Web Archiving SIG

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Report Text

Leadership

The Web Archiving Special Interest Group (SIG) was co-coordinated in 2018 by Sumitra Duncan (Head, Web Archiving Program, Frick Art Reference Library) and Andrea Puccio (Collections Management Librarian, Clark Art Institute Library). Leadership for the SIG will remain the same in 2019.

Narrative

The ARLIS/NA Web Archiving SIG was founded in 2016 with the mission to steward the community of art librarians currently engaged or interested in web archiving. It monitors and reports on trends, standards, and services in order to facilitate resource sharing and the technical development of web archiving tools of especial value to art libraries and museums. Topics of interest to this group include best practices for collection development, preservation, and access; software services; collaborative collecting; and the applications of web archiving as a strategy for managing ephemeral resources and institutional records.

In 2018 the Web Archiving SIG maintained a presence at the Annual Conference by holding a SIG meeting on Monday, February 26. The SIG meeting was well attended and offered presentations by Alex Thurman (Columbia University) on Avery Library’s Historic Preservation and Built Environment web archive collection, Anna Perricci (Rhizome) on development of Rhizome’s Webrecorder.io web archiving tool and software interface, Karl-Rainer Blumenthal (Internet Archive) on recent developments at Archive-It, Samantha Abrams (Ivy Plus Libraries) on the newly formed International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) Training Working Group, Ann Whiteside (Harvard University) on the COBWEB project, and Deborah Kempe (Frick Art Reference Library) and Rebecca Guenther (Consultant) on the OCLC Web Archiving Metadata Working Group.

A number of SIG members, including the co-coordinators, attended the National Forum on Ethics and Archiving the Web, hosted by Rhizome and held at the New Museum, on March 22-24, 2018. This forum brought together librarians, archivists, activists, and journalists from all disciplines to "consider how web archives can better serve their publics and the
historical record." There were a number of presentations and case studies that directly relate to the arts and that will be recapped in this year’s Annual Conference Web Archiving SIG meeting.

In July 2018 the Internet Archive and the New York Art Resources Consortium (NYARC)—which consists of the Frick Art Reference Library of The Frick Collection and the research libraries of the Brooklyn Museum and The Museum of Modern Art—received a one-year National Forum grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in the Curating Collections project category: Advancing Art Libraries and Curated Web Archives: A National Forum. Sumitra Duncan and Deborah Kempe, Web Archiving SIG members and Frick Art Reference Library/NYARC staff, are members of the project team and are co-leading this initiative. As part of this project, a National Forum and workshop convened in mid-February 2019, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), with librarians, archivists, and curators participating from diverse organizations, many of which are current members of ARLIS/NA and the Web Archiving SIG. Reports and output from this project are being made available via the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal and an update on the project will be provided at the upcoming Web Archiving SIG meeting.

Strategic Directions

The Web Archiving SIG directly contributes to two of ARLIS/NA’s stated Strategic Directions. The first, Organizational Advancement, through our continued engagement with a variety of outside organizations and representing the Society’s interests while participating in cross-disciplinary events. And the second, Innovation and Technology, by ensuring our members are not only informed of new developments in this rapidly changing field, but by positioning ourselves as knowledgeable practitioners involved in important decision-making and testing of new initiatives.