

ARLIS NA
Artist Files Working Group
24 March 2011, 2:00-3:00pm

Meeting led by:
Barbara Rominski, SFMoMA
Sally McKay, Getty Research Institute, (incoming Co-Chair)

Recorder: Deirdre Donohue, Stephanie Shuman Librarian, International Center of Photography

Attendees: Approximately 30 attendees.

Welcome, updates, Review:

Agenda item #1 will be at the end – volunteers to work with group.

- Jon Evans and Kraig Binkowski are the other partners in this group. Jon will be stepping up to his ARLIS/NA Presidential duties in the coming year, and Kraig is also stepping down from the Professional Resources Editor for ARLIS/NA.
- *Art Library Journal* Review of Artist Files Revealed: An Online Directory and its documentation. Overall, potential changes mentioned in the article have not been made yet, pending discussion.
<http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-index.php>
- Kraig Binkowski posted much of documentation on the ARLIS/NA website, as he went, to share the process, and that was mentioned in the review. The documentation is posted under Online Publications <http://www.arlisna.org/pubs/onlinepubs/index.html#all> It still resides there, although the full directory is online.
- The review only indicates minor structural criticisms – should we do anything about them? Do they affect the users in this group?
- Many people reviewed the fields and content before going online, so they are wondering about the efficacy of making changes.
- (delete?) The Research Library at the Getty Research Institute holds some artist files in special collections which were mentioned individually in their directory record. The Research Library has some un-processed collections, like the Arntz ephemera collection which holds approximately 5,000 German abstract expressionist artist files, mentioned in the directory to promote the material and expose it to a new audience.

Marketing, Promotion, & Spreading the word:

- The Artist Files Working Group is now seeking new volunteers to promote the directory at a grassroots level. Each ARLIS chapter or region should have someone to gather contributors and spread the word.
- The Artist Files Working Group will come up with a “boiler-plate” text for individuals/chapters doing promotion to use.

- It has already been announced on ARLIS-L and the project website, but they want to reach other colleagues.
- Northern California [Barbara Rominski] and Pacific Northwest [Traci Timmons] are covered. Other regions needed.
- Maggie Castellani volunteered to cover Ohio Valley chapter.
- Katie Keller, incoming ARLIS International Relations Committee, will do international promotion of the publications and directory. We are looking for volunteers to assist in translation to promote the resources internationally. Isotta Poggi from Getty volunteered to help with Italian and German translations.

Digitizing, Born-Digital Material, & Archive-IT:

- Digital materials and digitizing materials: Francine Snyder did a survey, and Barbara Rominski and Samantha Deutch have spoken with the "Internet Archive" and Brewster Kahle.
 - "Archive-It" takes snapshots [all cascading pages and links] of websites – creates digital ephemera file. A tool for research projects – snapshot and you can add metadata. It is the "Wayback Machine" on steroids. <http://www.archive-it.org/>
 - There is a difficulty of effectively finding information for research purposes. It is too inclusive, but you can set the limits in the tool.
 - You can feed Archive-It the URLs now, but they are seeking a way of querying it so that it harvests the URLs itself.
 - The Archive-It collection about American Art Collectors [Frick], linked to LC authority.
 - Francine Snyder at the Guggenheim is looking at Archiv-IT regarding capturing ephemeral information on artists in Middle East and other materials.
 - SFMoMA is doing Getty funded online scholarly catalog project – a number of institutions. Each has different approach. SFMoMA – dynamic, interactive, but they want "editions" captured and cited subsequently.
 - Can this group work with Archive-It and create some collaborative product for it?
 - Archiv-IT will do a pilot project with the Artist Files Working Group, without charge, because they want our input. They want to involve cultural institutions and librarians.
 - The user-interface is rudimentary and we could definitely inform that, says Francine.
 - It has potential, and Barbara suggests a sub-group meet on it in the near future.
 - She asked if anyone other than Frick or Guggenheim was already looking at it.
 - Saint Catherine's University is using Content DM to manage born-digital material.
 - Guggenheim looked into Decapod [Mellon funded found through Gunter Weibel] to establish affordable copy stand system standard for digitizing artist files at the Guggenheim. The vendor had a problem with the variety of formats in their files! They can only truly streamline if they have a consistent set up. <http://sites.google.com/site/decapodproject/>
 - The Decapod folks were interested, but not ready yet.
 - National Archives used Endnote that way.
 - Traci Timmons and MIA – streamlining digitizing process of artist files.
- Institutions want us to digitize, but we have to figure out how to work on this.

- [Who] has a couple of grants for digitizing processes.
- Francine Snyder is more concerned about access than high level reproduction qualities.
- They are looking forward to a RLG Round Table Paper coming out in June about this.

Other Comments:

- Francine asked about the Artist Files Online Directory statistics of users vs. contributors. Sally McKay and Barbara Rominski will check the system now that it has "gone public".
- Francine's survey is posted on the wiki. It has 53 respondents' concerns.

Volunteers:

- Jon Evans is stepping down as head of the Artist File group, SFMoMA tripling in size in the coming years, so Barbara Rominski will be buried under bricks and mortar, and the Artist Files Working Group is looking for a co-chair to partner with Sally McKay.
** Please note, a Co-Chair has been selected, Samantha Deutch, The Frick.

Goals:

- The coming year is about promotion and foregoing concerns.
- Work with the IRC to promote the information and online directory internationally.
- Research born-digital information and resources.

Adjourn.