Reflecting, Reimagining and Defining

One-on-One Studio Consultations at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and the Yale School of Art at Yale University

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Two library studio visit initiatives were piloted at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and at Yale School of Art at Yale University in 2018 and 2019.

Programs Goals

- Meet with participants in their studios to provide direct resource support by answering questions related to the library, archives and special collections
- Assess whether meeting with the participants in their own spaces encouraged visits to the library afterwards
- Practice decentering where library reference services are offered

Program Description

- Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity: Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives, 2018 - 2019
  - Institution Type / Non-degree granting postsecondary educational institution
  - Location / Banff, Alberta, Canada
  - Participants / 31 residents & practicums

- Yale University: Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, 2019 - 2020
  - Institution Type / Research university
  - Location / New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.
  - Participants / 15 Yale School of Art graduate students

Analysis

**What worked / Successes**

- Interest in both initiatives
- Connected participants with other departments, staff and subject specialists
- Meeting in participants’ studios was helpful for discussing their research
- Learned about collection gaps and emerging areas of research

**What could improve / Challenges**

- Banff: Positive feedback in BMIR program evaluations
- Banff: Visual Arts department interested in continuing program
- Yale: Interest in more than one studio visit from students
- Yale: 7/15 students were in touch after the studio consultation

Results /

- Banff: Positive feedback in BMIR program evaluations
- Banff: Visual Arts department interested in continuing program
- Yale: Interest in more than one studio visit from students
- Yale: 7/15 students were in touch after the studio consultation

Recommendations /

- Organize visits early on in participants’ programs
- Strategize visits to not conflict with participants’ schedules
- Use an online poll to organize meetings
- Be visible at events in the participants’ community