Introduction and welcome

Tara Spies Smith, SIG Coordinator, welcomed members to the 1st annual ARLIS/NA Graphic Novels Special Interest Group and outlined the purpose and scope of the group.

Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves, providing name, affiliation, and position or title. Attendees discussed reasons they wanted to come to the meeting and their relevant background.

Twelve meeting attendees total.  
Richard Minsky (Artist and Bibliographer and core Graphic Novels SIG member)  
Gisèle Guay (Université du Québec à Montréal)  
Caitlin Plovnick (UC Irvine)  
Diana Harter (Bringham Young University)  
Gina Solares (Art Center College of Design)  
Leslie Jankowski (Columbus College of Art & Design)  
Olivia Miller (UNC- Chapel Hill)  
Kay Streng (Minneapolis College of Art and Design)  
Chris Ramsey (Bringham Young University)  
Alexis Burson (DePaul University)  
Chris Mannix (Columbus College of Art & Design)  
Tara Spies Smith (Texas State University – San Marcos)

Background

Tara Spies Smith gave background reasons for wanting to start the SIG including a description of the evolution of the graphic novel collection she started at her institution. Attendees shared comments about this and relevant interests or developments at their institutions.
“Because graphic novels are becoming a more prevalent topic of study in art and design schools, graphic novel collections are starting to be more common in academic libraries. This creates a need for discussion and sharing of ideas related to graphic novels and graphic novel collections.

Topics for discussion and/or presentation in this SIG can include collection development issues, circulation, processing and display of graphic novels, statistics for support of the collection, preservation, conservation, library related instruction and any other issues that come up with this type of collection or other similar collections. Examples of other collections include comics or other types of sequential art and zines.

The ARLIS/NA members that helped me initiate this SIG are Abigail Sweeney (Massachusetts College of Art and Design), Richard Minsky (Artist and Bibliographer). I also received numerous positive and enthusiastic responses from my informal call for interest on this topic from other subscribers to ARLIS-L. “


Statement of Purpose

Statement of purpose included in first annual report shared with attendees and asked for input or changes. Members agreed the mission statement was appropriate.

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the Graphic Novels SIG is to discuss, share and/or present topics including collection development issues, circulation, processing and display of graphic novels, statistics for support of the collection, preservation, conservation, library related instruction and any other issues that come up with this type of collection or other similar collections. Examples of other collections include comics or other types of sequential art and zines.

Communication Methods

Members discussed best methods for internal communication. Members agreed on setting up a listserv via ARLIS/NA. Members also decided to create a Google Account for the Graphic Novels SIG so Google Drive can be used to store, share, and edit documents that would not go on a public website.

Action Item: Alexis Burson of DePaul University will contact Judy Dyki, ARLIS-L Moderator.

Marketing

A variety of online platforms were considered for the outward presentation of SIG group activities. Possible platforms include Tumblr, Facebook groups, Wordpress, Weebly (website builder) to be used for posting images, writing reviews, institution and collection spotlights, etc).

Action Item: Tara Spies Smith, Olivia Miller, and Leslie Jankowski will explore the possible platforms to make a final decision and share with other SIG members for feedback.

Member Directory
Members gave contact info for meeting follow up email.

Future Steps

Once platform for sharing projects, information, etc. is determined, possible projects that could be initiated are compile online collections of graphic novels, zines, comics. Contact info would be shared and possibly links to our libguides or other research related tools.

Other possible ideas include reviewing good apps or programs for making zines, comics, and graphic novels. Also, reviewing graphic novels, writing articles for publication, and presenting to colleagues were discussed as future projects once the SIG has had time to develop.