FTC SIG History and Current Leadership:
The ARLIS/NA Fashion, Textile & Costume (FTC) Special Interest Group (SIG) was founded in February 2011 by Sandra Ley (Pima Community College, Tucson). Sandra functioned as the group coordinator until spring 2014, when Lauren MacDonald (California College of the Arts) took over as moderator with Carla Mae Crookendale (Virginia Commonwealth University) as vice-moderator. Helen Lane (Fashion Institute of Technology) and Diane Harter (Brigham Young University) assisted as FTC SIG blog managers. Sandra continued on as an advisor and membership coordinator. In spring 2015, Carla Mae took over as moderator with Nicole LaMoreaux (LIM College) as vice-moderator. In spring 2016, Nicole LaMoreaux (The New School) took over as moderator with Lauren Gavin (LIM College) as vice-moderator. In spring 2017 Lauren Gavin (LIM College) took over as moderator with Jennifer Yao Weintraub (The New School) and Julie T. Lê (The Costume Institute, Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art) took over as co-vice moderators.

Leadership Change:
Lauren Gavin will step down as Moderator and Jennifer Yao Weintraub (The New School) and Julie T. Lê will take over as Co-Moderators. The new leadership for the Vice Moderator positions will be announced at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

FTC SIG Purpose:
The purpose of the FTC SIG is to serve as a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas pertinent to fashion, textile & costume librarianship. Participants capitalize on the shared experiences and knowledge of the FTC library community. The group is primarily composed of members from academic, museum, corporate, and public libraries concerned with developing professional skills and knowledge in areas such as reference, library instruction, and collection development.
**FTC SIG Membership:**
For calendar year 2017, the SIG received 154 membership requests from ARLIS members. For the current calendar year, the SIG has received 10 membership requests so far. Each request was followed up with a welcome email and an e-invitation to join the FTC SIG blog.

**FTC SIG Blog:**
[http://arlisftc.wordpress.com/](http://arlisftc.wordpress.com/)
The FTC SIG blog, launched with the SIG in February 2011, is the forum for communication and networking among our members.

**FTC SIG Blog Followers & Subscribers:**
The blog currently has 373 “followers” and 133 blog “users.” (Blog “followers” sign up to receive email notifications of blog postings, and “users” sign up for blog username and passwords which enable them to post content to the blog.)

**Blog Posts:** Our blog subscribers posted 88 times and commented on posts 15 times in 2017. The blog has had 550 total posts since our SIG was founded in 2011. There were 78 posts in 2016, 65 posts in 2015, 92 posts in 2014, and 83 in 2013.

**Blog Views and Visits:** The WordPress blog received 13,064 views in 2017, 13,269 views in 2016, 17,276 views in 2015, 41,693 in 2014, and 35,882 in 2013. The decrease in views is likely from the reduced number of blog postings. Total views since the blog was created is 133,920. Total blog visits since the foundation is 114,315. SIG leadership is pleased to continue generating interest in the FTC SIG and ARLIS/NA.

**Views by Country:** The FTC SIG blog had visitors from 120 countries. The majority of visits were from the USA (6,795), with the next highest coming from (in order) the United Kingdom (956), Canada (525), India (459) and Italy (405).

**FTC SIG Fashion Librarians’ Resource Guide:**
[http://libguides.pima.edu/fashionlibrarians](http://libguides.pima.edu/fashionlibrarians)
Guide Description: In early 2011, an online Fashion Librarians’ Resource Guide was created with the collaboration of our SIG members. It provides colleagues with a permanent and continually evolving list of recommendations for subject area reference resources, key publishers and information vendors, information on trend forecasting services, important free websites. It also provides a link to the ARLIS/NA fashion design information competencies.

**Guide Statistics:** The online guide generated approximately 812 views in 2017, demonstrating its usefulness to our members. It continues to be updated frequently.

**FTC SIG 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference Activities:**
FTC SIG Annual Meeting: At the 2017 conference, the FTC SIG had its sixth annual meeting on 02/08/2017 with 18 attendees.

**Discussion Topics:**
Resource Guide discussion
- Continue to update the blogs but focus on those that have longevity and feature the top 5 blogs at the moment.

Consortia
- Smaller resources work together to create consortia to help with pricing
  - Challenges:
  - State schools logistics and politics
  - Public vs. Private vs. For-profit vs. Not-for-profit
• Fashion schools around Europe have consortia (could fashion schools/programs in the US join in or replicate system here?)
• Request that you post on the blog or email Sandra Ley with key resources and wish list items.

Annual Conference 2018
• Looking to host panel(s) and tour(s)
• Panels: fashion specific librarians or resources
• Charles James Archive was an idea that was discussed
• Tours: Costume Institute, Ralph Lauren Library, College Library Tours (The New School, FIT, LIM College), Wova Archive, Material ConneXion, Fashion District (create a Google Map to distribute to members and/or ARLIS as a whole publicizing fashion and yarn areas in the city), Conde Nast, Albright Fashion Library, costume on Broadway, WGSN/Stylus City Tours

Co-vice moderator Introduction
• Jennifer Yao Weinraub, Reference Librarian, The New School
• Julie Le, Assistant Museum Librarian, The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library at The Costume Institute, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fashion Friends Email List
• This is provided for schools in the UK – should we replicate it here in the US?

Vendor Updates
• Bloomsbury Publishing
• Visionaire

FTC SIG 2017 Activities:

Out of Bounds 46th Annual Conference Session - Fashion & Textile Lightning Talks:
The FTC SIG worked this year to coordinate and propose the session Fashion & Textile Lightning Talks. This session will feature six speakers from museums and academia demonstrating the many ways fashion and textile librarians/archivists find innovative ways to support their users and foster scholarship. Lynora Williams will present on solo librarianship and making holdings available to the dedicated community of textile scholars and appreciators at the Arthur D. Jenkins Library at the Textile Museum. Julie Lê will present a case study discussing how Instagram has become successful medium for international outreach and advocacy as well as a tool for reference inquiries when working with patrons in creative and fashion-related fields at the Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library. Alexandra Duncan will present on a project undertaken at the London College of Fashion Library involving three embedded information literacy sessions taught collaboratively between the librarian and faculty. Celia Hartmann will present on the many cross-departmental professional collaborations that were crucial to processing and making available the archival records of the American couturier Charles James to researchers at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Lana Bittman will present on making historical fashion forecasts available at FIT and how the historical forecasts have turned into a viable study collection and how they are being utilized for instruction. Sandra Ley will present on key academic and industry digital resources via her analysis of premier fashion program LibGuides. The session will be moderated by Lauren Gavin Technical Services / Reference Librarian, LIM College and FTC SIG Moderator (2017).

Lightning Talks:
Lynora Williams, "An Unlikely Second Act: Overseeing the Evolution of a Textile Library as a Solo Librarian"
Julie Lê, "#FASHIONLIBRARIANSHIP: A Case Study on the Use of Instagram in a Specialized Museum Library Collection"
Alexandra Duncan, “Crossing the threshold: innovations in information literacy”
Celia Hartmann, “Many Hands: Cross-Department Collaboration in Processing the Charles James papers at The Metropolitan Museum of Art”
Lana Bittman, “Stylish Scholarship: Historical Fashion Forecast Archives at the Fashion Institute of Technology Library”
Sandra Ley, “Fashionable E-Resources for Academics and Industry-Insiders”

**Fashion Exhibition Blog Posts:**
In keeping with the FTC SIG purpose to “to serve as a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas pertinent to fashion, textile & costume librarianship,” a focus on blog posts in 2018 was covering the many fashion exhibitions held this year in the United States and abroad. A What, When, Where, nomenclature was developed for these postings and has been adopted by our blog members. A blog tag labeled “Exhibitions” was created to organize these posts.

**Electronic Fashion Resource Webinars:**
In keeping with the FTC SIG purpose to “to serve as a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas pertinent to fashion, textile & costume librarianship,” SIG leadership decided to continue hosting demonstrations of electronic fashion resources. The hope was to provide SIG members with an opportunity to discuss the relative merits of assorted resources, and preview them to aid in collection development decisions. This year’s webinar “Stylus as a Fashion, Textile, and Costume Resource” was held on 8/8/17 and the recording of the webinar was posted to the FTC Blog.

**Fashion Blogs on the Fashion Librarian’s Resource Guide:**
The relevancy of fashion blogs on the Fashion Librarian’s Resource Guide was raised at the 2017 Annual Meeting. This topic will be raised again at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This can be found here: [http://libguides.pima.edu/c.php?g=198524&p=1305793](http://libguides.pima.edu/c.php?g=198524&p=1305793).

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:**

**Leadership and Advocacy:**
The Society shall speak and act on behalf of its members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries, as well as train its members to be advocates within their individual context.

**SIG Activity:**
Coordinated the session Fashion & Textile Lightning Talks with participation from fashion and textile librarians for the Out of Bounds 46th Annual Conference.

**Status:** Will be completed February 28, 2018.

**Organizational Advancement:**
As the leading art information organization, the Society shall strengthen the profession through increased visibility, collaborative partnerships, international networks, and membership engagement.

**SIG Activity:**
Members and moderators frequently share information and engage one another on the Fashion, Textile & Costume Special Interest Group blog.

**Status:** Ongoing direction for the Fashion, Textile & Costume SIG.
Art Information Professionals:
The Society shall support the evolving role of art information professionals through education, mentoring, and professional development opportunities that foster excellence and innovation.

SIG Activity 1:
Held webinar “Stylus as a Fashion, Textile, and Costume Resource.”
**Status:** Completed 8/8/17.

SIG Activity 2:
Maintaining and updating the Fashion Librarian’s Resource Guide.
**Status:** Ongoing direction for the Fashion, Textile & Costume SIG.
Submitted: January 12, 2018
Submitted electronically to: Kim Collins, ARLIS/NA Vice President