Minutes:
Welcome and introductions:
Meeting attendees introduced themselves, providing name, affiliation, and position or title. Ten meeting attendees total.
Lareese Hall
Alice Whiteside
Nancy Anne McPhee
Effie Patelos
Sherman Clarke
Elinor Crosby
Robert Fabbro
Randall Speller
Sara McDowell
Edward Lukasek
Deborah Evans-Cantrell

SIG members reports:

**Houston Area Rainbow Collective History (Houston ARCH).**
Report by Edward Lukasek, Catalog Librarian, Hirsch Library, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX.
Houston ARCH is a consortium founded in 2009 in Houston, TX focused on gathering together cultural and historical materials of the Houston area LGBTQ community, past, present, and future, and promoting the preservation and communication of this collection. The consortium is made up of local universities, non-profit organizations, and local individuals with private collections. The collections included are the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc., The Charles Botts Memorial Archives and Library, and the Transgender Foundation of American Archive. The goals are to create a digital archive of the collections, continue collecting through community support, and continued representation within the collections of the entire LGBTQ community.
At the moment Houston ARCH is an entirely volunteer run organization. It is at the very beginning stages of acquiring funding through grant writing and fundraising, and is starting to actively process the collections. To date 18,000 volunteer hours have been worked. The organization’s future plans include finding a home for these collections, once combined are very large, and finding a space that makes sharing the collections with the public/community and scholars possible. Edward Lukasek found the CLGA an inspiring
organization to visit, its history very relevant to Houston ARCH, and a perfect example of what Houston ARCH is trying to do in Houston.

**Tom of Finland Foundation Archives/Library, LA & Finland.**

Report by Allison Schulte-Wickman, Archivist & Librarian, Tom of Finland Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.

(Read by Deborah Evans-Cantrell)

Los Angeles, CA:

Tom of Finland Foundation is pleased and proud to announce their student volunteer, Toni Rodriguez, will be giving a poster presentation at the Society of American Archivists’ (SAA) 2012 Annual Meeting. The poster is titled, “Tom of Finland Meets Social Media!” On October 30th 2011 the “Queering Wikipedia Editathon” drew community activists, library school students, and members of the Foundation to create and update LGBT-related articles. Katie Herzog, director of the Molesworth Institute, helped put the event together and reported the meeting inspired dialogue about Gay history and generated an increased interest in activism for citizen-created content. Marti Pike is working on an installation of “Koha” for the library. There was a snag, and now hope a person with Linux experience can lend a hand. The installation is almost complete with just two more modules to be added. Know your way around Linux? Email: toms.grrl@gmail.com

Finland:

The year-long exhibition of Tom of Finland ended in December, attracting a record audience of 90,000 to the Logomo space. The exhibition, which opened in January 2011, was part of the official program for Turku European Capital of Culture 2011 and presented by Homotopia, Liverpool, Turku 2011 Foundation and Tom of Finland Foundation, Los Angeles. International Liaison, Allison Schulte-Wickman spent the last year connecting Tom’s personal stories and ephemera with newspapers, publications and exhibitions, within Finland and abroad. Her focus for 2012 is applying for Finnish grants to begin an archival project for Tom’s vast collections and oral histories, which are floating around Southern Finland. She is also immersed in an intensive Finnish language program and about to take a position archiving a large private collection of Thangka paintings.

**New initiatives for the SIG:**

The group discussed forms of communicating among its members. The ideas purposed were creating a possible SIG blog with RSS feed or a possible wiki page for the SIG. Effie Patelos, Librarian at Concordia University, volunteered to do research on which form would work best for the group and then create the blog or wiki for the group. Plans are to complete it in the next few months.

Lareese Hall, Fine Arts Librarian at Dennison University, suggested the group take on an initiative of advocating for further editathons of LGBTQ Wikipedia pages, similar to T of F’s initiative. She recommended one Wikipedia page in particular in need of updates. She will send the link to the particular page out to the group after the conference. Coordinators promised to send meeting attendees the contact info for Katie Herzog, director of the Molesworth Institute and coordinator of the October 30th 2011 “Queering Wikipedia Editathon” to possibly coordinate editathons in their areas. Discussion of this initiative will continue on the group’s future wiki/blog.

Lareese Hall also suggested the group may want to consider collaborating with other groups or individuals in ARLIS/NA on a digital publication on LGBTQ related library and professional issues. Lareese mentioned a call for proposals she saw recently on queering the library. Similar types of projects may be something the group can support and participate in. She will send the link to the page featuring the call for proposals out to the group after the conference. Lareese volunteered to head this initiative with discussion to follow on the group’s future wiki/blog.
Ideas for the 2013 SIG meeting at the 41st ARLIS/NA annual conference in Pasadena, CA:

Tom of Finland Foundation Archives, Los Angeles, CA
ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, CA

Coordinators asked for suggestions from meeting attendees of archives, libraries, museums, etc. the group may want to coordinate with for tours, guest speakers, etc. at the SIG’s 2013 meeting at the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Pasadena, CA. Allison Schulte-Wickman offered to collaborate on a possible tour/guest speaker for the SIG and Tom of Finland, Los Angeles, CA. And, Sherman Clarke, Freelance Cataloger, suggested ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, CA. The coordinators will work with Pasadena conference planners and each organization to arrange a possible tour or, at least, a guest speaker for the 2013 SIG meeting.

Closure of Meeting:

On to the tour of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives and a visit to Glad Day Books. Thank you’s go out to all those who attended the SIG meeting and the tour. And, a very big thank you to Randall Speller for being a wonderful tour shepherd, to Robert Fabbro for his help guiding us, Alan Miller for the fabulous tour of CLGA, and Linda Morita and Laine Gabel for being great tour coordinators!