Public Libraries Round Table Meeting

Sunday, April 3, 2005, 8:00-9:30 AM

Moderator: Alyssa G. Resnick, Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale Public Library, CA

Attendees: William Dane, Newark Public Library; Suzy Frechette, St. Louis Public Library; Clayton Kirking, New York Public Library; Martha Maier, Rochambeau Library, Providence Public Library, RI; Susan McKnight, Deschutes Public Library System

Recorder: Alyssa G. Resnick, Brand Library & Art Center

Summary:

This was the first meeting of the Public Libraries Round Table, which was formed after a discussion group met at the New York conference in 2004. At that time the group petitioned the Executive Board to approve the new Round Table.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing what each attendee is responsible for at their institution, and what the round table would like to achieve.

Suggestions and goals:

- Initiate a survey of other art public libraries.
  - Post the survey on the ARLIS/NA website, if possible.
  - Pursue responses to the survey at the chapter level because there is a stronger public library presence at the local level.
- Invite local public libraries to the annual conferences and pursue having events at the nearby public libraries.
- Initiate a survey of public libraries that have works of art in their collection and/or have exhibition space.
- Notify Banff program chair that we would like to be involved with a program that could have a speaker from a public library.

Discussion points:

Why are so few public libraries represented at ARLIS?
  - Cost of transportation
  - Cost of membership
  - Cost of being away from the library

Summary of attendees’ institutions:

St. Louis Public Library: Suzy is part of the Fine Arts Department, responsible for art, music, and performing arts. There is a room for the department in the central library, there is also
an architecture/special collections room. There are two professional librarians and administration wants to take away the specialty names of the departments.

New York Public Library: Clayton is part of the Art and Architecture Division with a dedicated reading room. The staff has five librarians and two LTA. The division is a busy one and is also responsible for exhibits. NYPL continues to maintain artist files, ephemera files, and picture collections.

Newark Public Library: Bill has been transferred to Special Collections where he is responsible for prints, posters, cards, autographs, and artists’ books. The Visual Arts & Music departments were migrated into Humanities. He is also responsible for exhibitions.

Rochambeau, Providence Public Library: Martha’s library is partly funded by a private non-profit organization, and also the City and State. There is a main library and nine branches. Services are divided based on funding sources. Martha is currently working at a branch.

Deschutes Public Library System: Susan is the selector for the 700s and 800s. There is a main library and five branches and she regularly goes to the branches. There is a demand for technique books, and there are rotating exhibitions. Susan is also responsible for graphic novels and they are being classed in the 700s.

Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale Public Library, CA: Alyssa has a unique situation because the Brand Library is a branch of the Glendale Public Library and is specifically an art and music library. It was the home of Leslie C. Brand and he left it to the City to be maintained as a library. The two full-time librarians have recently been reclassified to Librarian Specialists from Librarian. The library also includes an art gallery, and recital hall. It is the most heavily used branch aside from the Central Library.