Meeting Notes: Arts Reference and Instruction

We were very excited to meet in November on arts reference and instruction. We met first at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford on November 1, and next at the Haas Family Arts Library at Yale University in New Haven on November 8. We had about 35 attendees between the two meetings.

November 1, Wadsworth Atheneum

Here’s the line-up of presenters from the November 1 meeting, with a brief description of what they spoke about:

- **Amy Kilkenny**  
  *Head of Library & Archives, Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art*  
  Amy provided an overview of the Auerbach Library at the Wadsworth Atheneum. She talked about their collections and services, as well as a bit on the history of the library and museum. The collection supports the curatorial research and exhibition activity of the museum staff and provides reference resources to scholars, students, and the public. This lovely library is open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 5pm, and on Saturdays from 12 to 4pm.

- **Lindsay King**  
  *Associate Director for Access and Research Services, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University*  
  Lindsay spoke to the group about the collections and services available at the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library at Yale University. Note that the library is open to the public and there are open stacks. She also discussed some of the innovative programming and instruction the library provides to students, including Art+Feminism Wikipedia edit-a-thons and monitored study halls at exam periods where students drop their phones at the door, study, and are rewarded with watching animal videos as a study break. See her PowerPoint presentation for additional information about the collections as well as access.

- **Keri Thompson**  
  *Head, Digital Library Department, Smithsonian Libraries*  
  Keri spoke to us about the vast collections that are available online through the Smithsonian Libraries. She highlighted a number of notable collections and showed us how to find more information about collections and items. Please see her PowerPoint presentation for additional information. The last two slides include a lot of amazing links.

- **Laura Damon-Moore**  
  *Co-creator of the Library as Incubator Project, co-author of The Artist’s Library and a forthcoming ALA Edition on creativity in libraries, and community engagement librarian at the Madison (WI) Public Library*  
  Laura spoke to us about the Library as Incubator Project, an online community and more that promoted the arts in the library as well as libraries as amazing places for artists. While the project is no longer active, the site remains available and has a wealth of information for libraries to use. She noted that the artist interviews are an especially interesting resource. She also discussed her book *The Artist’s Library* as well as a little bit about her upcoming title from ALA Editions *Incubating Creativity at Your Library: A Sourcebook for Connecting with Communities*, which is due out in 2019. Please see her PowerPoint presentation for more information.

- **Roundtable Co-chair Christie Mitchell** presented an abbreviated version of a presentation by **Laurie McGavin Bachmann**, Ridgefield Library, on arts programming in the library. You can find a description of Laurie’s presentation below under the November 8 description.
November 8, Yale Arts Library
Here’s the line-up of presenters from the November 8 meeting, with a brief description of what they spoke about:

- **Lindsay King**  
  Associate Director for Access and Research Services, Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, Yale University  
  See above

- **Kraig Binkowski**  
  Chief Librarian, Reference Library and Archives, Yale Center for British Art  
  Kraig spoke to the group about the Yale Center for British Art, including its history, collections, services, and that totally amazing Louis Kahn building. The library is open to the public, and library staff are available for reference help.

- **Keri Thompson**  
  Head, Digital Library Department, Smithsonian Libraries  
  See above

- **Erinn Batykefer**  
  Co-creator of the Library as Incubator Project and co-author of The Artist’s Library and a forthcoming ALA Edition on creativity in libraries  
  See description above for Laura Damon-Moore

- **Laurie McGavin Bachmann**  
  Arts Program Developer, Ridgefield Library  
  Laurie outlined the robust arts programming at Ridgefield Library and highlighted a handful of programs. She impressed upon attendees that libraries can be tremendous hubs for the arts. See her PowerPoint presentation for a wealth of information, ideas, and inspiration.

Co-Chair Presentations
At each of the two meetings, Christie Mitchell presented on funding opportunities for artists and Rachel Leff presented on open-access images and on ideas for arts-related instruction in the library. Handouts are included as attachments.

Roundtable News
To finish out the meeting, we shared the following roundtable news:

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, Dec 6 from 10-12 at the Ridgefield Library**. We know it's far for a lot of you, but we hope you can make it. **In January, we will be meeting on legal reference.** We haven't locked in the dates and locations, but we are looking at Bridgeport and New London. We're also planning to have a meeting on **genealogy and local history in March** and anticipate meeting in Hartford and New Haven. And we are working on a **meeting on MOOCs and blending online and in-person learning.** Please let us know if there's something you’d like us to cover in a future meeting! And please let us know if your library has space to host a meeting like this in an upcoming month.

Has a Roundtable Had an Impact on Your Library? Please Let Us Know!
We are hoping to find out whether these roundtable meetings have had an impact on your library. If you do something at your library based on something you've learned about through the roundtable, we'd really love to hear about it. You can email us at rmleff@ridgefieldlibrary.org and camitchell@ridgefieldlibrary.org.