Art Libraries Society of North America, 33rd Annual Conference  
Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, April 1-6, 2005.

Teaching Librarians Discussion Group  
Tuesday, April 5, 2005, 3:00-4:30 PM

Co-facilitators: Rijn Templeton, University of Iowa, and Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Williams University. Recorder: Mary Kay Johnsen, Carnegie Mellon University

In attendance: Barbara Polowy, Smith College; Anna Bigazzi, University of Hartford; Jennifer Parker, University of Colorado, Boulder; Lucie Stylianopoulos, University of Virginia; Jane McMaster, Ohio State University; Sue Maberry, Otis College of Art and Design; Moira Steven, Atlanta College of Art; Barbara Prior, Oberlin College; Jeanne Brown, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Claudia Covert, Rhode Island School of Design; Nensi Brailo, California College of the Arts; Elizabeth Gulacsy, Alfred University; Carole Ann Fabian, University at Buffalo; Beth Hylen, Corning Museum of Glass; Cameron Caswell, Massachusetts College of Art; Andrea Goldstein, Temple University; Nicole Gjertsen, Simon Fraser University; Ellie Nacheman, Rhode Island School of Design; Sarah Dickinson, Harvard Design School; Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Williams University; Rijn Templeton, University of Iowa; Mary Kay Johnsen, Carnegie Mellon University

Announcements and Preliminaries:

LIBTEACH-L has withered. New options: post questions to ARLIS-L with a specific subject heading. Suggestions: a blog; a subsection of ARLIS website devoted to user education issues, like LOEX, possibly as part of the Academic Division’s subsection. During the discussion of where to locate the site and where people would look for teaching info, it was noted that staying coordinated with RISS and Academic Library Division and cross-linking as appropriate would provide necessary access.

Content suggestions: classes that worked, including PowerPoints; student information-literacy competencies for the various arts; the papers presented at ARLIS/NA 2004, New York (Session V. Instructing Diverse Learners: Information Literacy Competency in the Arts).

Questions and Answers:

Question: Are there citation styles for citing an image from a database or a museum site?  
Responses: ArtSTOR has a blurb; Dictionary of Art has a style; Cleveland has a PDF; ask Standards Committee to develop a guide?  
Request: please post examples/urls to ARLIS-L

Facilitator’s Question One: Share good examples of in-class information literacy activities.  
Responses: Give a test, a pop quiz, mind-map exercises. Request: post these to website.

Discussion moved to evaluation and assessment techniques. Suggestions: base-line self-assessment questionnaire to survey life and library experiences of how confident a student feels in the library versus [tested] real skill (four questions for freshmen and upperclassmen); post instruction session/class feedback to librarian; a graduation exit survey; questionnaires to faculty post-class (was it successful, has quality of student work changed, how to change for next time).
Several people noted a strong push to evaluate and assess. Suggestions: develop a new database of user ed statistics to compare to student services survey on ARLIS-web Resources section; try SAILS (ARL/Kent State); look at the work of Edith Crowe (San Jose); see the Library Skills Workbook of SUNY (online)—will be doing discipline-specific versions (such as art); check out the ETS Information and Communications Technology Literacy Assessment trial;

Facilitator’s Question Two: Do you teach your students to Google (to evaluate websites, do advanced searches, etc.)?

Responses: yes and was recently asked to teach Google Scholar; teach it with each class (Google is just part of it); as part of teaching five thousand freshmen a year (in 1st Year Writing, 194 classes)—uses a password-protected tutorial that is graded and 8 percent of the grade; teach it last and recommend students do it as last step; RLG is working on “best practices” for Google type activities and examples of teaching databases; use grid of database techniques, search keys and truncation methods (specific to each course) to teach more effective/efficient use of search time.

Request: please post examples to ARLIS-L

Facilitator’s Question Three: Do you have examples of collaborations with other teachers?

Responses: Edith Crowe (San Jose) has some good ones; worked with an art historian on Ancient Art (how archaeology is understood in its day and then in later generations—changing interpretations); students read a biography (contemporary reviews and later interpretations); research an object in a novel and determine “authenticity” of object’s representation; University of Virginia has had success with library labs (25 percent of the grade) in a Theory of Art History class and with on-site studio class on Contemporary Artists (artists’ websites, ArtBibliographies Modern, Google); some faculty now route class and/or paper topics through the library faculty for advice; some teachers still won't allow students to use ANY “Web” resources--might help to work with professors on list of “authorized” sites; don’t forget museum websites – they can be a big help.

Conference Proposal Ideas (Deadline: May 14, 2005)

Discussion/suggestions: a workshop on user-ed; how to customize classes for different academic levels, different faculty, in-classroom or studio; workshop on Basic Teaching Skills for Librarians (how to teach, how to do a Web-guide, how to do a handout, etc.); or, shorter sessions on the how to’s; a session modeled on an ACRL Immersion class; assessment techniques; for Banff, get a professor from a local university to guide us (someone expert on the one-hour class problem, not teaching a full course; observation from several--this is really important since “teaching” is on the ARLIS Core competencies list and is now part of the tenure-review package for many of us.

Announcement:

Jeanne Brown asked for volunteers for ARLIS project to list competencies needed by students (by concentration). Mary C Johnsen will help with Industrial Design; Jennifer Parker will help with Studio.

Closing Remarks:

Yes, let’s meet again as a Discussion Group in Banff.