Fashion, Textile & Costume Special Interest Group

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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.

History and 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 and
Jennifer Yao Weinraub (The New School) and Julie T. Lê (The Costume Institute, Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art) became co-vice moderators. In spring 2018 Jennifer and Julie became co-moderators.

Jennifer Yao Weinraub (The New School) and Julie T. Lê (Costume Institute) will step down and Olivia Warschaw (The New School) and Shannon Robinson (Drexel University) will become the new co-moderators. The new vice moderator(s) will be announced at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

**Membership**

For calendar year 2018, the SIG received 7 membership requests from ARLIS members. There were no requests in 2019 due to an issue with notifications requests to the moderators. Each request was followed up with a welcome email and an e-invitation to join the FTC SIG blog.

**Blog**

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.

The blog currently has 393 “followers” and 141 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 35 times and commented on posts 21 times in 2018. The blog has had 585 total posts since our SIG was founded in 2011 (as of 1/24/19). There were 88 posts in 2017, 78 posts in 2016, 65 posts in 2015, 92 posts in 2014, and 83 in 2013.

Blog Views and Visits: The WordPress blog received 9,472 views in 2018, 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 143,956. 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 109 countries. The majority of visits were from the USA (4,792), with the next highest coming from (in order) the United Kingdom (674), Canada (371), India (313) and Italy (268).

**Resource Guide**

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.

In 2018, SIG leadership began the process of transferring content from the LibGuide to the WordPress blog. So far, lists of fashion databases and fashion journals have been transferred to the blog. As of February 7, 2019, 4 out of 8 pages have been transferred.
2018 Annual Meeting

FTC SIG Annual Meeting: At the 2018 conference, the FTC SIG had its seventh annual meeting on 02/28/2018 with 28 attendees.

Minutes from Annual Meeting:

3:30pm EST
Welcome
Introduction of Lauren Gavin, Julie Le, and Jen Yao Weinraub
Summary of Lighting Talks will be uploaded to FTC Blog
Overview of Agenda
Introduction of Vice Moderators -- Alyssa Vincent, Shannon Robinson, & Olivia Warschaw
Introduction of SIG Members; go around the room
Annual Report Highlights
Feedback + Salt Lake City ideas
Discussion on Blogs
Open Forum
Bloomsbury Fashion Central @ 4:30pm EST

3:35pm
Vice Moderators Introduction
Highlights of ARLIS 2018
Lightning Talks
Discussed @ New Orleans, ARLIS 2017
Annual Report
154 Membership Requests through ARLIS
Blog views from 123 countries
Blog has 373 Followers; 133 Users

3:36-3:43pm - SIG Introductions. 28 Attendees (including SIG Leadership)

3:45pm - Feedback
Lightning Talks
Thoughts on shorter format?
Newer professionals may be more comfortable with the shorter format
Question: What was the scope of the Lightning Talks?
Lauren personally reached out to some presenters + CFP
No specific topic
Suggestion (Sandra, PCC): “maybe theme of the conference”
Suggestion (Carla Mae, VCU): We should do it every year
Question/Suggestion (Alex, CSM): If ARLIS UK did something similar, would we come?
Resounding yes from the group
Suggestion (Helen, FIT): There are challenges in teaching the business side of fashion -- we should do Fashion Business talks
Comment (Carla Mae, VCU): The business side of fashion makes fashion librarianship unique from many other design fields
Comment (Celia, Met): LIM does that already
Comment (Lauren, LIM): LIM plug! This year is Fashion & Culture
Note (Lauren, LIM): A proposal was written to get this panel, which included statistics of growth in the group, reasoning why NYC was the correct location, etc.
Keep in mind that this would have to be done again
3:57pm
Comment (Kathy(?), Maryland Institute College of Art): Other SIG Meetings
Design Round Table was talking about how design inspires craft
New technologies
Collecting New Technologies

4:00pm - Ideas for Salt Lake City
Idea (Sandra, PCC): Modest fashion; Mormon population in SLC
Comment (Olivia, TNS): Symposium in NYC contacted religious designers and designers that focus on modest fashion happened recently
Idea (Sandra, PCC): Arizona Historical Society
Comment (Celia, Met): Native Designers & Native Organizations + Archives

4:05pm - Fashion Blogs on Resource Guides
List established in 2011 -- hasn’t been updated much since
Question (Olivia, TNS): What is the yardstick for “influence.” Also, Instagram
Suggestion (Sandra, PCC): Eliminate the blog list. Or, keep a short list of enduring blogs
Question (Helen, FIT): Is it possible to migrate materials to wordpress?
Regular posting would be easier if everyone could add to it
Suggestion (Alex, CSM): Fashion podcasts as well
Question (Olivia, TNS): What do we consider a blog? Corporate vs. personal blog.
Comment (?): “Blogs are over”
Note: “Top Blogs” are white, cis, skinny, etc.
Suggestion (Shannon, Drexel): We should start active social media
Suggestion (Arden): Informal review of blogs w/ tags can be posted by anyone
Note (Sandra, PCC): Success of the Fashion Styles List
Suggestion (Helen, FIT): A short list of static academic resources would last longer than a list of blogs

4:15pm - Open Forum
Arden: Working on Costume/Fashion History vocabularies -- get in touch with her
Julie: Instagram accounts on Fashion Librarianship
Instagram cannot give us a list, so contribute to the Wordpress site if you know of one, or if your library has one

Wrap Up

2018 Conference Session

The SIG’s Fashion & Textile Lighting Talks were held on February 28, 2018 from 11:15am to 12:15pm.

Presenters:
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”
Description:
This session featured 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 presented 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 presented 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 presented 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 presented 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 presented 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 presented on key academic and industry digital resources via her analysis of premier fashion program LibGuides.

The panel was organized by Lauren Gavin, moderator from 2017-2018.

Activities

The FTC SIG leadership met virtually on 3/23/18, 5/21/18, and 10/29/18 and communicated via email on a regular basis. One topic of discussion was programming for the 2019 Conference in Salt Lake City. Ultimately, a session proposal was not submitted. The SIG will have its annual meeting on 3/29/19 at 1pm and Bloomsbury Digital Resources will be speaking briefly at the end of this meeting.

The SIG redesigned its WordPress blog, using the “Twenty Sixteen” theme. The theme was selected because it has a menu-driven page structure that allows for LibGuide content to be added; it has a clean, text-focused look; and it is easy to browse.

The vice-moderators posted to the blog on a schedule and all SIG members were encouraged to contribute at any time.

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.

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

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.

Diversity and Inclusion
The Society shall promote diversity and inclusion within the profession including the makeup of its workforce, the design of services and programming, the development of intercultural fluency skills and competencies, and the practice of inclusive collections building.
   Action item: Promote fashion and textiles resources that cover diverse cultures (ongoing).

Innovation and Technology
The Society shall serve as a community of practice for the exploration, cultivation, and sharing of innovative approaches and emerging technologies in libraries and art librarianship.
   Action item: Utilize video conferencing software for meetings and screen-sharing (in progress).

Collections and Access
The Society shall seek opportunities to facilitate collaborations across institutions and cultural organizations in order to promote the informed management, preservation, discovery, and access to collections amid their evolving publishing manifestations.
   Action item: Form relationships with vendors such as Bloomsbury to express needs of librarians and researchers in development of new resources (completed/ongoing).