Art Libraries Society of North America, 33rd Annual Conference
Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, April 1-6, 2005

Collection Development Discussion Group Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2005, 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Moderator: Tim Shipe, University of Iowa
Recorder: Christine Sala, Columbia University

After greeting and introduction of participants two business items were discussed. The first was the Collection Development website, which has mostly disappeared as part of the ARLIS/NA website. The Collection Development website was previously maintained by the Collection Development Committee, which no longer exists. Amanda Bowen suggested that it was crucial to put back some Collection Development content on the ARLIS/NA website including the OP book dealers list that was put together by Joy Kestenbaum and Paula Gabbard a few years ago. Brooke Henderson and Susan Lewis volunteered to work with Amanda on the OP dealer list to make sure the information was still relevant and to lobby the new editors of the ARLIS/NA website to add Collection Development content.

The second business item was program ideas for the conference in Banff in May 2006. Several ideas were discussed. Included were assessment of collections; subject collecting; workshop on collection pruning; and print versus electronic serials and JSTOR. Kim Collins agreed to work on a session on collection assessment. The deadline for proposals is May 14, 2005.

A round-robin discussion of issues and particular concerns followed. The first topic was the issue of canceling print serials for electronic serials. The problem of illustrations was discussed. How this is handled is different for architecture journals since architecture students use them differently. The group felt that the illustration problem is an advocacy issue.

The next topic was the problem of monographic collections beginning to suffer because the money is not there. Serial and electronic budgets are eating up monograph budgets due to the increase in the cost of scientific serial packages. Humanities collections are beginning to suffer. Collections are becoming too ‘vanilla’ due to the lack of money to purchase unique and colorful items and the dependence on approval plans. The conversation turned to what different institutions have done to manage their budgets. This led to the discussion of Interlibrary Loan and various aspects of ILL related to collection development: the cost of Interlibrary Loan when an institution cancels a serial; having a set of criteria in place so that when an Interlibrary Loan request matches it then the book is purchased for the library and which funds are used.

A few other topics were discussed briefly: access to credit cards to purchase materials, book sales for libraries, gift and exchange, core list for journals in art history, visual criticism collections, and tools for evaluating electronic resources for visual performing arts.