

**Caroline Dechert, Chair**

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**Margaret Van Dyk**

Library Director  
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Santa Fe, NM

Dear Caroline, Margaret, and Mountain West Chapter,

I wanted to thank the committee and the chapter once more for the most generous travel gift. Additionally, this letter constitutes my report on my activities at the conference.

Several opportunities presented themselves in the form of calls for proposals and one primary objective I had for the conference was to present at two individual panel sessions. I was part of two groups who had submitted panel session proposals and both were accepted.

The first panel session was titled: *Engaging Library Users in Collection Development*. The second was titled: *When Research Doesn't Start with a Question: Teaching with the Framework within Art and Architecture Librarianship*. Each session provide an outstanding experience to talk about initiatives I have been working on at my institution and gave me an excellent opportunity to engage with many amazing librarians (panelists as well as members in the audience). Caroline's presentation in particular gave me an idea that I will be starting at my library this summer to build our first ever, born digital local artist file. Exciting!

This born digital artist file project is already in progress and will be populated with many outstanding local artists in the region where my institution resides. I have already established relationships with two key players in this project. One is our special collections librarian and the other is our art gallery curator. Both are eager to work with me on this project as all three of us have wanted to create an online, artist file for some time.

Other activities that I wanted to attend to included wrapping up my time as chair at the chapter meeting, attending to some volunteer opportunities (including working the hospitality desk and serving as tour guide for the Joan Mitchell Center), and attending several of the scheduled presentations.

All the presentations I planned to attend were outstanding including these: Critical Information Literacy in Art and Design Libraries, Scope Drift: New Directions in Visual Resources, Visual Literacy for All! - Instruction in the Self-directed Digital Era, and Making Collections Accessible: Legal Tools for the 21st Century.

Our library here at DSU is working to add content to our required information literacy course on the topic of visual literacy. The Critical Information Literacy in Art and Design Libraries, Scope Drift: New Directions in Visual Resources, Visual Literacy for All! - Instruction in the Self-directed Digital Era sessions all provide valuable insights and opened opportunity to connect with the presenters. I find the networking aspect of librarianship, in general, and conferences specifically to be the great strength of our profession!

Lastly, I particularly enjoyed the OCLC Research Library Partnership Roundtable session. In this session, I was introduced to a tool I was not familiar with. The tool is the Art Discovery Group Catalogue and I can see vast application and usefulness as I work with art students. The tool (found at [artdiscovery.net](http://artdiscovery.net)) and makes this claim: "the Art Discovery Group Catalogue, launched in May of 2014, offers an art-focused research experience within the OCLC WorldCat environment." The demonstration was outstanding and the tool is simple, easy to navigate, and saturated with content from incredible sources and collections. This will be a tool I will use heavily and I hope that it endures and grows long into the future. It will be going into my LibGuides too!

Many thanks again!

Best,



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