Attended: Samantha Abrams (Columbia University/Ivy Plus), Jesus Alonso-Regalado (SUNY: University at Albany), Sarah Aponte (CUNY Dominicani Studies Institute), Angela Carreño (New York University), Sandra Enriquez (Student at New York University & Long Island University), Patricia Figueroa (Brown University), Melissa Gasparotto (New York Public Library), Pamela Graham (Columbia University), Joe Holub (University of Pennsylvania), Rebecca Lloyd (Temple University), Jade Madrid (Georgetown University), Martha Mantilla (University of Pittsburgh), Marisol Ramos (University of Connecticut), Christine Sala (Columbia University), Lynn Shirey (Harvard University), Sócrates Silva (Columbia University/ Cornell University), Alex Thurman (Columbia University)

The group was welcomed by Barbara Rockenbach, Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning at Columbia University.

Institutional Updates:

- University of Connecticut has a current search for a new Dean of Libraries. Marisol Ramos has an additional title: Digital Scholarship Librarian and has launched a Puerto Rican DH Project.
- University of Pittsburgh has a new University Librarian, Kornelia Tancheva who had previously been at Cornell University. There is a major ongoing renovation. The university is considering a Center for Latino Studies.
- Harvard is joining ReCAP as an associate member. There is a relatively new AUL for Collections but additional Collection leadership positions remain vacant. There’s been a flat budget. Lynn Shirey is working on some special collections projects related to Cuba. Harvard is transitioning its ILS.
- Columbia is now making ReCAP records held by NYPL and Princeton available for request in its local catalog. Users can now request 7 million additional items from the shared collections. Columbia is also now at the implementation stage of its strategic plan. Global collecting and collaboration figure strongly in the plan, especially with the technical infrastructure to share ReCAP items.
- Cornell has a new University Librarian, Gerald Beasley. There is a stronger focus on user experience and a less focus on collections. The Latin American Studies community is growing with new faculty and an active program.
- NYPL reported that ReCAP received a Mellon grant for Phase III of its ReCAP: Discovery to Delivery project. This phase will explore shared serial holdings, collaborative collection development, and shared collection governance. Like Columbia and Princeton, NYPL makes ReCAP shared collection holdings discoverable and requestable by patrons.
- NYU’s Dean of Libraries is retiring. There are lots of openings across the libraries. The library is thinking about how to bump up general collection development to a network level. Joined EAST as a distributed shared repository for print. Angela Carreño is working on a digitization project of indigenous film transferred from the Smithsonian.
- Brown has undergone space changes to create more study spaces with collections going offsite. Relying more on Borrow Direct, purchasing less and focusing on special collections/primary sources.
- Temple is undergoing organizational restructuring based on subject based teams and cross-functional teams. Building a new library that is to open in 2019.
- SUNY Albany’s president Havidan Rodriguez is the first Hispanic president of the university.
CUNY Dominican Studies Institute received an NEH grant for a project on Dominican music in the United States from the 1920’s to the present. Sarah Aponte is working on educational outreach program targeted to 7th and 8th graders.

Georgetown will have a New UL search soon. New Government professor has started a Qualitative Data Repository. The repository is looking to expand contributions beyond the Georgetown community with help from an NEH grant. The Public Database of the Americas will be focusing its content on the value of democracy. There is a New African-American Studies program. Jade Madrid applied for a grant to help develop collections on Afrolatinos.

As a result of conversations regarding ILS transitions during the institutional updates Melissa Gasparotto suggested hosting a conference call with area studies librarians that would capture input about the selection and implementation of ILS and discovery platforms in our institutions. This input could serve to bring area studies librarians concerns and feedback to vendors. UPDATE: This call was held on December 7, and notes can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rS-MOAt-hLq3SqgesWRyhuOmcV9gZnkyNhaq86wXOUA/edit?usp=sharing

Web Archiving Overview:

Alex Thurman and Samantha Abrams gave a Web Archiving Overview presentation that included a review of efforts being carried out by members of the International Internet Preservation Consortium (to which Columbia belongs). Many of the members are national libraries. These archives are often focusing on issues of national interests such as presidential elections and news collections. In many cases these archived collections can only be consulted on site at national libraries.

Multiple members are collaboratively working to develop collections that are transnational in scope. At Columbia the Human Rights Web Archive includes websites from across the globe. In addition to archiving the sites, Columbia also catalogs the sites and includes them in the local catalog. The Columbia catalog has become an important point of discovery for content as some of these sites no longer exist. Alex Thurman used scholarship that used the site Amigos de las mujeres de Juarez (a now defunct site found on the Human Rights Archive) as an example of why web archiving is important to the scholarly record.

Samantha Abrams talked about the Ivy Plus Web Collecting Program. Currently a Contemporary Composers Web Archive and a Collaborative Architecture, Urbanism, and Sustainability Web Archive are collaborative efforts taking place across institutions. Samantha gave some ideas of where ideas for projects can come from such as gaps in collecting, existing collection development policies, researcher needs or literature in the field. The process for submitting a proposal depends on a couple of layers of administrative review and approval, making time sensitive event-based efforts difficult to put through as a project.
Web Archiving Collection Development Discussion:

Pamela Graham and Christine Sala addressed strategies and issues in the realm of collection development for web archives. Pamela started with a discussion about the emphasis in the web archiving community on the technical methods for web capture, preservation and replay at the expense of the selection process. While establishing a theme is part of this selection process a slew of considerations such as researcher needs and practices, degrees of “at-riskness,” legal and ethical issues in the collecting process also come into play. In addition a process that asks how much information on specific sites need to be preserved and how frequently must be considered in the curatorial process. Christine presented her approach to developing architecture and urban planning web archive which to some extent resembles strategies she uses for her print collection. These include reading general interest publications related to her field, reviewing trends in publishing, and seeing what leading figures in her field are involved in.

Brainstorming:

During the brainstorming session several ideas surfaced as potential projects for the group although there was no final conclusion on a project. Some of these were:

- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Film Festival sites
- Social activism addressing marginalized people
- Sites that address social conflict and unrest
- Personal sites of writers and poets
- An archive to mirror the Borrow Direct Brazil collection effort

The group also spent time looking at sample websites submitted before the meeting to learn more about some of the technical challenges of capturing certain files within sites. As an action item Sócrates and Samantha would prepare a sample proposal to the group which could serve as a template for potential proposed projects.

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

LANE visited Columbia’s Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. Pamela Casey and Teresa Harris led the special collections “show and tell” which included Latin American and Iberian rare books, photographs and drawings related to architecture. In addition material from the Children’s Drawings of the Spanish Civil War were exhibited:

https://exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/children