Welcome to The Medium, the semi-annual newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter. The Fall 2018 issue (v. 44, no. 2) contains reports from the Annual Chapter Meeting in Austin, Texas and articles about professional activities from our chapter members.
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Member News
Serving as President of the Texas-Mexico Chapter of ARLIS/NA for the past year has truly been an honor and a privilege. Having relocated from Texas to New York last January, this has been a wonderful way to stay connected with many of you. Coming back to Austin to organize and lead the 2018 Fall Meeting was a particular treat, as “the 40 acres” are doubtless high among my very favorite tracts of the land in the world, and it was truly a joy to experience many of their treasures with all of you.

I am very grateful to the many people who helped make the Annual Meeting such a success; within the Chapter I would like to thank Becca Pad and Elizabeth Schaub for logistical support, getting rooms for meetings in PCL, an incredible tour of the Fine Arts Library, and a tour of the Foundry Makers’ Space with Boris Brodsky, organizing our Chapter Dinner, and reserving the James Turrell Skyspace for our exclusive use. Special thanks to Sunyoung Park, Joel Pelanne, and Hillary Veeder for help with the Chapter Website and Registration. I thought it would be difficult to coordinate much of this from New York, but you all made it a breeze; thank you!

At the University of Texas at Austin I would like to express my deep gratitude to my former student Gaila Sims, currently working at the Harry Ransom Center, who along with her colleagues Caroline and Sarah provided a wonderful overview of the HRC with some beautifully and appropriately chosen works of art from their collection, ranging from prints by Jacob Lawrence to a drawing by Frida Kahlo to a first edition of Camera Work; what a trove of riches! Thanks to Landmarks for the wonderful exclusive viewing of James Turrell’s The Color Inside Skyspace. And of course, my (Longhorns) cap is raised to Professor Louis Alexander Waldman for his incredibly informative, engaging, and enjoyable gallery tour of the Blanton Museum of Art, as well as hosting me in his lovely East Austin home for long weekend.

We had an attendance of 19 registrants with a special appearance by our retired colleague Edward Lukasek at the Blanton Museum, briefly in Austin from his home in Mexico, bringing our total attendance to the nice round number of 20. The conference leaves our treasury in good stead, as does the election of our new Chapter Officers, with Jenny Stone being elected our incoming Vice President/President Elect and Helen Lueders incoming Secretary. They will join incoming President Sunyoung Park and Treasurer Hillary Veeder on what will be an excellent Board. Of course, any
successes over the past year are due to the excellent work of the Board I had the good fortune to lead; thanks to my colleagues Secretary Elizabeth Schaub, Vice President Sunyoung Park, and Treasurer Hillary Veeder; if only all deliberative bodies were so efficient and kind, the world would be a better place.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City as your Past President!

Eric M. Wolf
President, ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Head Librarian, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York
ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2018, 8 am - 9 am
Hilton: Gramercy West 1335 6th Ave, New York, NY 10019

Minutes taken by Secretary Elizabeth Schaub.

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order**

   President Eric Wolf called meeting to order at 8:08 am.

2. **Introductions**

   Caroline Clavell (Amon Carter Museum of American Art)
   Lisa Cruces (University of Houston)
   Jolene de Verges (Southern Methodist University)
   Sam Duncan (Amon Carter Museum of American Art)
   Carla Ellard (Texas State University)
   Catherine Essinger (University of Houston)
   Jon Evans (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
   Jenny Follen (The University of Texas at Austin, School of Information)
   G. Seline Hinojosa (Texas State University)
   Helen Lueders (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Bayou Bend)
   Beverly Mitchell (Southern Methodist University)
   Sunyoung Park (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
   Becca Pad (The University of Texas at Austin)
   Quentin Pace (University of Houston-Downtown)
   Joel Pelanne (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)
   Katie Pierce Meyer (The University of Texas at Austin)
   Mark Pompelia (Rhode Island School of Design)
   Elizabeth Schaub (The University of Texas at Austin)
   Chia-Chun Shih, (Kimbell Art Museum)
   Jenny Stone (Dallas Museum of Art)
   Sha Towers (Baylor University)
   Eric Wolf (Sotheby’s Institute of Art)
3. Welcome and President’s Report (Eric M. Wolf)
   a. Vote on Bylaws Amendment Appointed Positions
      i. The President may appoint a chapter Image Archivist and chapter Website Administrator. Appointed positions shall not follow term limits, and appointed members may retire and be replaced as needed.

      Eric Wolf called for a motion to amend the Bylaws.
      Sha Towers moved that the Bylaws amendment be approved as written.
      Katie Pierce Meyer seconded.

      Yea: all present
      Nay: zero

      Eric Wolf stated that the Bylaws are so amended.

   b. Planning of 2018 Annual Conference in Austin, TX

      Eric Wolf: He is looking for dates and is thinking the weekend of Texas/OU game might be good. October 5-7, 2018, and requested feedback about dates.

      Katie Pierce Meyer noted that ACL weekend begins October 5, 2018. Eric Wolf will look at the calendar and send out some dates in the next couple of weeks. He asked that members let him know if there are any additional periods that need to be blocked.

      Eric Wolf noted that there are many worthy sights of interest in Austin that conference attendees will likely want to tour: James Turrell’s Skyspace The Color Inside, Ransom Center, Architecture & Planning Library, Fine Arts Library, and Ellsworth Kelly’s Austin.

      Eric Wolf stated that the Research Roundtable session at past conferences has been valuable and would like to keep that going. He encouraged feedback about programming.

      Becca Pad suggested that The Foundry, in the Fine Arts Library at The University of Texas at Austin, is a resource people would likely be interested in touring. She requested advance notice should that be of interest. She suggested that the College of Fine Art’s new classrooms within the Fine Arts Library could be scheduled for programming.

      Eric Wolf stated that Elizabeth Schaub has volunteered to help him with local logistics.
Jon Evans suggested that there is need to have a conference hotel but that it would be good to identify a primary venue so individuals attending the conference might stay at one central location to facilitate logistics and connections.

c. **Chapter Members participating in the ARLISN/NA New York conference**

   Eric Wolf: ARLIS/NA SNAP on Thursday presenting on publishing. Chairing meeting. Beverly Mitchell and Jolene de Verges presenting on their curatorial fellowship. Beverly Mitchell will be continuing on the International Relations Committee.
   Becca Pad presenting on Zines.
   Katie Pierce Meyer: Presenting on distinctive collections.
   Sam Duncan: Artist Files at NYPL Picture collection, Wikipedia discussion
   Mark Pompelia: VR scope drift, Finance Committee chair, website content editor
   Elizabeth Schaub: VR Scope drift

4. **Vice President’s Report (Sunyoung Park)**

   a. Sunyoung Park thanked everyone who has volunteered to write for the upcoming issue of *The Medium*. Stated that submissions due on April 2. She encouraged people to share not just about annual conference but also about their respective institutions.

   She stated that she is thinking about Houston as the location for the 2019 meeting since it has been nine years since the last meeting in Houston.

5. **Secretary’s Report (Elizabeth Schaub)**

   a. **Approval of the Minutes from the Galveston Meeting**

      Eric Wolf called for a motion to approve meeting minutes from the Galveston meeting held on November 12, 2017.
      Sunyoung Park moved to approve the minutes from the Galveston meeting. Helen Lueders seconded.

      Yea: all present
      Nay: zero

      Motion carried and minutes were approved.
6. Treasurer's Report (Hillary Veeder)

a. [Hillary Veeder’s report is found at the end of these meeting minutes.]

b. Eric Wolf suggested the members should have some discussion about development and fundraising. He noted that the chapter is allowed to pursue whatever development and fundraising efforts we deem appropriate and that if the chapter successfully solicits sponsors the ARLIS/NA Development Committee should be informed. He stated that he wasn’t to make the Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award a more robust award. He noted that if the chapter wants to keep the level of support high, we would need to raise funds. As for the conference in Austin, Eric noted that he has some ideas of who to approach for support.

Elizabeth Schaub asked for clarification regarding whether the chapter needed to be in touch with the ARLIS/NA Development Committee in advance of soliciting support for the Austin conference prospective supporters.

Eric Wolf responded that he is thinking about approaching entities that the Society would not be approaching.

Katie Pierce Meyer noted that the University of Texas Libraries could provide space for meetings and suggested Battle Hall, Perry Casteñada Library and the Fine Arts Library as options.

Eric Wolf stated that he has friends at the Blanton Museum who is planning to approach.

Elizabeth Schaub suggested that members should discuss the Chapter dues question raised by Hillary Veeder.

Jon Evans stated that he thinks it is high time to entertain a modest increase in the chapter’s annual dues structure.

Beverly Mitchell asked when the last dues increase occurred.

Eric Wolf noted that dues across chapters have a range with a low amount of $15 and a high of $30. He suggested that it might not be helpful to look at this and that the chapter is pretty robust in terms of programming.
Sunyoung Park said she would like to see the student membership stay the same.

Katie Pierce Meyer confirmed that the current dues are $20 for currently employed and $10 for students and suggested that we could raise the $20 level to $25.

Helen Lueders noted that she doesn’t know how much other chapters’ travel awards are and that our chapter is generous and would like to see that remain the same.

Eric Wolf stated that on the chapter’s registration form that there is an option to donate the Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award. He asked about whether the chapter wanted to think about this matter or go ahead and raise the rate for 2019.

Jon Evans moved to raise the chapter’s annual dues for employed members from $20 to $25.
Sam Duncan seconded.
Eric Wolf called for discussion.
No discussion.

Yea: all present
Nay: zero

Motion carried and the chapter’s annual dues for employed members will be raised from $20 to $25 beginning in 2019.

Lisa Cruces asked if the Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award awardee writes a report.

Helen Lueders confirmed that yes, the awardee writes a report.

7. Chapter Liaison’s Report (Catherine Essinger)
   a. Possible proposal for an ARLIS/NA Conference in Mexico City

Catherine Essinger reported that the Board has had an intense year as it renegotiated its contract with its management company AEG and has worked through complicated logistics related to the NYC conference. She noted that she has been impressed by how well the conference has come off.
Catherine reported that the Board is looking at innovative approaches related to communication and scholarship among members and that the Society is looking at joining the MLA’s Commons. There is a move to create an art history digital registry. The Board may finalize that this year.

This week, the Board has been discussing how ARLIS/NA can manage activities at a particularly volatile time from a contract stand-point.

Jon Evans asked Catherine to elaborate on the particular challenges with NYC.

Catherine Essinger noted that costs driven by the Labor Union were unexpected noting that vendors could not unload their own products, which turned into an unanticipated cost for vendors.

Catherine stated that the NYC conference is both big (250 discreet things on the schedule) and expensive and that there were 860 registrants. With on-site registrations, she said the Board was hoping to hit 900 registrants, which would be in line with the Seattle and DC conferences.

Sunyoung Park asked about whether chapter membership dues could be managed alongside Society level membership on the same form.

Catherine Essinger responded that this is complicated to execute in practice because of dues variability across chapters.

Eric Wolf suggested that chapter dues could be standardized. He also noted that membership periods vary from chapter to chapter. He was not sure chapters would want the same dues structure. In addition, he noted that transferring the money from the management firm to the local chapters is also an issue that would need to be resolved.

Catherine Essinger stated that this is not something that can be implemented this year. It might be possible If a new software system to manage the membership form were adopted.
Elizabeth Schaub noted that chapter award donations are also collected at the same time as annual membership dues.

Catherine Essinger agreed that this is yet another factor to be considered. She noted that the Board plans to look at chapter travel awards this year. Catherine stated that a couple of chapters have tied their travel awards to leadership roles making them a stipend to incentivize people to serve as a chapter officer. She noted that some chapters have fewer than 20 members. Catherine is going to pursue the Society might promote or contribute to chapter-based awards. She wants to explore how chapter travel awards can be used to incentivize membership and also that chapters want to maintain control over their awards.

Beverly Mitchell asked if there is a page listing all the chapters’ travel awards.

Catherine Essinger responded that there is no such a page.

Beverly Mitchell stated that she would like such a listing to be available.

Catherine Essinger said she will be talking to the Travel Awards Chair about this.

Catherine stated that in May 2018 she will send an invitation for proposals to host the 2022 conference. She suggested that if the chapter wants to propose Mexico City as a location a proposal would need to be submitted. Catherine noted that sites might not be accepted the first time around and if that were the case, a benefit is that that you get feedback about the proposal.

Catherine reminded the chapter that the products of ARLIS/NA are community, advocacy and education and that is accomplish via the conference. She stated that the conference generates all the Society’s revenue for the year. Catherine noted that when you travel outside the US, fewer vendors and sponsors participate so the chapter would need to consider new relationships that could be cultivated and leveraged. Noting that 2022 will come after three years of conferences that will not be huge money makers, Catherine stated that Ft. Worth had moderate attendance but ARLIS/NA got more value because a huge amount of money was raised through development efforts.
Mark Pompelia remarked that when he was ARLIS/NA Treasurer he was responsible for the Toronto conference and it was a massively successful conference because there was a lot of institutional support in Canada.

Catherine Essinger suggested that the chapter consider communicating this in the proposal as ARLIS/NA would want to build new partnerships.

Beverly Mitchell noted that the chapter could rely on international vendors, like Bev Karno, and those vendors who deal in Latin American materials.

Catherine Essinger suggested that the chapter work with the International Relations Committee when planning the conference as she feels the committee would be very interested. Catherine noted that even if the chapter’s proposal doesn’t go through the first time, the process will give the chapter valuable feedback which will inform a revised version of the proposal that the chapter can resubmit.

8. Old Business
   a. Listserv archives update (Elizabeth Schaub)

   Elizabeth Schaub updated the chapter about the listserv archives project she and Beth Dodd have been engaged in with students from the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin.

   Elizabeth stated that she and Beth received a 30 page report in January 2018 titled “Art Libraries Society of North America Texas-Mexico Chapter Listserv Archive Business Case” developed by students in The University of Texas at Austin’s School of Information’s Intro to Electronic & Digital Records class taught by Dr. Galloway in fall 2017.

   Elizabeth communicated that building on the work that the group did in fall 2017, students in Galloway’s spring 2018 Digital Archiving and Preservation course are taking the report and pursuing an approach to making the archived messages created in The University of Texas at Austin supported SYMPA listserv accessible now that the chapter has moved its list to the Society supported L-Soft listserv platform.

   Elizabeth noted that the students suggested the use of ePADD as a way of storing and visualizing the emails. The software is available as a free download from Stanford
Libraries. “This software is available as a free download from Stanford Libraries ePADD website and is comprised of four modules: appraisal, processing, discovery, and delivery. The Appraisal module “allows creators, dealers, and curators to easily gather and review email archives prior to transferring those files to an archival repository.” The Processing module “provides archivists with the means to arrange and describe email archives.”

Elizabeth asked for feedback from chapter members about whether they had any objections to archived listserv messages reflecting email addresses of those who generated and responded to messages. There was consensus that it was fine to have this information accessible in the archived versions of the messages.

b. Lois Swan Jones Award report (Helen Lueders)

Helen Lueders congratulated this year’s recipient Elizabeth Schaub. Helen stated that in the coming year she is excited to address the issue of separating out the Lois Swan Jones donation process from the membership renewal process.

9. New Business

Elizabeth Schaub asked if the chapter wishes to move forward with a 2022 Mexico City conference proposal?

Eric Wolf suggested that a committee might be formed and that some of the members at this chapter meeting in NYC were in Mexico City at the chapter’s 2016 annual conference. Eric asked if there was anyone who wanted to spearhead such an effort.

Lisa Cruces stated that she doesn’t want to spearhead the effort but would be willing to participate.

Mark Pompelia expressed an interest and suggested that Jon Evans might also contribute.

Eric Wolf stated that he will send out an email soliciting participation.

Lisa Cruces asked if the chapter has any members in Mexico City.

Eric Wolf confirmed that yes, we have one member: Carlos Fernando Corona Torres.
10. Adjournment

Eric Wolf asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Jon Evans moved to adjourn the meeting.
Becca Pad seconded.

Yea: all present
Nay: zero

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.
Tour of the UT Fine Arts Library’s Foundry

By Tara Spies Smith

The first event of our annual ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter meeting in Austin on October 26th was a tour of The Foundry, the University of Texas at Austin’s Fine Arts Library makerspace. Boris Brodsky, Arts and Creative Technologies Librarian, led us around The Foundry, located on the 3rd floor of the Doty Fine Arts Building.

The Foundry has a set of bays with different types of equipment for the campus community to use. The new equipment, totaling $740,000, came from a grant from the Hearst Foundation, UT’s library system, and the College of Fine Arts. They do not have an operational budget, but they apply for more money when they need it.

They have a large format industrial laser cutter, a vinyl printer, several 3D printers, a 3D mill and scanner, and a 2D router. They offer free filament except for the large format 3D printer. They spend approximately $600 to $700 on filament per year. Utilizing the Foundry’s equipment, a student created a six-string violin with one of their 3D printers.

The most popular piece of equipment in their Fibers Lab is their programmable embroidery machine. They offer free thread for the embroidery machine and all of their sewing machines. Their fibers lab also includes a printer cutter for textile transfers, photos, vinyl, and film.
There is a music recording studio, a large video wall, a virtual reality center that was created with a low cost set up. They have workstations with software for video and audio post-production, 3D modeling, and still image editing for film, multimedia, and gaming.

To use the equipment at the Foundry, some machines are available on a walk-in basis, but some require certification. The certification process uses lesson plans and Qualtrics. There is no overnight printing in the labs. Faculty can request to use the Foundry for their courses.
The UT Turtle Pond: a People’s (slash Turtle’s) History

By Joel Pelanne

In attempting to select the perfect opening sentence for this Medium article, I discovered to my chagrin that Merriam-Webster’s dictionary does not, in fact, define “The UT Turtle Pond”. I will have to ask the reader to forgive me a minor crime against God and nature as I wrestle forth the following Frankenstein(’s monster) sentence out of the component definitions that were available. Ahem: “Merriam-Webster’s dictionary” “defines” University & Texas & Turtle & Pond as “a body of water usually smaller than a lake [at] an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research authorized to grant academic degrees [in the] state in the southern U.S. bordering on Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico area 266,807 square miles population 25,145,561 [wherein one may happen upon] terrestrial, freshwater, and marine reptiles that have a toothless horny beak and a shell of bony dermal plates”. With that unfortunate business out of the way, my thesis in this article is that the UT Turtle Pond, in fact, rules.

Nestled between the biological greenhouse and biology department buildings, the UT Turtle Pond (actually a series of smaller ponds, but united in spirit and purpose by their containment of turtles) was built during the construction of the UT tower, from 1934-1939, and is maintained and overseen by the College of Natural Sciences. It is home to “a few dozen turtles of multiple species”, according to the College of Natural Sciences website, “including snapping turtles” – who have purportedly been known to drag encroaching pigeons into the (relatively shallow) depths for a watery feast, demonstrating to local undergraduates that nature, while beautiful, is at times chaotic and violent in its mystery and majesty. In my Regal red slider with comrades
personal time spent at the pond I’ve encountered chiefly red-eared sliders, who thankfully have never attempted to eat me.

A 2013 article in the *Alcade*, the official publication of the Texas Exes alumni association, stated that while exact numbers are difficult to track the pond may contain “between 40 and 50” turtles at any one time. The general public is discouraged from releasing non-native pet turtles into the wild, as they could introduce diseases—which, in such a close environment, could result in truly tragic turtle loss. If you’re like me (and if indeed you are, you have my sympathies) you may wonder what the turtles do during the rare Texas cold-snap or freeze. David Hillis, Alfred W. Roark Centennial Professor of Biology at UT, has these words to calm and quiet your fears: “I tell people they’re just fine, burrowed in the mud. They’re wild animals and they can take care of themselves. What they have to worry about more often … is us.” Ellipses and emphasis added by, well, me. But truer words were never spoken: get your own houses in order, sanctimonious turtle doubters.

The UT Turtle pond was made an official memorial to the victims of the 1966 tower shooting in 1999, and is much beloved by students, alumni, and the general public alike. A social media scare that happened last April illustrates the turtle fervor that exists in Austin and the Austins-of-the-heart across Texas and the world: a rumor was posted on a prominent UT “meme” page that the pond and greenhouses were set to be demolished to make way for “god-knows-what.” Pro-turtle tweets immediately flooded UT and College of Natural Sciences’ social media pages, and they were forced to make an official statement that the UT Turtle Pond was a “much loved” space and that there were no plans to change it. “These rumors prove that a lie can spread halfway around the world before a turtle can walk around the pond, said UT Spokesman J.B. Bird, which in this writer’s opinion isn’t the best way of illustrating his point, as turtles are notoriously slower animals, so a lot of things could ostensibly happen before they could walk around anything. That being said, this writer also gets the gist of what Bird was trying to say in a general sense and understands the difficulty of expressing concepts using the imperfect and often brittle or bending precepts of language.
In closing, I would like to leave you with some humble verse derived from Trent Reznor’s immortal composition for his band Nine Inch Nails, ‘Hurt’, though in doing so I attempt to invoke the pathos and humanity (turt ... anity?) of the 2002 Johnny Cash cover version:

You can have this pond
Our empire of dirt
We will stick around
Humble, steadfast, Turt.
The 2018 Austin Archives Bazaar

By Elizabeth Lisa Cruces

On October 28 archivists and librarians from across the Central Texas region came together for the second Austin Archives Bazaar (AAB). Held at the historic Saengerrunde Hall in Austin, Texas and hosted by the regional organization, Archivists of Central Texas (ACT), the event included nearly 30 repositories and wide variety of programming—speakers, an oral history booth, archival film screenings, preservation consultations, and much more! Bazaar organizer and Head of Archives at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Kristy Sorenson said “I work as a solo archivist (a “lone arranger”) in a small repository without much of an outreach budget. Being able to collaborate with other archivists and institutions in the area to be part of a community outreach event with a big footprint, like the Austin Archives Bazaar, is invaluable for getting the word out about our collections and meeting interested researchers and donors.”

Held biannually, the AAB has encouraged archivists across Texas regions to organize bazaars of their own including the Houston Archives Bazaar and the DFW Archives Bazaar. Asked what made the 2018 AAB special, Sorenson stated, ”While we had a similar number of participants as in years past, this year in particular I noticed that folks seemed to be staying at the Bazaar longer, lingering over the booths, taking in the speakers, and enjoying the community. Seeing that people were fully experiencing the event, and genuinely enjoying it (enough to spend their whole Sunday afternoon there!) was really moving.”

Image courtesy of the Austin Archives Bazaar.
Subject Librarian Trading Cards for Texas State University’s Alkek Library and Round Rock Campus Library

By Tara Spies Smith

This fall Texas State University’s Alkek Library and Round Rock Campus Library announced the grand roll-out of our Subject Librarian Trading Cards. The cards feature each subject librarian on the front of the card with their name in a visual style reminiscent of graphic novels. The cards promote our subject librarian services, including personalized research assistance for students and faculty, subject specific library instruction, research and inspiration sessions and tours, engagement with academic departments, new faculty resource opportunities for collection development, and scholarly and creative communication and collaboration with students and faculty.

The Subject Librarian Trading Cards Team contributed ideas for the format of the cards prior to the summer of 2018. The team decided to go with a postcard design. As the library photographer, I met with each subject librarian to brainstorm their concept and background image. I asked the subject librarians to pick out where they would want their photo to be taken. They could choose a real background to represent something related to one of their subject areas or a fake background image from an open access or public domain source.

I showed them an example of the Math, Computer Science, and CIS (Computer Information Systems) subject librarian’s rough draft of her card. She chose a few interesting math-related images for her background and I chose the colorful mechanical calculator image, or old analog adding machine, from her choices.

Dianna Morganti, Research, Instruction, & Outreach Librarian and subject librarian for Math, CIS, and Computer Science
I scheduled photo shoots with the eighteen different subject librarians. A couple of them chose to have real settings for their backgrounds so those were shot at the site of their preference. Most of the subject librarians were intrigued by being able to choose an image or images related to their subject areas to design their cards. I shot the photos of the subject librarians who chose an imaginary background in our Youstar studio, an automated video studio with a green screen wall. One of the challenges of this part of the process of the cards was convincing eighteen librarians to let me take their photo. I twisted a lot of arms. Many of the librarians also chose costumes and props to use for their photo shoot to add to the unique design of their card, as I had encouraged them to do. For example, the Theater & Dance Librarian chose a very elaborate costume with a historical theater background image.

One of the biggest post-editing challenges of creating the images for the cards was using Photoshop to remove the green screen background from the photographs of the librarians. It was a learning process, but we tested a few different methods and finally found one method that was simple and produced good results.
Next, I superimposed the cut-out images of the librarians and positioned their chosen backgrounds using layers in Photoshop. A few of the cards feature the multiple poses of the librarians positioned in different areas on the card. I added special filters or effects for a few of the photographs. For example, the Radiation Therapy Librarian’s photo is reversed into a negative for one of the images on her card.

Selene Hinojosa, Collection Development Librarian and subject librarian for Radiation Therapy and Clinical Laboratory Science

I edited the compiled image for each card in Comic Life, a comic creating app that allows images to be added in comic panels and then edited with comic filters, called comicifying, and has an assortment of comic and graphic novel style fonts. One font was chosen for all of the name bubbles that went on the front of the cards with the comicified images. The filter and font we chose in comic life, called Acrylic Comic, made the librarians recognizable but in a fun graphic novel filter style for creating a unified collection of unique cards.

I cropped the images in Photoshop and then sent them to another team member who placed them in InDesign. All subject librarians came up with a brief statement about their services that we added to the backs of the cards with their subject areas and their contact info. We also included
image attribution on the back of the cards. Team members proofed the text on back of the cards at least three times before the digital files of the cards went to the university print shop. Because this whole project was a pilot with budget constraints, each librarian got 250 cards.

Our grand roll-out includes a collage of the cards for the library website, a poster with information about the Instagram contest, and all of the subject librarian trading cards displayed together on the main floor of the library to promote the cards. We also promoted them on our Facebook and Twitter sites by putting albums of the cards and posting each one individually as well. Each librarian will be in charge of distributing their own trading cards.

The cards are getting good engagement on our social media sites and several faculty and students asked about getting them much before release. We plan to do more promotion of the cards in the spring. The results are visually satisfying and now faculty and students can associate the faces of their subject librarians with our names and subject areas to promote our services.
I am the subject librarian for Art & Design, Anthropology, and Communication Studies.

I am here to help you with your research and inspiration needs in these subject areas.

I can expand your mind and save you time.

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Zine Fest Houston 2019 and Remembering ZFH founder, shane patrick boyle

By Elizabeth Lisa Cruces

On Saturday, November 17, Lawndale Art Center hosted the 15th annual Zine Fest Houston festival. Held annually in Houston, Texas, Zine Fest Houston (ZFH) was founded in 2004 by local creative shane patrick boyle as an event dedicated to promoting zines, mini-comics, and other forms of small press, alternative, underground, DIY media and art. Following the donation of the ZFH records and zine collections to UH’s Special Collections and the in the wake of boyle’s unexpected passing in 2017, current ZFH organizers (Maria-Elisa Heg and Stacy Kirages) collaboratively worked with UH’s Hispanic Collections Archivist, Elizabeth Lisa Cruces to increase awareness of boyle’s contributions to Houston’s DIY community and local history.

In addition to showcasing some of the earliest hand-made artwork and ephemera from the ZFH Records, Cruces provided information on how to make your zines and how to donate to zines to the archives. “For the ZFH archives to succeed in their mission—to more inclusively preserve Houston’s diverse voices, in particular LGBTQ and minority groups, we not only need to ensure that the collection is accessible to all, but that it continues to grow and in turn show the increasingly national and transnational contributions of Houstonians.”
Images from Austin

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Group Photo, Austin, TX, October 28, 2018
Sha Towers has been appointed Interim Associate Dean of the Central Libraries at Baylor University. He fills this role in addition to his current position as Director of Research & Engagement, Curator of the Baylor Book Arts Collection, and Librarian for the departments of Art and Art History and Theatre. Sha has also begun his term as Vice Chair/Chair Elect of ACRL Arts Section.

Contributors

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