

Scottish Visual Arts Group (SVAG) Meeting Minutes
EDINA Offices, Edinburgh
Wednesday 27th June 2007

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (10th January 2007)

Clarification was sought on point 6, on the Gowers Review. The Minutes were then accepted.

2. Matters Arising

No points raised

3. Change of Convenor

Wilson Smith is standing down as Convenor and Jane Furness has agreed to take over this role for the next 2 meetings.

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

Edinburgh City Libraries is now included in UCABLIS, whose site has been updated. It is hoped that the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Museum of Scotland catalogues will be available soon. There were concerns that not enough people are likely to be aware of the service. Those who make use of it should consider ways to promote it. The old UCABLIS catalogue is currently still searchable via the National Library of Scotland, containing additions up to 2000, but only for Edinburgh libraries. New URL: <http://cairns.lib.strath.ac.uk/> → Miniclumps → UCABLIS

5. ARLIS Update

The latest NCC meeting was cancelled. The annual conference in Cheltenham is coming up soon. Doug Dodds (National Art Library/NCC) may attend the next SVAG meeting to talk about arlis.net.

6. Visual Arts Research Institute, Edinburgh (VARIE)

No report or apologies were received – the administrator is leaving VARIE imminently. It is likely that the VARIE structure will be somewhat different in future.

7. Visual Resources

Copyright

Members discussed recent study days in London (ARLIS) and Edinburgh (British Academy). Copyright was discussed at both as well the unique copyright issues inherent in the discipline of art history. There was an indication that DACS was going to come up with a digital licence at last, possible around Christmas. A paper was circulated with suggestions for an ideal licence to meet educational requirements; this was discussed with a view to drafting a group response to ARLIS on this issue.

AHDS cessation of funding

Members discussed and were concerned by the news that the Arts & Humanities Research Board and JISC had decided to withdraw funding from the Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS). A group letter on the subject was discussed.

Other visual resources

Members discussed resources their libraries are using or considering using, as well as SHEDL, a project looking at national licensing of databases, either within HE or including the general public. Resources discussed included Scholars Resource, ArchiVision, AMIG (Art Museum Image Gallery), Cameo (Research Libraries Group), AMICA and the Bridgeman Art Library

7. Publicity Officer

Ideas on new publicity initiatives were considered. Member volunteered to look into the possibility of enhancing our web presence and making use of web tools available, such as blogs and wikis. The CDLR's work on the current SVAG website was also discussed.

8. Library reports

Given.

9. Any Other Business

The group thanked Wilson for his work as Convenor.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29th November, in the new Edinburgh College of Art Library.