advocates within their individual context
  - By proposing and advocating for more cataloging-related conference sessions
  - By offering mini-presentations during the annual meeting
  - By creating a blog to serve as a forum for promoting and sharing information about the profession
- Action: foster partnerships with other ARLIS groups:
  - By continuing to reinforce and nurture a bond with ARLIS/NA’s Cataloging Advisory Committee (CAC).

Art Information Professionals:
- Action: support the evolving role of art information professionals through education, mentoring, and professional development opportunities that foster excellence and innovation
  - By encouraging or providing guidance and enrichment to new cataloging professionals with mini-presentations at the conference section meeting
  - By creating a blog to serve as a forum for promoting and sharing information about the profession
Organizational Advancement:
- Action: strengthen the profession through increased visibility, collaborative partnerships, international networks, and membership engagement:
  - o By creating a Cataloging Section blog, in response to survey results
- Action: facilitate the transfer of leadership by identifying tools/best practices for accomplishments
  - o By ensuring that moderators mentor and involve vice-moderators in all section activities.

Innovation and Technology
- Action: serve as a community of practice for the exploration, cultivation, and sharing of innovative approaches and emerging technologies in libraries and art librarianship:
  - o By creating Catablog, the blog of the Cataloging Section, which is an online forum that utilizes technology to share information, and foster connections within the professional community.