Decorative Arts SIG

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Leadership Update


Membership Update

As of February 2020, 77 ARLIS/NA members have expressed interest in the Dec Arts SIG and are part of the SIG Google Group.

Activities and Ongoing Projects (summarized in Strategic Directions, below)

The Dec Arts SIG held its 2019 annual meeting during the ARLIS/NA Conference in Salt Lake City, UT Wednesday March 27, 8:00 am with 11 members in attendance.

Topics covered included:

Dec Arts SIG Resource Page
- The Decorative Arts bibliography on the SIG website resource page is a shared and growing document http://decarts.arlisna.org/. All members are encouraged to add to the bibliography.

Updates on the proposed digitization of Crockery and Glass Journal
- Elizabeth Bowman from Cooper Hewitt submitted the following update via email: Instead of scanning all the vols from 1874-1897 from scratch, we’re investigating scanning the microfilm copy that the Smithsonian owns. We did a test scan of some of the pages, and it’s pretty decent. We’re going to revise our original proposal and try this approach with our Digital Services item.
Kathy Woodrell expressed concern about digitizing from microfilm rather than originals. She offered that Library of Congress has print versions of the journal, and will follow up with Elizabeth about possibly offering LC’s copies for digitization.

**Information sharing within the SIG**
- SIG leaders asked the group for opinions on the best means of communicating with the SIG. We currently use a Gmail Group, a Listserv, and blog posts. Consensus was that current channels were sufficient for general communication and resource sharing; we could use Slack for larger projects if needed.

**Blog posts**
- Blog posts are continuing. A signup sheet was distributed at the SIG meeting for those who are interested in contributing content. Contributions don’t have to be original, they could be content posted on other platforms.

**Craft and Decorative Arts Libraries**
- There is interest in creating a resource list of libraries with significant holdings in the area of the Decorative Arts as a Google doc. Beth G. will put out a call for additions to a Google Doc and post on Resource page.

**Craft History Courses**
- Joan Benedetti put out a call to create a list of institutions that offer Craft History courses and SIG members responded; we anticipate hearing her results and the project may become another SIG resource document

**Craft and Decorative Arts Web Archiving**
- There is interest in exploring a consortial web archiving program with a focus on craft and decorative arts.

**Session proposals for the ARLIS/NA Conference in Salt Lake City** were discussed.

**FROM 2018:**
- Possible project: digitizing *Crockery and Glass Journal*, a rare, fragile trade journal heavily used within many institutions. The Cooper Hewitt would like to explore options for digitizing the journal, pooling other institutions' holdings with theirs to create a complete run.
- Continuing project: creating a list of Decorative Arts Museums and Libraries that could be made available on Wikipedia or elsewhere. Beth Goodrich is willing to continue work on the list of craft focused museums and libraries; but would like some assistance to compile a list of institutions outside of her field of expertise.
  - Beth Hylen from Corning Museum of Glass and Elizabeth Broman from Cooper Hewitt have submitted several articles which have been posted to the blog. Beth Goodrich continues to call for additional submissions.
- Round the table discussion of activities at each member’s library. Throughout the year ARLIS members expressing interest in the SIG received a welcome email with information about exploring our site.

Our 2020 annual meeting at the ARLIS/NA conference in St. Louis, MO will be on Tuesday, April 21 from 12:00 to 1:00 in the Plaza Room.
Preliminary Goals

- Continue to address the Activities and Ongoing Projects outlined above.
- Brainstorm possible topics for 2021 ARLIS/NA sessions.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

**Strategic Direction:** Leadership and Advocacy – the Society shall speak and act on behalf of its members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries.
SIG Activity: Facilitate an ongoing dialogue concerning new advances in the decorative arts through establishment and continuous update of a website and blog for the SIG
Status: In progress. A call for blog proposals resulted in publication of several articles in 2018 and others are proposed for 2019.

**Strategic Direction:** Art Information Professionals – The Society shall support the evolving role of art information professionals through education, mentoring, and professional development opportunities that foster excellence and innovation.
SIG Activity: Provide resources and opportunities for ARLIS/NA members working in the decorative arts to present at conferences and contribute to dialogue on issues in this specialized area of the arts. In addition, raise awareness of organizations and collections devoted to decorative arts research and preservation.
  o Kathy Woodrell and Katie Monroe organized a session relating to decorative arts in the Utah geographic region: “Material Culture in Utah and the West: Insights from Decorative and Fine Arts Objects” presented Thursday March 28, 2019 11:00am - 12:00pm.
  o Our proposal, “Now Screening: How Films and Video Enhance Documentation of the Decorative Arts,” will be presented Tuesday, April 21 • 1:30pm - 2:50pm at the 2020 conference in St. Louis as an 80-minute paper panel session. Moderator: Karyn Hinkle; Speakers: John Burns, Electronic Resources Librarian, Art Librarian, Dixie State University (who will send a video of his presentation); Beth Hylen, Reference Librarian, Corning Museum of Glass; Beth Goodrich, Librarian/Archivist, American Craft Council; Kathy Woodrell, Library of Congress (who canceled participation as we wrote this due to the Coronavirus).

**Strategic Direction:** Collections and Access – The Society shall seek opportunities for collaboration across institutions and cultural organizations to promote the informed management, preservation, discovery, and access to collections amid their evolving publishing manifestations.
SIG Activity: Conversations continue among SIG members about ways to collaborate special projects, including:

Shared digitization of trade journals and other rare, fragile research materials.
- Elizabeth Bowman from Cooper Hewitt is exploring digitization of all the vols from *Crockery and Glass Journal* 1874-1897; Kathy Woodrell from the Library of Congress will reach out to her regarding the volumes there.

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We will also continue to consider the Wikipedia and Google Docs projects proposed at our 2017-18 meetings.

**Issues/Requests for the Executive Board**
The Dec Arts SIG has no issues for the Executive Board at this time.