

Scottish Visual Arts Group (SVAG) Meeting
Glasgow University Library
Thursday 5th June 2008

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (29 November 2007)

The Minutes were amended to show that VARIE is still publishing the journal Art in Translation. The amended minutes were then accepted.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. UCABLIS update (Union Catalogue of Art Books in Libraries in Scotland)

12 of the 24 member libraries are now on the service. The National Museums and National Galleries libraries are still not on UCABLIS, due to problems with firewalls. The National Museums OPAC is now available to the public, but the National Galleries' OPAC is still only available in the library for staff and visitors.

4. ARLIS Update

Reporting secretary attended a recent ARLIS National Co-ordination Committee meeting. SVAG's regional group input was welcomed by the Committee. The Research Libraries Group in the United States is currently working on a project to map book holdings. National Art Library is interested in using the ARLIS Directory to map strengths and weaknesses of UK libraries, and is aiming to test this out using architecture as a subject; SVAG may be involved in this. Also mentioned that ARLIS conference will take place at the end of July in Liverpool.

5. Visual Arts Research Institute, Edinburgh (VARIE)

New VARIE administrator was welcomed to the meeting and made a report on VARIE's recent symposia, seminars, events and ongoing projects. VARIE is also working with the Courtauld Institute of Art to adapt the British Academy's guidelines on copyright, which they hope RIHA (International Association of Research Institutes in the History of Art) will endorse and adopt. The purpose of these guidelines is to negotiate a fairer approach to using images for academic purposes.

6. Visual Resources

TASI (Technical Advisory Services for Images) is expanding to take over a similar remit for sound and moving images. Group discussed possibility that there would be a digital copyright agreement (via DACS) by August. Glasgow University Library is looking to appoint a dedicated lawyer to take care of this aspect of their e-prints server and VLE delivery. It is likely that case law will develop in this area, the USA is already further ahead with this, e.g. ProQuest, but Glasgow is in the forefront of e-submission in the UK. Morag Greig is the person at Glasgow with the best knowledge of repository matters.

Artists' Books

Group of members based in Edinburgh recently met to discuss a common interest in collecting Artists' books (notes were available for those who were interested). Various libraries had slightly different and complementary interests and reasons for collecting. It seemed to be a good idea to invite involvement of members from other cities. SVAG had explored possibilities with regard to artists' books in the past, and it might perhaps be a good time to revisit this topic and create a centralised area for information. Members discussed ideas along these lines. Ideas for development included using UCABLIS (though not all key players on yet), having a feature in the SVAG website (see below), making use of the ARLIS website, and some possible collaboration for the ELISA Edinburgh Libraries Fair on 8 November.

7. Report by Publicity Officer

Publicity officer is planning to revamp the SVAG leaflet. Some members have sent updates to their institutional contact information on the SVAG pages, but all members asked to check/update.

8. SVAG website

At the moment we only have information on our SCURL-based website that is fairly static and relatively easy to maintain. Reporting secretary preparing abridged minutes to be added to the site; she will circulate these before they go live. Paper was previously circulated on the possibility of using Web 2.0 technologies to create a more active SVAG website. Suggestion is to create our own webpages using public domain software, which could sit behind the SCURL pages, which would still act as a front end. We could try setting up a blog with current news and events for public consumption, and perhaps a wiki for SVAG members' use. Uploads could possibly be the responsibility of the Publicity Officer. Prototype blog/wiki will be created for members' approval.

9. Library reports

Given.

10. Any other business

Nothing raised.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th November, at the Dean Gallery, SNGMA, Edinburgh.

Post-meeting visit

Members toured the recently renovated arts floors at Glasgow University library.