

Research Incentive Fund Report

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The InULA Research Incentive Fund generously supported my professional development and research in the area of art librarianship, the arts, and the book arts of Scandinavia. I participated in the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), <http://www.arlisna.org>, International Relations Committee (ARLISNA-IRC) study trip. Our study group attended the International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Satellite ARLIS NORDEN annual conference, <http://www.alisnorden.org>. This joint study trip and annual conference included tours of art and design organizations, architecture schools, art libraries, art galleries in Helsinki and Stockholm, and the National Library of Finland.

This study trip to Scandinavian arts organizations and arts libraries began with the IFLA Satellite/ARLIS NORDEN Conference, Helsinki, Finland, August 9-11, 2012, *Art Now! Contemporary Art Resources in Library Context*, <http://www.arlisnorden.org/>. The IFLA Satellite/ARLIS NORDEN conference provided valuable content for current trends of practice and study for art librarianship. Sessions covered topics ranging from current trends in collection development to the emerging practice of archiving contemporary art blogs and the application of institutional repositories in art libraries. These issues are vital to my professional work as an art librarian serving the Herron School of Art and Design faculty and students and the IUPUI campus in general. The conference was held at the Contemporary Art Museum in Kiasma, http://www.kiasma.fi/kiasma_en. It included visits to the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, <http://arts.aalto.fi/en/> and a tour of the Helsinki Design Walk and Contemporary Architecture in Helsinki (via bus). The ARLIS/NA IRC Study group followed the IFLA Satellite/ARLIS NORDEN conference with visits to Helsinki arts organizations and libraries through August 14, 2012. August 15-17, 2012, participants visited notable arts organizations, galleries, and libraries in Stockholm.

The ARLIS/NA IRC Study Trip itinerary is listed below. Tours and Library visits included:

Helsinki (August 9-19, 2012):

- Aalto University: School of Arts, Design and Architecture <http://arts.aalto.fi/en/>
- National Library of Finland <http://www.nationallibrary.fi/index.html>
- Helsinki University Museum <http://www.museo.helsinki.fi/english/>
- Finnish Museum of Natural History and Botanic Garden <http://www.luomus.fi/english/>
- Design Museum <http://www.designmuseum.fi/en/>
- Museum of Finnish Architecture <http://www.mfa.fi/frontpage>
- Finnish Academy of Fine Arts <http://www.kuva.fi/portal/english/library/>
- Helsinki Year of Design 2012 <http://wdchelsinki2012.fi/en/programme>

Stockholm (August 15-17, 2012):

- Nordiska Museet and Library <http://www.nordiskamuseet.se/category.asp?cat=187&catname=English&topmenu=142>
- Nationalmuseum <http://www.nationalmuseum.se/sv/English-startpage/>
- Moderna Museet Stockholm <http://www.modernamuseet.se/en/Stockholm/>
- Thiel Art Gallery Stockholm <http://www.thielska-galleriet.se/>
- Drottningholm Palace and other nearby Royal Residences and Properties <http://www.kungahuset.se/royalcourt/royalpalaces/drottningholmpalace.4.396160511584257f218000368.html>

Benefit to Professional Growth

In addition to the professional value the IFLA Satellite/ARLIS NORDEN conference offered through the sessions, this ARLIS/NA IRC study trip offered a rare opportunity for deeper hands-on cultural exploration of Scandinavian art and design as well as art libraries and arts organizations' current issues and trends. Visiting these organizations deepened my understanding and knowledge, visual vocabulary, and insight, personally and professionally within both the library field and the fine arts, advancing my professional development in the field of art librarianship.

The exposure I gained to the collections, libraries, and art schools throughout the study trip gave me a better understanding of the breadth of issues, opportunities, and challenges facing other arts/library organizations balancing similar and unique issues within their own institutions on a global scale. This unique opportunity to engage in conversations with my Scandinavian colleagues helped to reinforce my own knowledge and practice, learn new approaches and methods, and participate in meaningful professional dialogues.

Beyond networking with my professional peers, this study trip related directly to my collection development responsibilities at the Herron School of Art and Design. Throughout my visits to the arts organizations and libraries in Helsinki and Stockholm, I studied Scandinavian art and design/artists from 1930 to the present day. My research interests includes design artists working in the areas of furniture design, graphic design, ceramics, glass artists, and the book arts of Scandinavia. This study trip presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel with art library colleagues to research the design artists represented in the collections and organizations we visited.

The information I gathered about past and current artists while on this study trip will make a significant contribution to the collections housed in the Herron Art Library that support the teaching curriculum at the Herron School of Art and Design. I saw the artwork of many important artists/designers including the works of Alvar Aalto, Eero Saarinen, Bruno Mathsson, Thomas Eriksson, Jukka Veistola, and Kaj Franck to name a few. Works of important Scandinavian women artists/designers included Armi Rattia, Maija Isola, Tortsten Thorup, and Tappo Salmelainen. These Scandinavian artists are of particular significance for their influence over art, design, and architecture from the 1930s to the present day. Visiting these arts institutions throughout Helsinki and Stockholm was inspiring to me as an artist and important to my understanding of the role Scandinavian design plays in an art historical context influencing design artists of today. I returned with a new set of valuable design resources and visual documentation and imagery that demonstrates quality examples of creative works: from everyday household objects, to posters, to significant architectural sites that support and enhance the design curriculum and teaching and learning at Herron School of Art and Design. This expanded visual content will be exceptionally useful to the instructional activities at the Herron School of Art and Design because of its unique, significant, retrospective and contemporary material covering the design arts on an international scale.

In summary, this was an important and exceptional opportunity to immerse myself in the cultural exploration of the arts and art and design library trends for services and collections of Scandinavia. I came away with a heightened understanding of Scandinavian culture, design, and its context and importance to art history. I developed a deeper awareness of important Scandinavian artists, bookartists, and designers and their influence and role historically. I learned of new and important bookarts collections and book artists that will lend greater depth to the bookarts collection at the

Herron Art Library. The knowledge of collections, services, and trends I learned on this trip contributed significantly to my professional development as an art librarian positioned in a globally networked world. It also broadened my exposure to and understanding of art, art organizations, and art libraries issues and practices on an international scale. I gained a much richer understanding in a global context of the diverse issues, trends, and practices facing art libraries and arts organizations as they strive to provide timely and appropriate technologies, services, and collections to their unique constituencies. I look forward to following up on the professional connections I made throughout my travels, particularly those conversations under development with the Helsinki City Library regarding how our libraries might collaborate to share our bookarts collections, highlighting bookartists and bookarts trends important within our respective countries.

I am most grateful to the InULA Scholarship and Grants Committee for their support of my research travels to study Scandinavian art and design.