Welcome to *The Medium*, the semi-annual newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter. The Spring 2019 issue (v. 45, no. 1) contains reports from the 47th Annual ARLIS/NA Conference in Salt Lake City and articles about professional activities from our chapter members.
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Dear ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter members and friends,

I’m delighted to have seen so many Texas-Mexico Chapter members in attendance at the 47th ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Salt Lake City this year. I feel fortunate to have attended this conference, which put forth a particularly strong program integrating critical librarianship and highlighting diversity and inclusion.

The commitment to diversity and inclusion, one of ARLIS/NA’s core values, was made clear and actionable by the newly updated Code of Conduct. If you haven’t yet, I highly encourage everyone to read the complete code. While some information is conference-specific, the statements included extend to our daily lives. A great thanks to members of the Diversity Committee and ARLIS/NA Executive Board for their work on this important document.

As with every conference, in addition to the excellent planned programming, I learned so much from often happenstance, but edifying conversations with colleagues. Rich snippets of library innovation and inspired practice shared amongst invested parties galvanizes the library profession to move forward, and I was excited about many of the tidbits I heard from ARLIS/NA members working in creative ways. I hope to hear more from those of you who didn’t attend the conference, but are also working diligently and inventively to move the needle forward.

Looking ahead, I wish to thank this year’s Texas-Mexico Board: Jenny Stone, Vice President/President-Elect, Hillary Veeder, Treasurer, and Helen Lueders, Secretary, for their service to the Chapter. I’m excited to have such a stellar group to work with on various projects we have planned. Along with the Houston fall meeting, we plan to introduce opportunities for colleagues to engage in conversation and professional development online. This is intended to bridge our wide geographic distances and preserve valuable discourse for the future.

We anticipate an active year ahead, encouraging chapter growth, spurring new dialogues, and renewing connections, so stay tuned!

All best,

Sunyoung Park
President, ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Metadata Librarian, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting Minutes

Sunday, October 28, 2018, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
Perry-Castañeda Library, Learning Lab 3
The University of Texas at Austin

Minutes taken by Secretary Elizabeth Schaub.

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order (Eric M. Wolf)**
   
   Meeting was called to order at 11:16 am.

2. **Welcome and Introductions (EMW)**
   
   Kate Alleman
   Craig Bunch
   Carla Ellard
   Catherine Essinger
   Lauren Gottlieb-Miller
   Becca Pad
   Sunyoung Park
   Joel Pelanne
   Katie Pierce Meyer
   Shari Salisbury
   Elizabeth Schaub (Secretary)
   Tara Spies Smith
   Chia-Chun Shih
   Jenny Stone
   Eric Wolf (President)

3. **Approval of Minutes from the New York Meeting (EMW)**
   
   Eric called for a motion to approve the minutes.
   Catherine moved.
   Sunyoung seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

4. Officer Reports

   a. President’s Report (EMW)

   Eric reported that there were 19 registered attendees and expressed gratitude to Becca and Elizabeth for taking care of on-the-ground logistics in Austin. In addition, Becca was thanked for the tour she gave of the Fine Arts Library and for her role in arranging the tour of The Foundry, given by Boris Brodsky, and the inclusion of Sydney Kilgore who spoke about the Fine Arts Library’s Visual Resources Collection. Elizabeth was thanked for her efforts arranging the private viewing of the James Turrell Skyspace, *The Color Inside*, and for recommending Fareground for the chapter dinner. Eric was praised for the arrangements he made for the tour of the Blanton Museum, given by Professor Louis A. Waldman, and arranging the presentation of materials in the Harry Ransom Center’s collections by PhD candidate Gaila Sims.

   b. Vice President’s Report (Sunyoung Park)

   Sunyoung reported that she put out a call for submissions for the upcoming issue of *The Medium*, due November 16, 2018, and thus far, Lauren has volunteered to write a piece. Sunyoung encouraged submissions focused on collection highlights as well as content focused on various aspects of the chapter’s annual conference in Austin; a reminder about the deadline for submission will be sent via the chapter’s listserv. Eric noted that he will be submitting his president’s column, Tara volunteered to write something about the conference and will also send pictures and Joel volunteered to write a piece highlighting the MFA’s collections.

   c. Treasurer’s Report (EMW given on behalf of Hillary Veeder)

   Eric reported that the annual conference grossed $1095.60, netting $965.60 (less Eventbrite fees), we spent $100 to reserve the James Turrell Skyspace private viewing and that the current balance in the chapter’s bank account is $2306.67.

   For a detailed account of the chapter’s finances, see Treasurer Hillary Veeder’s report appended to the minutes.

   d. Secretary’s Report (Elizabeth Schaub)
Elizabeth reported that she will complete a draft version of the Austin meeting’s minutes and solicit feedback prior to handing off relevant files to the chapter’s newly elected Secretary.

Elizabeth thanked chapter members for their collegiality over the years as this meeting marks the end of her involvement in the organization due to a recent shift in her career trajectory.

5. **Nominating Committee Report (Joel Pelanne)**

Joel reported that he and Jon Evans efforts yielded a slate of candidates for the Secretary (Helen Lueders) and VP/President-Elect (Jenny Stone) positions.

Per the chapter’s Bylaws, Eric opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were offered.

Eric called for a motion to elect Helen Lueders as Secretary and Jenny Stone as VP/President-Elect.

Sunyoung moved.

Becca seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Lois Swan Jones (LSJ) Professional Development Award Committee Report (ES given on behalf of Helen Lueders)**

On Helen’s behalf, Elizabeth reported that due to the departure of Beth Dodd and Elizabeth Schaub from the chapter’s membership, the committee is currently only made up of Helen Lueders and Sam Duncan. According to the guidelines, there should be at least three committee members: the chair and two other members. When possible, the previous year’s award recipient should be on the committee as well.

Lauren volunteered to participate as a committee member.

Helen requested that the chapter determine the amount of the award for this year’s LSJ Professional Development Award recipient.

Eric asked for a motion that the award be in the amount of $750 to support attendance at the 2019 ARLIS/NA annual conference in Salt Lake City.

Motion passed unanimously.
Helen wanted to remind members that at the past few meetings, we have discussed the desire to make it easier for chapter members and others to donate to the Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award to boost its amount. At present people can send a check or add a donation when renewing membership, which a lot of people have trouble with as their institutions pay for their membership. The possibility of using Paypal, Zelle (Wells Fargo) or other electronic means of donation have all been discussed but have yet to be implemented. Chapter Treasurer Hillary Veeder is a bit skeptical that it will actually lead to more donations, but if there is an interest, we could try it out.

Sunyoung suggested that we should explore other options. She wasn’t sure about possible barriers to using PayPal and mentioned that ARLIS/NA had used GoFundMe to support donation collection.

Catherine noted that ARLIS/NA is going to be investigating development and travel awards across all 16 regional chapters as there are overlapping concerns. The Society is going to look at how AEG—ARLIS/NA’s management firm—might address cross-chapter concerns and, to this end, Hillary and Eric are going to be invited to provide feedback.

Helen wanted members to address this year’s award timeline noting that since the Society’s 2019 meeting is a month later (March 26-30, 2019) than the New York meeting, there is a bit more time to try to raise money and attract more award applications. According to the guidelines, the award deadline should be about 4 weeks before early registration ends and the award’s recipient should be announced at least two weeks before early registration ends so that the applicant has time to register at the lower rate. Early registration opens in December 2018 and ends February 22, 2019 so if we stuck to roughly that schedule, the award’s application deadline would probably be in mid-January. In the past applications have often been due right around or after finals in December, which may have been an issue for student applicants (although no preference is given between student and professional applicants, preference is given to first time attendees). This might be an opportunity to give them more time to apply although they also may not be checking their student email as often in between semesters. Helen suggested that we could try to announce the award before the semester ends and give them an extended application period (with a reminder or two) and requested feedback on this idea.
Eric offered that he thought the proposed timeline was a good idea and noted that the ARLIS/NA conference site is already up and to push the announcement out as soon as possible.

Helen’s report noted that per usual, applications for the past year’s award were low. Helen currently sends the announcement to ARLIS/NA, ARLIS/NATXMX and ARLISNAP listservs and she’s reached out to UT, UNT and TWU to post it as well. Helen requests that if anyone has any ideas for new avenues to pursue or has better contacts at Texas library schools that might be more effective, to let her know.

7. Old Business

a. Chapter Listserv and Archives (SP)

Sunyoung reported that building on the work Beth, Elizabeth and The University of Texas at Austin School of Information students have done to archive the SYMPA listserv messages generated whilst the chapter’s list was provisioned through UT Lists, resulting files have been retrieved and she has been in touch with the archives assistant at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to whom the files are being sent.

Sunyoung suggested that the chapter consider moving its physical archives to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She thinks it would be better to have everything in one location. The physical archives are currently at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). Sunyoung, reported that the MFAH archives are in flux. Jon Evans reported to her that the archives have not been looked at in a long time; *The Medium* digitization project was the last time the records had been accessed.

Eric asked about how other chapters manage their archives. Catherine stated that Joyce, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is easy to work with, ARLIS/NA pays a flat fee for the service and that there are a few chapters that have elected to maintain decentralized, namely the Canadian chapters and the Southeast Chapter (housed at Duke).

For the sake of stability, Eric strongly encouraged moving the chapter’s physical archives from the MFAH to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Catherine reminded members that only the first page is crawled of archived digital-versions of organizational documents housed by Columbia University.
Eric encouraged members to submit any chapter documents for archiving. Sunyoung offered to create a Google Drive account to manage submissions.

Eric asks for a motion to go forward to moving the chapter’s archives from the MFAH to UIUC.

Catherine moved.

Chia-Chun seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Image Archivist Position and Chapter Archives (EMW and SP)

Eric asked if the position is necessary since the chapter agreed to send its archives to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sunyoung reported that she spoke with Lisa Cruxes, talking about it more extensively and thinking about the position as one that is broader in scope. As the current website administrator, Sunyoung has images, albeit not a great number and she doesn’t see a particular need at this point for an Image Archivist noting that managing images could be a sub-duty of the website administrator.

Elizabeth gave background about why the position was created.

Sunyoung suggested that there should be a chapter archivist position and that she asked Lisa to come up with a basic position description. Sunyoung mentioned that a chapter archivist could help facilitate the move of the chapter’s archives to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from MFAH.

Sunyoung solicited interest from those present in this proposed chapter archivist role.

Eric noted that as a procedural point, the chapter would need to make a Bylaws change and that this is something that should be taken up at the chapter’s next business meeting to be held at the Society’s next annual conference in Salt Lake City in 2019.

Eric stated that everyone should be in touch with Sunyoung with feedback.

The chapter could move forward at any time as this would be an appointed position.

Sherri asked if there was a procedure for sharing images.

Eric noted that Lisa Cruces does not want to serve in the role of Image Archivist.
Catherine stated that the Southeast Chapter has an archivist position and that they maintain their archives locally. She thought the New York Chapter might also have an archivist position. Catherine noted that she can distribute the Southeast Chapter’s archivist position description to the Texas-Mexico Chapter.

c. Future Conference Location and Planning (SP)

Sunyoung proposed Houston for the chapter’s next annual meeting in 2019 noting that the last time the chapter met in Houston was in 2010. She would like to focus on a larger research roundtable and more University of Houston-centered offerings, involvement of the MFAH Hirsch Library and the Menil.

Sunyoung motioned to hold the 2019 annual chapter meeting in Houston, Texas.

Craig seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

d. Mexico City ARLIS/NA proposal (EMW)

Eric reported that Jon Evans and Mark Pompelia have been exploring the feasibility of pitching an ARLIS/NA Annual Conference to be held in Mexico City in 2023. Initially they were thinking that it would be ideal to hold said conference in Mexico City in 2022 as it would mark the Society’s 50th anniversary. However, because the Society will hold its annual conference in Montreal in 2021, they recognize that having two back-to-back conferences held outside the United States would pose challenges hence the change in proposed date.

What follows is the message sent to Eric on 10/25/18 by Jon and Mark reporting on the current status of this endeavor.

“Here’s where we stand on the Mexico City proposal. Initially, we thought that 2022 would be the ideal year to meet in Mexico City given that the Society will be celebrating its 50th anniversary and it seemed only fitting to do something truly noteworthy on this occasion. That said, we think it highly unlikely that our proposal would be positively received by the Executive Board given that the 2021 conference will be in Montreal. Hosting conferences outside the U.S. poses challenges for the Society, our exhibitors, and our members. Chief
among these are the potential for diminished revenue to the Society and diminished attendance by U.S.-based exhibitors, which make up the bulk of our vendors. Regarding exhibitors, they have difficulty selling within and transporting materials to foreign countries. So, rather than propose back-to-back non-U.S. conferences, we thought it best to look towards 2023. Beginning next week, Mark will reach out to the leadership of the Southern California chapter to gauge their level of interest in participating in a joint proposal. We think a joint proposal will be better received and also provide us with a bigger cohort for the planning team. And Southern California seems like the most logical ally on this front. Should they express interest, Mark will also reach out to Mario Ascencio who is the Director of the Art Center College of Design Library to see whether he might be willing to take on a role. Mario has previously expressed interest in such a venture and speaks fluent Spanish. Jon will reach out to Fernando Corona to see whether he might have an interest in participating in some way. As we learned during our chapter conference in Mexico City, having fluent Spanish speakers in key planning roles will be essential to the success of the event. Once we have responses from the Southern California chapter, as well as Mario and Fernando, we’ll circle back with our chapter’s leadership to determine the next steps.

Sherri moved to pursue holding the Society’s 50th annual conference in Mexico City in 2023. Joel seconded.

Motion carries unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Chapter Membership application and renewal via ARLIS/NA membership (Catherine Essinger)

Catherine stated that in her role as the ARLIS/NA Executive Board’s Chapters Liaison she works with 16 regional chapters plus the Canadian chapters. Before starting her term a year and a half ago, there was a move to integrate the ability for members to join chapters’ via the Society’s membership form. However, Catherine stated that given the management firm’s system constraints, it was harder to implement than one might think. Catherine noted that the Executive Board is happy to support chapters and wants to do what it can to make it as easy as possible to allow individuals to join chapters whilst joining the Society.

At the chapter meeting held at the Society’s annual conference in New York earlier in 2018, Eric suggested that chapters standardize their membership fees. Catherine reported that
chapter leaders have agreed to take that suggestion back to their chapters and vote. Having a standardized membership fee will make it easier for the management firm to integrate this feature into the existing system.

Catherine noted that our chapter’s membership dues are $20, representing the average and that 6 chapters have voted and approved the dues standardization; the New England chapter will vote in January 2019. The change could be implemented as soon as fall 2019.

Catherine stated that the Society did an analysis finding that a lot of people were joining ARLIS/NA, and not the regional chapters. One challenge is that because people donate to their chapter at the same time they join their chapter, it’s not clear how to handle those kinds of transactions in the management’s firm system. Therefore, the Executive Board is launching an investigation into chapters’ development practices.

Elizabeth asked how chapter membership dues increases would be handled by the centralized model.

Catherine reported that ARLIS/NA dues are on a schedule to raise incrementally and that chapters would be on the same schedule. Catherine noted that there is a two year window on the next round of increases and that the incoming Chapter Liaison will run a study to see if the experiment to increase chapter membership resulted in increased chapter revenue.

Sunyoung noted that at the chapter’s business meeting in New York, the chapter voted to raise annual membership dues from $20 to $25.

Elizabeth noted that the chapter would need to vote to decrease the dues from $25 to $20 to comply with the new standardized model.

Catherine suggested that this could be addressed through a virtual vote.

b. Chapter donation to support 2019 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Salt Lake City (EMW)

Eric stated that the chapter donated $350 to support the Society’s annual conference in New York.

Catherine pointed out that the Midwest Chapter is hosting the 2019 conference in Salt Lake City, that it is the chapter with the smallest coffers and the biggest development challenges.
Catherine noted that the chapter did not get a conference development director until halfway through the planning process.

Eric suggested that we could raise our donation by $50 making it $400.

Tara asked if all chapters will be informed about the Midwest Chapter’s challenges; Catherine confirmed that they would.

Lauren suggested that our chapter should show our support through an increased donation amount.

Catherine stated that the Mountain West Chapter is geographically the largest but has the smallest number of members.

Eric noted that the chapter would be offering increased support given the circumstances and that it is not a new default position.

Eric asks for a motion to donate $400 to support the Society’s 2019 annual conference.

Catherine moved.

Chia-Chun seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Other New Business

Tara noted that there have been issues with the chapter’s listserv that the Society’s management firm is trying to address. Tara and Rebecca, the new listserv managers who took on the duties from Beth Dodd and Elizabeth, are approving messages as they are received. There is a delay between the time someone sends a message to the list and Rebecca and Tara receive it to approve for distribution.

Catherine noted that there are technical problems across the Society. The Society’s website has been under bot attack all year long. The management company—AEG—provides IT support. AEG is in the process of improving their technological infrastructure.

Craig asked if there was going to be a group photo. Eric responded that yes, there would be a group photo immediately following the end of the meeting.
Catherine recognized Eric’s service as the chapter’s President as he was nearing the end of his term and expressed appreciation that he was willing to serve out his term in spite of leaving Texas for a new position in New York.

Eric stated that it has been a pleasure serving and thanked Joel and Sunyoung for all the EventBrite assistance and the beautiful website. He noted that it is always great to be back on the 40 acres, a reference to The University of Texas at Austin.

9. Adjournment

Joel moved to adjourn the meeting.

Sherri seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.
Lois Swan Jones Award Recipient Report

By Quentin Pace

First I would like to give my thanks and appreciation to the Lois Swan Award committee. Without the award, I wouldn’t have been able to attend this year’s conference. And for that, I am grateful.

On the first day of the conference, I attended the Texas-Mexico Chapter meeting where I was able to meet old friends and acquaintances as well as make a couple of new ones. Next, I attended the seminar on ethical cataloging. Then the session on instructing first year students. My day ended with the solo librarian open discussing, which proved insightful. Though I’m not a solo librarian, I learned of some resources that could prove useful to my institution through this discussion. And end the day at the Utah Museum of Art for the welcome reception where I was able to meet a couple of new faces. I also had a thought discussion about hair with one of the museum docents. He wanted to know what types of shampoo I used. One the bus back to hotel, I had the luck of sitting next to Janis Ekdahl and having a wonderful conversation. She told me about her time in New York and her work within the organization. It was a great start to the conference.

My second day at the conference was the shortest of the three but the most memorable. I attended two sessions that day. The first was the Graphic Novel SIG. I have a keen interest in graphic novels due to being an avid reader and also helping with the creation and maintenance of the graphic novel collection in my institution. The meeting featured a talk from author-artist T Edward Bak who discussed the pivotal role that various information institutions played in the research for his stories. Right after, I attended the session titled Museum Library Futures where I was able to see the innovations that are taking place within a couple museums. One presentation that stuck with me from that session was how the library of one of the presenters was turned into a place that was welcoming to all instead of just researchers.

After the talk, I was invited by Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Librarian, The Menil Collection) to join her, along with Joel Pelanne (Technical Services Librarian, MFAH) and Amanda McKnight (Associate Archivist and Librarian, The Barnes Foundation) to visit the earthwork sculpture, The
Spiral Jetty by Robert Smithson. I’ve only seen it in photos so I jumped at the opportunity. The drive was long but worth it. The jetty was a sight to behold, seeing how it flowed with the surrounding environment. Luckily, the lake had receded allowing us the opportunity to walk on to the lake bed to interacting with the work. We then walked past the jetty towards the lake. The lake bed seemed to go on forever with the lake reflecting the sky. It was an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my days and I’m grateful for that. Afterwards, we stopped at this diner called Golden Spike. I don’t know if it was because my breakfast was light or because of all the walking we did viewing the Jetty, but that was one of the best burgers I had in my life! We all got burgers, different variations. I had a bacon cheeseburger, Joel had this chilli burger (it was wild). I can’t remember what burger Lauren or Amanda ordered but I remember Amanda getting this large chocolate shake with her burger. We then headed back to the hotel to attend the convocation and award ceremony. I was able to meet someone I’ve only know through Twitter, which was cool. It’s always nice meeting people face to face.

And for the last day of Friday, I only went to a couple of sessions since only a few really interested me. The first was the one about developing your identity within as an art librarian and the second dealt with critical librarianship. The session for the identity wasn’t really what I was expecting but it had some useful components. The critical librarianship SIG was insightful and it was refreshing to discuss real issues such as paid internships, unions, and the front of professionalism without the risk of being criticized.

In all, I would say that it was an insightful and enjoyable experience. It’s great to see the progression within the field and how individuals are coming up with unique solutions to the issues that they face within their institution. It gives a better understanding of there is not just a singular method when it comes to being an art librarian; that there are a multitude of paths out there that can help guide you to better serve and inform your public. It’s just having to experiment and find what best works for you and the needs of your public. I learned a great deal, met some interesting individuals, and got to see dinosaurs. Once again, I give thanks to the selection committee. I am forever grateful for the opportunity.
Decorative Arts & Auction Catalogs SIG Updates

By Kate Alleman

Decorative Arts:
As a new arts librarian, this session was extremely helpful for hearing about resources, projects, and people specializing in the Decorative Arts.

The meeting started off with an introduction to a new living and growing resource document available through the Dec Arts SIG blog. “Hallmark Sources from Europe and the Americas“ provides a bibliography as a basic reference guide for researchers. The resource page (http://decarts.arlisna.org/resources/) has other great resources for Dec Arts research and will soon be adding a list of libraries with significant holdings in the area of dec arts. This document will be a Google Doc, so members can add an institution’s information as it’s discovered. As Beth Goodrich was doing a little housekeeping she found two dead links. If anyone knows of either of these resources – Domestic Interiors Database and the Virtual Textile Project – please email Beth at bgoodrich@craftcouncil.org.

Elizabeth Bowman from Cooper Hewitt has been working on a proposal of digitizing issues of Crockery and Glass Journal. She ran into the issue of the fragility when digitizing physical issues, so they have been scanning from the Smithsonian’s microfilm copies. There was a small but lively conversation about digitizing print vs. microfilm.

Beth Goodrich is interested in starting a web archiving program with a focus on craft and decorative arts. She specifically mentioned artist files, so I recommended reaching out to the Artist File SIG, but in hindsight the interests might not be so hand-in-hand.

Auction Catalogs SIG update:
A good chunk of my time at work deals with auction catalogs. I was very interested to hear other libraries’ experiences/perspectives of this resource and the various auction catalog projects being pursued. I also came in to hear what institutions were doing with their duplicate auction catalogs – it turns out there are a lot of options. Like quite a few things, the answer depends on the institution.
The group started off with introductions and then dove into talk of a recent-ish *Apollo* magazine article about the future of auction catalogues within the current information landscape. As content becomes much easier to publish and revise online, what will become of the physical catalog? The conversation reminds me of the print vs. electronic debate in library school – it’s not a question of either/or, but which format is best for various needs, this may mean both formats are needed. A librarian from Princeton mentioned their Christie’s representative had asked them, “What can you live without?” which added to the evidence that auction houses are figuring out which sales to keep printing catalogues for and which to present in an online format.

The Met talked about their digitization efforts for catalogs 1950 and onwards. They are working with the Internet Archive. The Getty is working on linking to catalogs they don’t have in their provenance index database and seemed interested to work with the Internet Archive’s Met project sometime in the future. A workshop was proposed about digitization of auction catalogs, which I am looking forward to.

Graphic Novels SIG Meeting and Updates

By Tara Spies Smith

The Graphic Novels Special Interest Group met at the ARLIS/NA 2019 Conference in Salt Lake City on Thursday March 28, 2019 8:00am - 8:50am at the Grand America Hotel: Murano Garden Salon (1st Floor) 555 Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT, 84111. Co-coordinators for the SIG at the meeting were Olivia Miller Piepmeier from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Tara Spies Smith from Texas State University, and Andrew Wang, Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale University.

Our meeting consisted of a presentation by a guest speaker, T. Edward Bak. The Graphic Novels SIG’s ARLIS/NA conference schedule description states that, “Bak is the cartoonist of the semi-autobiographical comic strip Service Industry, which originally appeared in Flagpole Magazine. Critical praise for the Service Industry collection coincided with a Fellowship at the Center for Cartoon Studies. After his stories appeared in the anthologies Orchid, Drawn & Quarterly Showcase, The Best American Comics, and MOME, Floating World Comics began serializing his graphic novel, WILD MAN. Most recently, his illustrated essays were featured in print and online at High Country News, Popula, and The Nib. Mr. Bak currently lives in Oregon and resumes work on WILD MAN. For more information, check out his Instagram and his Patreon.

Bak has spent the past nine years researching, writing, and illustrating a graphic novel about the geographical crossroads and temporal continuum of nature and culture. He is committed to the further development of the work, seeking to balance indigenous perspective with the emergence of imperial and scientific history. Accompanied by a series of projected drawings from the book, he will share the experience of his creative process to describe how WILD MAN and he have evolved together.”

The SIG’s Notable Graphic Novels Review publication was made an official ARLIS/NA publication. Co-coordinators, Olivia Miller, Tara Spies Smith, and Andrew Wang were appointed co-editors of the ARLIS/NA Editorial Board.
There will be announcements on the ARLIS/NA listserv about our SIG’s **2018 Notable Graphic Novels Review** with reviews of graphic novels published in 2018. SIG editors, Smith, Piepmeier, and Wang will co-edit the reviews and ARLIS/NA will publish the **2018 Notable Graphic Novels Review** on the [Notable Graphic Novels Review page on the ARLIS/NA website](https://www.arlisna.org). The Graphic Novels SIGs Notable Graphic Novels Review is intended to help librarians and library workers improve their collections.

Both of our Notable Graphic Novels lists were compiled based on poll results by SIG members, ARLIS/NA members. First, a poll was sent out for nominations for the top 10 lists and then based on the titles nominated, a new poll was sent out for ARLIS/NA members to vote for the top 10 notable graphic novels published for the year. For the 2018 list, we asked for volunteers to review the final top 10 titles with the most votes. This provides volunteer reviewers with an opportunity for professional development. The polls for nominations, voting, and the call for reviewers promote and encourage membership in our Graphic Novels Special Interest Group. The SIG requested review copies of the final list of ten nominated titles from publishers this time in the process of the **Notable Graphic Novels Review**. Copies were mailed to the volunteer reviewers. After the review process the Graphic Novels SIG Notable Graphic Novels Review will be published and available on the ARLIS/NA website on the [Notable Graphic Novels Review page](https://www.arlisna.org).
4th annual Greater Austin Area Information Literacy Symposium (GAAILS) at Alkek Library, Texas State University in San Marcos

By Tara Spies Smith

Librarians from the Research, Instruction, and Outreach department at Alkek Library at Texas State University planned and hosted the 4th annual Greater Austin Area Information Literacy Symposium on Friday, January 11, 2019. The Greater Austin Area Information Literacy Symposium (GAAILS) focuses on information literacy initiatives in public, school, academic, and special libraries in the Austin area. The sessions hosted explored timely topics and practical solutions in information literacy and library instruction. The symposium also allowed time for attendees to share ideas, initiatives, and develop relationships across the library field. Attendees were library professionals from the Austin and Waco area with an interest in information literacy. This description is based on information from the Alkek Library 4th Annual GAAILS libguide.

There were 87 total attendees including the GAAILS planning team and librarians, library assistants, and library staff from Alkek Library. The symposium included a keynote titled, “Incorporating Stand-up Comedy Techniques into Library Instruction” by speaker and comedian Brently Heilbron. There were also 12 presentations made up of two 45-minute presentations, three 7-minute Lightning Rounds, and six 20-minute presentations. Breakfast and lunch were included, and registration for the symposium was free.

Alkek Library’s Research, Instruction, and Outreach Librarian, Tara Spies Smith, who is also the Art & Design, Anthropology, and Communication Studies subject librarian, presented with Erin Mazzei, Digital Media Specialist. Their presentation, “Finding and Evaluating Digital Images: A Survival Guide”, covered a very brief version of Smith’s “Finding & Using Images in your Papers, Publications, & Presentations” as well as a slide show by Mazzei explaining digital file types, their appropriate use, and good practices in creating and resizing images for various print and web usage. The presentation introduced how to find good quality images in proprietary databases, books, public domain, and open access image websites for various uses such as presentations, publications, and preservation as well as cover the basics of copyright law and fair use for images.
as well the ethics of attribution of images. The presentation intended to highlight how competence in visual literacy is increasingly required to identify image needs and how to find the appropriate images to fulfill image needs.

Attendees’ comments and survey data that the GAAILS planning team received from a survey sent out after the symposium indicated that the 4th annual Greater Austin Area Information Literacy Symposium (GAAILS) at Texas State University’s Alkek Library in San Marcos was a success.
Pictures from Salt Lake City 2019

By Eric Wolf

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir Concert on Sunday, March 31st

Jon Evans and Eric Wolf enjoy a bottle of Epic "Spiral Jetty" IPA
The site of Golden Spike, Promontory, Utah
The Mayer Library Celebrates 75th Anniversary

By Jenny Stone

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the Dallas Museum of Art library’s opening to the public. Established in 1936 following the construction of the new Dallas Museum of Fine Arts building in Fair Park, the collection initially comprised a small group of books only available to staff of the museum. The DMFA only had eight staff at the time, but did include a librarian. Sybil Edwards was responsible for the acquisition and cataloging of materials and overseeing the print study room.

Several years of planning preceded the opening—or as one newspaper article harshly described it, “a little procrastination and a lot of work by a large number of disinterested individuals.” Regardless, much time was invested in selecting, soliciting donations, getting ideas from other museums, and making lists so as not to duplicate holdings in nearby libraries. The Carnegie Foundation donated over 1,000 items, including books, color fascimiles, original prints, and black and white reproductions in what the Dallas Morning News called “the most valuable addition to the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts since the collection of old masters was placed on permanent loan by an anonymous donor.” Leftover bond money from the construction of the museum building was used to purchase 1,000 more titles. The newly acquired materials arrived in 1942 and required the help of a group of dedicated volunteers from the Art Museum League and the Dallas Office of Civilian Defense to catalog over 3,000 books, magazines, and print reproductions.

The library had a formal opening on Sunday, March 12, 1944. The library’s public hours were 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Not too different from our current hours.) Books were restricted to the library as a system of lending had not yet been devised. What started out as unsorted piles books developed into one of the most comprehensive art history reference collections in the city at the time.

In 1993, the library moved into its current location and was renamed the Mildred R. and Frederick M. Mayer Library. The collection now counts over 100,000 volumes and remains the only museum library open to the public in Dallas.

DMFA president Alex Weisberg (center with glasses) presents the new library to nattily dressed visitors.

Librarian Sybil Edwards looks busy for a photograph.
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