Fresh Off the (Closed) Shelf: The Banff Centre Library’s Transition to an Open Stack Artists’ Books Collection

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Preservation vs. Access

Book of Common “Versus”*

*According to an informal ARLIS-L discussion (see handout for more details)

Closed vs. Open

Circulating vs. Non-circulating

“Precious vs. Non-precious”

Museum vs. Teaching collection

Gloves vs. Washing hands first

Pristine/ rare vs.

Contemporary, inexpensive, easily available / library bound

Opening Artists’ Books to Users

• Artists’ Books Showcases

• Improving Catalogue Records

• Expanded Notes

Notes:
Approximately 56 translucent plastic marquee letters (2 x 2 cm each) in motion sickness bag. Title information printed on torn piece of paper and tapped to bag. Title in mirrored text. Square bottom paper airsick bag with horizontal tin tie. Airsickness bag used on Air Canada flights.

• Greater Subject/Genre Access (including terms from the forthcoming Artists’ Books Thesaurus)

Subjects:

• Added entries for contributors and publisher

Added Author:
Cook, Méira, 1964- Markotic, Nicole, Mathur, Ashok, 1961- DisOrientation Chapbooks

Approximately 4000 non-circulating items filed by accession number in closed stacks

Approximately 375 non-circulating items filed by cutter number in open stacks

Outcomes

• The response has been in line with our goals to increase artists’ book collection use, visibility, and accessibility

• Users are now able to browse and access items by artists’ names

• Users are responding positively

• Selection displays the range of items found in collection; it provides a handy answer to patrons requesting to “see the artists’ book collection”

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Expected outcomes include:

• Best Practices, Way Finding, Building Greater Awareness, Formal Evaluation and Feedback