Charleston Conference Future Dates

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Book Reviews
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Reviewed by Debbie Vaughn (College of Charleston)
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The Haworth Information Press has once again co-published an issue of one of their journals as a "monographic separate." In this case, the Journal of Library Administration (volume 39, issue number one, 2003) has also been printed as the monograph The Twenty-First Century Art Librarian. Editor Terrie Wilson, art librarian at the Michigan State University Fine Arts Library, is not a stranger to art librarianship literature. Frequently, she has contributed to the bulletin Art Documentation, and she has also reviewed a number of books for ARBA and Choice. In addition, Wilson is an involved and committed member of the Art Libraries Society of North America.

The Twenty-First Century Art Librarian is divided into three major sections that cover professionalism, collection management, and library practices; each section contains two articles that span a broad spectrum of interests. The first section, "The Art Library Professional," begins with Clemson University architecture librarian Sarah McCleskey's investigation into staffing standards and core competencies in academic art and architecture departmental libraries. In the following article, veteran museum librarian Joan Benedetti discusses the challenges of managing a small art museum library. The second section, "Managing and Servicing Collections in an Art and Architecture Environment," covers digital library development as well as branch library special collections management. OCLC Digital Project Specialist Paula Hardin reviews several issues involved in implementing a digitization project into standard library operations. Janine Jacqueline Henri, Head Librarian of the Architecture and Planning branch library at the University of Texas in Austin, explores the many facets of special collections in her library; Henri discusses everything from public services to facilities planning. The final section, "The Big Picture: Comparing Practices in Art Libraries," looks at facilities, access issues, digitization efforts, acquisitions matters, and other issues in art libraries, art museum libraries, and architecture libraries. Emory University Art History Librarian Kim Collins gives a general comparison of academic art libraries and art museum libraries. Susan Craig, head of the Murphy Art and Architecture Library at the University of Kansas, surveyed over 160 North American art and architecture libraries regarding current practices; her study is a rich source of information for art and architecture librarians to gauge their own policies and services in light of those of other libraries.

The Twenty-First Century Art Librarian offers a wealth of information concerning the plethora of issues that are faced by library professionals in a specialized field. Certainly practicing art librarians will benefit from the material presented by the six contributing authors. In addition, as Wilson states in her preface, the articles will also "provide non-art librarians the chance to understand some of the issues faced by art library administrators." The Twenty-First Century Art Librarian is appropriate for art or architecture libraries and librarians, as well as libraries with substantial art or architecture collections.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

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