Annual Report 2012
Book Art Special Interest Group

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The purpose of this group is to share information, ideas, issues, and resources related to the book and paper arts. Common topics include: new acquisitions, upcoming exhibitions, conferences, competitions, instruction/outreach practices, digital initiatives, preservation, cataloging/access challenges.

Leadership Update: I volunteered as chair during Boston 2010. This coming 2013 meeting I plan to call for a new chair or co-chairs. I have sent a call out on ARLIS-L and have one lead so far.

SIG Blog: http://arlisnabookartsig.blogspot.com/ low-use and has been opened up to SIG members for commenting and posting but few participate, ARLIS-L seems like a better mechanism until we get standardized web tools for the various ARLIS groups which will provide a helpful one-stop-shop for participation and exchange of ideas.

Last year at ARLIS in Toronto 2012 we had a large turnout given our late timeslot on Sunday, the last official day of the conference (@26 participants). We discussed items such as cataloging procedure and controlled vocabulary for artists’ books and the inherent challenges for standardization given their wide-ranging structures, printing techniques, content/subject and overall uniqueness compared to other library materials.

This discussion is a carryover conversation from 2011. In 2011 we had a poster preview by VCU Librarians Yuki Hibben and Mary Anne Dyer regarding the book art genre index that they devised for streamlining cataloging of artists’ books. We discussed the need for guidelines to assist librarians, especially catalogers, in what information to capture at the point of acquisition of an artist book. It has also been an ongoing desire to have an online form to point book artists, dealers, collectors, and librarians etc. to facilitate the capture of critical information about the book-object at the point of acquisition and this thesaurus work would feed into this future project of creating an online-form. Several folks volunteered to investigate the thesaurus project and happily they will be presenting at the first half of the 2013 SIG. See: http://arlisna2013.sched.org/event/beaeacd054ab15796ee5d8efca7d3e0a#.UVXgTD3Q-S0

Based on discussions during last year’s SIG calling for more book art related offerings throughout the year, I am working to schedule a book arts related webinar (in collaboration with the Education Subcommittee) for the spring. Due to personnel changes at TEI this webinar has to be postponed until after the 2013 conference. The content from the webinar: "Using Book Art to Cultivate and Engage Library Supporters" is based on my rejected 2013 session proposal that has been given new life.

Generating more educational webinars from the SIG’s and the rejected session proposals (where appropriate) from the annual meeting planning sprinkled throughout the year seems like a good way to engage and add value to the ARLIS membership.

For full details from the Toronto SIG please see the meeting notes: http://www.arlisna.org/news/conferences/2012/sig_bookarts.pdf