

**Academic Art Museum and Library Summit
January 27-29 in Coral Gables, Florida**

**Report Submitted by University of Oregon:
Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and UO Libraries**

I. Possible Conference Topics

- Identify strategies to broaden university priorities, which often privilege the sciences, to include the humanities and arts: enhancing curriculum, first-year experience, global citizenship, career preparation;
- Prepare an IMLS grant that models similar museum-library partnerships to see what works and determine what the impediments are in efforts to meet the above goal; from this we might codify proven practices that museums and libraries together might use to advance the university's mission and enhance the academic experiences of constituents;
- With Educopia, explore professional development opportunities for staff and cross-over training we might implement on each campus;
- Create a school-to-work apprenticeship program.

II. Brief Overview of Existing Areas of Collaboration

As a first step in this process, we gathered staff from the museum and library to identify former and current collaborations and brainstorm ways we might work more closely together. We call ourselves the UO GLAM (Galleries-Libraries-Archives-Museums) Alliance. We affirmed that both the museum and the library share an interest in enriching cultural and intellectual life on campus and in our local communities.

We began by sharing our mission statements:

- JSMA enhances the UO's academic mission and furthers the appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts for the general public.
- As an essential partner in the University's education, research, and teaching mission, the Libraries enriches the student learning experiences, encourages exploration of research, and contributes to advancements in access to scholarly resources.

The museum group also learned about the Council for Library and Information Resources' statement on GLAMs: *GLAMs have profound and important missions in society: to increase and disseminate knowledge, to encourage civic dialog and engagement, and to support individuals in their right to access and participate in culture. GLAMs are the conduits that enable the humanities to have an impact on millions of scholars, teachers, and the broader public every day.*

Existing collaborations

- Preservation, research, and exhibition/dissemination of art and archives for Gertrude Bass Warner (JSMA founder/collector), David McCosh (artist who taught at the UO), James Blue alumnus and documentary filmmaker), and Ken Kesey; as an example, JSMA exhibition *Through Her Lens*, focusing on Gertrude Bass Warner's legacy, organized by students in graduate seminar museum studies course, featured works in both collections

- Direct course support: use of museum exhibitions, including Masterworks on Loan for library course, and use of Libraries' special collections for teaching and learning;
- Collaborative exhibitions, including JSMA exhibitions that feature works in the main library as well as exhibitions on same subject in both locations, e.g.:
 - *Emancipating the Past: Kara Walker's Tales of Slavery and Power* at JSMA juxtaposed Walker's *Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)* with the original version;
 - Artists' books exhibitions (JSMA invited book artist Johanna Drucker, Breslauer Professor of Bibliographical Studies in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA, to curate an exhibition from both collections in 2009);
 - *First Folio: The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*: JSMA serves as Oregon site for special exhibition featuring Shakespeare's First Folio, with addition of Special Collections works (January/February 2016);
 - *Grimm's Fairy Tales*: joint exhibition featuring books in Library and exhibition of contemporary artist Peregrine Honig in JSMA collection, in support of a German Department course and undergraduate research
 - *Aliens, Monsters, and Madmen: The Art of EC Comics* (May-July 2016), includes comic books in Library collection as well as private loans
- Technology Collaborations:
 - Science Library and JSMA collaborated on 3D printing of objects in collection for visitors with visual disabilities (enabling visitors to touch "art")
 - Manually sharing metadata between library/JSMA platforms: this needs to be improved, as interfaces are not dynamically compatible or interoperable.

III. Possible Collaborations

- Formalize "UO GLAM Alliance" and explore adding new partners, e.g., UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History and School of Architecture and Allied Arts (AAA) galleries. Develop Alliance's mission, website, and shared events calendar to promote members' efforts in a cohesive, easily accessible way.
- Identify Big Themes with first-year programs (common reading) and others at least two years in advance to incorporate into museum and library exhibitions, events, and other initiatives
- Create joint academic support grants for faculty and students who would conduct research on collections in both locations and present public program to share new knowledge. JSMA is in 4th year of Academic Support Grants that provide financial support for faculty who make the museum a site of learning. Currently funded by JSMA, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Architecture and Allied Arts, each of which provides \$5000, which is matched by the Provost's office, to provide \$30,000 annually. A similar program could be instituted for the Libraries or we might revise current program for a meaningful collaboration to include the Libraries.

- Opportunities for spotlighting undergraduate research, as sponsored by the UO's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP); output from the projects can be used subsequently to inform seminars and workshops held by JSMA and/or the Libraries
- Digital exhibitions and on-campus dissemination to non-traditional areas: both units take same theme and jointly curate a digital show, which would foreground collections, preservation, and value of arts and humanities; could use UO's "Four Winds" digital signage platform; could be on flat screens in every school, student union, residence halls
- Create student award to incentivize research and presentation of collections
- Libraries to provide reading lists for museum exhibitions
- Platform for students, to work with holdings, curatorial opportunities
- Partnering on visiting artists' and humanists' lectures and panels, with topics that highlight themes in our units' collections and programs
- Pool resources for student learning. Libraries' Thomas internship could serve as possible source of funding for projects/collaboration
- Joint scheduling, promotion, and branding; might even include 3D night projections on buildings
- Engagement with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and other community groups through joint library/museum events and programs
- Develop traveling exhibitions from both collections that could go throughout state and beyond
- Incorporate library component to JSMA rural arts education outreach to schools throughout the state.

IV. Internal Needs to Make this Happen

- Top-level comprehensive view
- Ongoing timely communication
- Prioritize work on collections held partially in both units
- Shared discovery and leveraging of resources
- Addressing electronic systems interoperability
- Use of faculty as strong connectors
- Cross-training of docents, staff, and other volunteers
- Student orientation of how to use both museum and library (not just pointed out during tours); and promotion of both by academic advisors
- Shared storage of collections
- Keeping institutions' cultural assets safe (public art)