Outsider Art
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#altarlis
status as an asset
A psychological perspective: Ingroups and Outgroups

- Members of a group tend to assimilate
- Outsiders are an important element of group dynamics
- Relationships with outsiders reduce prejudice and increase empathy
“Positive contact also enhances empathy for the outgroup and adoption of the outgroup's perspective. One begins to sense how outgroup members feel and view the world. This increase in empathy and perspective taking diminishes prejudice.”

ARLIS/NA is already heterogeneous:

-Geographical diversity
-Stage of career
-Role: Subject Librarian, Administrator, Archivist
-Context: Academic, Museum, Public Libraries
- All Information Professionals
- Values, Worldview
- Art! My People!
(At least one) problem with this theory:

- Art Information Professionals Don't Work in a Vacuum
-Shared goals and values come into play
-Boundary-dwelling art librarians
What does ARLIS/NA do for alt-ARLISans?
- Bring Art Information into your Career
- Community: Your People!
- Generalizable skills and experience
- Outsider status works both ways
Thank you!

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