Materials SIG

Submitted by:
Co-moderators Johanna Kasubowski, jkasubowski@gsd.harvard.edu, 617.384.7499 and Teri Dowling, tdowling@cca.edu, 415.703.9559

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Leadership Update
Co-moderators Johanna Kasubowski and Teri Dowling have served for the past year, and are recruiting new moderator(s) at the upcoming conference in Salt Lake City.

SIG Activities

NYC Conference 2018:

The Materials SIG held its annual meeting at the NYC conference, 12 members attended.

At the meeting Johanna presented the preliminary results of the materials collections survey, and discussed ways to further promote the survey. Survey results would then be organized to compile a directory of Materials Collections to be uploaded to the ARLIS/NA site.

The remainder of the meeting was spent sharing Material Stories and brainstorming ideas for future projects.

The Materials SIG organized and presented a panel discussion on the topic:

Library Collections and Object-based Learning in the Art and Design Curriculum

Increasingly, art and design libraries are broadening the scope of their collections to include objects - material products, color samples, fashion construction samples, natural history specimens - to support their curricula. This session will present both the research and practice of object-based collections. Lareese Hall’s "The Exotic Familiar: The Edna Lawrence Nature Lab and the Web of Making and Knowledge" focuses on the history, development, management, and use of a natural history collection in the art and design school setting. Rebecca Price will examine the importance of tactile literacy and how it informs design practice in her paper "Tactile
Upcoming plans for the SLC Conference 2019

We plan to hold our annual meeting at the conference. We will present the results of last years’ survey, and we’ve reached out to the group for other agenda items of interest.

SIG Communications and Outreach

The Materials listserv set up through ARLIS/NA continues to be the primary means of communication for the group. Upon the creation of listserv in 2017, 100 members were subscribed to the listserv.

Through 2018 ARLIS/NA membership registration, 70 current members and 34 new members, for a total of 104, have expressed interest in the Materials SIG.

Strategic Directions:

Organizational Advancement
The Materials SIG has pursued the strategic direction of Organizational Advancement this past year by organizing meetings at the annual conferences and improving SIG communications via the new listserv. SIG members occasionally post announcements to the group. We hope to see use of the

Making the Materials Directory available this year will be another valuable resource to facilitate group networking and information.

Both of these projects were made possible by the resources available through ARLIS/NA.

Collections and Access
Our work to create the Materials Directory, and organizing the panel discussion for the 2018 conference supports the strategic direction of Collections and Access. Both these projects have given members opportunities to learn about the work of others in the group. Considering the unique issues which arise in creating and maintaining materials collections, sharing our experiences and projects seems especially valuable.