Annual Report March 2005
ARLIS/NA Academic Library Division

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Report

Incoming officers:
• Ann C. Shincovich, Moderator
• Lucie Wall-Stylianopoulos, Vice-Moderator
• K.C. Elhard, Update Editor

The most significant activity in the ALD during the 2005-2006 conference year was to create Working Groups within ALD to target specific issues that are currently important to academic librarians and the ALD. As this is the first year of Working Groups in the ALD, many of their projects or ideas are just taking off. The ALD meeting in Banff will be the first opportunity for Working Group representatives to give a report and answer questions during an ALD meeting. We are hopeful that the Working Groups will organize to address targeted issues; only exist during the term of each project; and be self organized and dynamic to encourage those who are able to get things done to be involved.

Our current Working Groups are:

• Web/Communications
  o The purpose of this group is to help promote use of the ARLIS/NA and ALD websites; as well as to determine if any other means of communication, such as a blog or listserv, would be useful to enhance professional communications within the ALD.
  o Implementation of an ALD webpage developed by Nedda Ahmed is a significant achievement in 2005. This coming year more content development is planned.
  o Action Items:
    ▪ Create ALD website – accomplished.
    ▪ Increased content – pending.
    ▪ Other ideas to come at Banff 2006 meeting – pending.

• Teaching/Education
  o This group intends to foster improvements in curriculum in library science programs, and awareness of arts librarianship for new students/professionals in library science. This group also hopes to assist current professionals who need further training and exposure to new technologies in art librarianship. This group may also get involved with other professional development/mentoring initiatives in ARLIS/NA
  o Action Items:
    ▪ Ideas for outreach and awareness at top ten library science schools – pending.
    ▪ Other ideas to come at Banff 2006 meeting – pending.
• Collections
  o This group’s purpose is to examine collections issues that are coming to bear specifically on academic arts libraries, such as changing methods of patron use, increases in costs for digital content, space, budgets, etc.
  o Action Items:
    ▪ Create forum within ALD (probably on ALD webpage) for methods of collection problem solving – pending.
    ▪ Other ideas to come at Banff meeting – pending.

• ARTstor
  o The ARTstor group intends to provide a strong voice for the issues with cost and availability of the ARTstor database package for different academic libraries. There are a lot of persistent concerns about the cost of this database, and many ALD members need more opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions. The ALD hopes to make an influence on ARTstor through this working group, as the ALD is the largest group of members in ARLIS/NA.
  o Action Items:
    ▪ Meeting between ALD and ARTstor representative at Banff 2006 meeting – accomplished. (Lucie Wall-Stylianopoulos is handling the arrangements of the meeting with ARTstor.)
    ▪ Other ideas to come at Banff meeting – pending.

At the Banff meeting, ALD will probably suggest the development of a Working Group to begin developing a mission statement for the ALD.

The ALD also hopes to be more active in bringing interesting and timely sessions and programs to future ARLIS/NA conferences. In 2005, Nedda Ahmed and Lucie Wall-Stylianopoulos discussed bringing underrepresented topics for sessions or programs that would target academic librarians or be sponsored by ALD. It was suggested that ALD should try and develop topics for underrepresented topics on an annual basis. Nedda Ahmed developed the "Postcards from the Edge: Reference and Instruction for Film Studies" workshop for the 2006 Banff annual conference. We consider this an accomplished action for the ALD’s 2005-2006 conference year.

Issues for Executive Board:

1. ARLIS/NA and/or ALD needs to embark on some serious PR and marketing for awareness both within and outside of the academic community.
2. ARLIS/NA and/or ALD needs to promote institutional “soul searching” for arts libraries so they can scrutinize their service models and collections to assure viability for 21st century patrons—spend a bit of time looking outside the box.