Annual Report 2005
ARLIS/NA Liaison to the Special Libraries Association

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The role of a liaison is to be a conduit of information between two organizations. I have tried to represent ARLIS/NA at SLA conferences and chapter functions and have cross-posted information concerning ARLIS/NA to my SLA colleagues. I can do a better job of informing my ARLIS/NA colleagues about the activities of SLA.

This past year I attended the Annual Conference of SLA in Toronto. I was able to place ARLIS/NA membership brochures in the main registration area. When I contacted SLA about a place in the EXPO hall for affiliated organizations, they were very confused. Come to find out, they do not have the same conference arrangements that ALA has for their affiliates. My liaison badge ribbon received much attention. As I am an SLA Chapter officer, I attended several leadership functions. The ribbon turned out to be a good way to start a conversation.

At the local chapter level, I included information on ARLIS/NA at our St. Louis Library Career Networking Reception. This was an SLA event focused on library science students and recent graduates. The ARLIS/NA material appeared along with information from the American Association of Law Librarians and the Medical Librarians Association.

To improve my performance as a liaison in the coming year, I will:

- Attend the annual conference (with my ribbon and brochures). I will also attend the Museum, Arts and Humanities Division sessions.
- Increase the information given to ARLIS/NA members on the activities of SLA. SLA’s greatest strengths lie in continuing education and professional development. Many of their programs and seminars would be appropriate to ARLIS/NA members in management positions, or those interested in future technologies.
- Investigate the structure of the SLA conference and any possibilities for co-sponsoring sessions. The 2007 conference will be in Denver, CO where we have a strong new ARLIS/NA Chapter. The most likely collaboration would be with the Museums Arts and Humanities Division.
- Forward any information from SLA’s new task forces which focus on member benefits and on the relationship between the chapters and headquarters.
- Continue to forward information about ARLIS/NA activities to SLA.
- Complete my reports on time.