

**Scottish Visual Arts Group (SVAG) Meeting
Dean Gallery
Thursday 27th November 2008**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (5th June 2008)

The minutes were amended to correct library report issues. 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)

Member trying to contact UCABLIS, but had no response; she was given best contact details. National Galleries are now ready to be linked up to UCABLIS. National Museums library will probably have to be left on the back burner for now, but this will be pursued further.

4. ARLIS Update

Reporting secretary unable to attend most recent ARLIS National Co-ordination Committee meeting but she will circulate their report when she receives it. ARLIS website is still not fully reconstructed. ARLIS Conference (Cambridge) pre-registration information is now available: the last conference was very highly recommended by all who attended.

5. Visual Arts Research Institute, Edinburgh (VARIE)

VARIE administrator unable to attend the meeting, and no report was received. For anyone needing more information, the VARIE website is very good (it is possible to subscribe to updates via email).

6. Visual Resources

Visual resources databases

Members discussed pros and cons of various databases they had recently purchased or trialled, including ARTstor, Bridgeman Education, Prometheus, Cameo and Newsfilm Online. They also pointed out that the Courtauld Slide Scheme has been selling off their slides at a lower price recently.

Copyright/DACS issues

No further update.

E-books

Discussion of e-books and the pros and cons of the various suppliers members are using and/or considering. Also, some are digitising books for their VLEs under CLA agreement, but it is unclear whether it may be cheaper to buy a whole e-book than to digitise chapters under this scheme.

Artists' books

A collaborative display of Artists' Books from several libraries was presented as part of the ELISA Festival of Libraries event in Edinburgh. Members discussed joining in a cross-Scotland exhibition at some point. The SVAG website might be a useful tool to help us to co-ordinate our information on artists' books. Also, it seemed beneficial to hold the next SVAG meeting in Dundee, since both Dundee Contemporary Arts and Duncan of Jordanstone have collections of artists' books.

Other issues

University of the Creative Arts, Canterbury currently has a project on digitisation, and a related website. Annamarie McKie is the contact.

7. Report by Publicity Officer

Publicity officer represented SVAG on the first day of the ELISA Festival of Libraries. She also attended a debate on the future of books which was recorded and should be available on the ELISA website.

8. Convenor

Previous convenor Jane Furness stood down and was thanked by the group for her able stewardship of the role. New convenor Kerry Watson nominated and elected unanimously.

9. SVAG website

Design unveiled for the proposed new SVAG website. The technology used is basically a blog, using Blogger software, with more static pieces of information on the right, and changing news on the left. There is an RSS feed and a subscribe function. It would be good to include links to related sites, such as ARLIS, ELISA. Ideas for useful additions might be conference reports, artists' books pages. Best idea seemed to be to use the existing SCURL page, but add a link to the new website, which we could then use for our own purposes, bearing in mind that that the blog is completely visible to the public. Group needs to establish how the blog can be updated. It was decided to stick with one/two logins for now and not yet have a generic group login, but this will be investigated. All members encouraged to subscribe and suggest content:

<http://scottish-visual-arts-group.blogspot.com/>

In addition, members were reminded to pass along updates of local details to reporting secretary for update on the main SVAG site.

9. Library reports

Given.

10. Any other business

Nothing was raised

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4th June, at Duncan of Jordanstone, University of Dundee.