Annual Report 2005
ARLIS/NA Ohio Valley Chapter

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Incoming Officers for 2006:

Gary Ginther (Ohio University) Chapter Chair
Helen Carter (Cleveland Museum of Art) Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
Kay Downey (Cleveland Museum of Art) Secretary/Treasurer
Ellen Rohmiller (Dayton Art Institute) Collage [Newsletter] Editor

The Ohio Valley Chapter of ARLIS/NA includes members from four states (Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania). Recognizing the difficulties of coordinating frequent interaction among members in such a large region, chapter activities are traditionally very low-key, with a concentration on formal meetings that are held twice yearly. In recent years the spring meeting has been held at the ARLIS/NA conference, and this year was no exception. A group of members met at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, during the 2005 Conference. A number of topics were discussed, including ways of increasing participation in the local chapter, chapter travel awards, and the location of the fall meeting. Since the Ohio Valley Chapter would be overseeing the Wittenborn Awards selection this year, several chapter members met during the conference with their counterparts from the previous year’s committee to discuss various issues and suggestions related to the Award.

The Fall Chapter meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio, at the Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture building, a striking facility designed by Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects that has been praised for its innovative design. Following a tour of the building, Chapter members gathered in the Architecture Library to experience a fascinating and extensive presentation from the Ohio State University Web Media Collective. The Collective, funded by an internal university grant, has facilitated the digitization of a number of media collections from numerous academic departments and made them available in a web-based format to support teaching, learning and research. The result has been six digital media collections containing over 850,000 media assets that will reach over 20,000 students in 105 course sections annually. Following this presentation, the chapter business meeting was held. Members reviewed the chapter budget report (Chapter funds totaled $2615.60) and approved a $200 donation to the Welcome Party at the Banff Conference. Other topics of discussion included the possibility of hosting the ARLIS/NA Conference in Cleveland in the distant future (after 2010) and an expanded chapter travel award which would include funds to support attendance at the ARLIS/NA conference (in addition to
current funds that support attendance at local chapter meetings). It was agreed that a dues increase would be placed on the upcoming chapter ballot which, if approved, would be used to fund the additional travel award. Leigh Gates, Midwest Regional Representative, reported on various concerns of the larger ARLIS organization. Pam Eyerdam and Chris Hatten volunteered to serve on the 2006 Nominating Committee. Following the meeting, members traveled to the Columbus Museum of Art for a lunch and tour.

In support of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan:

**The Ohio Valley Chapter will organize annual meetings that enhance the professional knowledge of its members and enhance cooperation among art librarians throughout the region.** This was accomplished through meetings in Houston and Columbus, where members engaged in meaningful discussions about their profession, examined new art library facilities, and heard from presenters who are utilizing technology in exciting ways to enhance the communication of information.

**The Ohio Valley Chapter will provide a forum for the dissemination of information related to the art library profession and members’ institutions.** The Chapter maintained a website and a discussion list, and this year published two issues of the Chapter newsletter *Collage*.

**The Ohio Valley Chapter will enhance the professional development of new members in the art library and visual resources fields.** The Chapter continued to offer a reduced membership rate for graduate students. Among the attendees at the Columbus meeting were students from the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science, an audience that has been specifically targeted by the Ohio Valley Chapter for inclusion in chapter activities.

**The Ohio Valley Chapter seeks to facilitate members’ participation in a broad spectrum of professional activities and in ARLIS/NA.** Several chapter members volunteered to coordinate and serve on the ARLIS/NA Wittenborn Awards Committee, chaired by members Barbara Prior and Mona Chapin. In addition, members approved a resolution, subject to a vote by chapter members, to provide an additional chapter financial award to be used for travel to the annual ARLIS/NA Conference. Preliminary discussions have also been held to explore the possibility of hosting the ARLIS/NA conference in Cleveland at some point in the future.