Annual Report 2005
ARLIS/NA President

Submitted by Margaret N. Webster, ARLIS/NA President 2005-2006
Mnw3@Cornell.edu

Summary of the Society’s Year

In looking over my term as President of ARLIS/NA, I am struck both by how short and how long a thirteen month year can be. Many of the initiatives begun by my predecessor, Jeanne Brown, continued or were completed during the past year. I believe that I have set the stage for Incoming President, Ann Whiteside, as she begins a thorough, grass roots base assessment of the fundamental structure of ARLIS/NA. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for all of your support during this year. In particular, I thank my predecessors, Jeanne Brown and Allen Townsend, who were most generous and gracious with their support and help throughout the year.

The redesign and new implementation of the ARLIS/NA web site (AWS) which was undertaken last year is even more successful in its first year of implementation than we had hoped for. This is a truly elegant public face for ARLIS/NA providing an exciting and dynamic view into the all aspects of our multi-faceted profession and organization. This initiative succeeds in consolidating our publications efforts by providing a logical focus for all aspects of our activity in this area. The Society owes Chair Jack Robertson and the entire Publications Committee a big “thank you” for their continuing efforts on this critically important, evolving project. (Strategic Plan, Goal II)

- News & Events editor, Carol Graney, worked hard this year to transform our former print based publication, Update, into an ever changing and up-to-date online forum for news and information.
- The Resources area of AWS now includes several new, important, and useful online publications:
  - The ARLIS/NA 2004 Art/Architecture Librarians and Visual Resource Professionals Compensation Survey by Kathrin Dodds and Heather Ball
  - The Digital Image Database Standards Checklist: Technical, Functional, Content, & Access Recommendations developed by the Standards Committee
  - ARLIS/NA Core Competencies for Art Information Professionals written by Heather Ball and Sara Harrington with the members of the Professional Development Committee. This publication is also available as Occasional Paper No. 15.
- The “What Our Members Are Saying…” section of AWS introduces our most distinguished colleagues to newer ones and to the world at large.
- Art Documentation editors Kathy Zimon and Judy Dyki continue to produce the Society’s twice yearly journal. Art Documentation Reviews, edited by
Joan Stahl are now available both on AWS and in hard copy giving us timely access to critical information about publications of interest to our members.

- The online Members’ Directory was enhanced to allow categorized searches.
- The Membership Management System taskforce (Jack Robertson, Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Lawson, Elizabeth Clarke, and I) issued and evaluated a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a membership management system with enhanced functionality. The RFP envisioned a system which would allow members to update their own information, provide groups in the Society with dedicated space associated with the AWS, and would become a new home for ARLIS-L. We reviewed three submissions, and we interviewed one service provider. Unfortunately, our desire for a comprehensive system to manage our website, support membership functions, and ARLIS-L is currently beyond our means. The executive board is working with MacPherson/Clarke to acquire interim solution to support enhanced membership functions.

The second Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management was held at Duke University from July 5-9, 2005; the third will move to Reed College in Portland, Oregon and will be held from June 11–16, 2006. This highly successful educational initiative which is jointly sponsored with the Visual Resources Association (VRA), “is intended to provide a standardized and sustainable program for visual resources training, with a focus on issues related to the transition from analog to digital collections” (per the website). ARLIS/NA will supervise the SEI treasury during 2006 and 2007. The Society's thanks go to co-chairs Trudy Jacoby, Maureen Burns, and Karin Whalen for continuing to make this endeavor so successful. (Strategic Plan, Goal I, II)

This year the executive boards of ARLIS/NA and VRA established a joint Summer Educational Institute (SEI) Long-Term Planning Task Force charging it with establishing a five-year strategic plan to develop the pedagogical goals for the SEI and exploring the long-term management, direction, and structure of the SEI. The taskforce, chaired by Amy Lucker and Eileen Fry, will make recommendations about how to the SEI should evolve and grow to perhaps include opportunities for refresher courses for experienced visual resources professional and the ability to grant continuing education credits. (Strategic Plan, Goal I)

The annual conference continues to be our Society’s major venue for learning, networking, and member interaction. The Banff conference planning team led by local conference planning chair, Marilyn Nasserden, has prepared an outstanding, informative program for our 34th annual conference. Included in the program is a pre-conference workshop which focuses on how Canadian copyright law applies to digital images, photographs, and works of art. In addition to the expected sessions and workshops, the Program Committee, co-chaired by Marilyn Nasserden and Jill Patrick, incorporated a number of “free” workshops into the program including the ARLIS/NA Mentoring Initiative: a Workshop for Mentors and Mentees; Collection Development, Acquisitions, and Vendor Relations; and Postcards from the Edge: Reference and Instruction for Film Studies. They also organized a session titled, New Voices in the Profession: Student Papers on Art and Visual Resources Librarianship, featuring award winning papers from some of our newest colleagues. Local arrangements co-chairs--James Rout, Kathy Zimon, and Christine Sammon--have organized numerous events and functions including a silent auction, a tasting of fine Canadian wines, and a film night for viewing a selection of National Film Board of Canada films related to the arts. Conference web master, James Rout has kept us informed throughout the year long planning process; he included blogs in the
Exhibitors’ and conference planning areas to stimulate communication. (Strategic Plan, Goal I, IV)

The Society has also been involved in the following issues and initiatives:

- The Strategic Plan for 2006-2009 developed by the Strategic Plan Taskforce under the leadership of co-chairs Leslie Abrams and Lucie Stylianopoulos was approved at the mid-year executive board meeting. It is based on two membership surveys, an environmental scan, and discussion sessions held at the Houston annual conference. The executive board recently developed and approved a vision statement and a mission statement to accompany the Strategic Plan. (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)
- ARLIS/NA agreed to partner with The School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana, The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, and the Web-based Information Science Education consortium on an IMLS proposal titled *WISE+ Leveraging the Power of the Network to Increase the Diversity of Library and Information Science Curriculum*. If this proposal is funded, we will help develop course proposals, provide the names and contact information for possible faculty to teach these courses, and assist in marketing through our membership listserv, on our website, and elsewhere as appropriate. We also through the efforts of the Standards Committee endorsed a second IMLS project, *Visual Resources Management: Determining Professional Competencies and Guidelines for Graduate Education*, which was awarded to Hemalata Iyer and Jeanne Keefe. (Strategic Plan, Goal I, II, III)
- The Society Circle continues to provide much appreciated support for the Society’s programs from individual members. Thank you to all who have contributed to ARLIS/NA.
- The executive committee of the Executive Board has renegotiated a three year contract renewal with our management firm, MacPherson/Clarke. (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)
- The management firm and the executive committee of the Board explored various topics including chapter affiliation and board assessment; resolution on both of these matters is still pending. (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)
- Recipients were identified for a full spectrum of awards, thanks to the hard work of the various awards committees and the sponsorship of our generous donors. The Internship Award has now become a subcommittee of the Awards Committee; Henry Pisciotta is serving as the inaugural chair of this committee. This year we are offering a new award--the AskART Conference Attendance Award. We will dedicate our Student Award for Conference Attendance in honor of one of our founding members at the Banff conference. (Strategic Plan, Goal I, III)
- The Nominating Committee chaired by Deborah Kempe identified well-qualified candidates for office. The Society is grateful to all members who were interested in and willing to serve on the Executive Board. (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)
- The Professional Development Committee chaired by Heid Hass has developed a year-long Society mentoring program which will be inaugurated at the Banff conference. (Strategic Plan, Goal I)
- The Public Policy Committee co-chaired by Tim Shipe and Cara List coordinated a request to the Executive Board for ARLIS/NA to support a statement by Maria Pallante-Hyun of the Guggenheim Museum about the issue of Orphan Works. We also endorsed a letter circulated by the Section 108 Study Group supporting modifications to Section 108 of the US Copyright Law which addresses fundamental
questions about reproduction of and access to copyrighted materials (including images) in digital formats. (Strategic Plan, Goal III)

Most of the activities that I have undertaken this year are identified as relevant for one or more of the current Strategic Plan goals. These are:

- **Goal I**: To increase the effectiveness and support the professional growth of art librarians and visual resources professionals.

- **Goal II**: To foster the creation and dissemination of information, resources and standards in the field of art information and art librarianship.

- **Goal III**: To be an advocate for our members, the profession, and ARLIS/NA.

- **Goal IV**: To strengthen and increase the effectiveness of ARLIS/NA’s activities and operations.
Activities of the President

Meetings Attended (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)

- ARLIS/NA Annual Meeting, Houston, April 1-5, 2005 (Pre-Conference ARLIS/NA Executive Board Meeting as Vice president/ President elect; Post-Conference ARLIS/NA Executive Board Meeting as President)

- Joint ARLIS/NA Ontario/Western New York Regional Meeting, May 12-14, 2005, at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto

- Conference Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC), Calgary & Banff, June 19-20, 2005

- ARLIS/NA Mid-Year Board Meeting, Ithaca, NY, July 22-23, 2005

- Joint ARLIS/NA ~ VRA Executive Board Meeting, Baltimore, Oct. 4, 2005

- ARLIS/NA Annual Meeting, Banff, May 5-9, 2005 (Pre-Conference ARLIS/NA Executive Board Meetings as President; Post-Conference ARLIS/NA Executive Board Meeting as Past President

Publications and Documents (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)

- Participated in the editing of the ARLIS/NA Handbook and List of Members, an effort coordinated by Canadian Representative, Jonathan Franklin.
- Identified ARLIS/NA Policy Manual revisions, brought them to the Board for approval, and sent the changes to the web editor.
- Consulted with the Publications Committee and publications editors on numerous topics.
- Prepared the Society annual report.
- Examined and signed the contract for the hotel for the Indianapolis annual conference in 2009.
- Examined and signed a three year contract with our management firm, MacPherson/Clarke.
- Examined and signed a contract with Reed College for the 2006 Summer Education Institute.
Committees (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)

- Served as Executive Board liaison to the Nominating Committee and the Distinguished Service Award Committee.
- Served as a member of the Finance Committee.
- Discussed projects and issues with the Membership Committee, Standards Committee, International Relations Committee, Publications Committee, Distinguished Service Award Committee, and the Public Policy Committee.

Communications (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)

- Kept in touch with the ARLIS/NA Executive Director, Elizabeth Clarke, and incoming president, Ann Whiteside, through frequent telephone calls and email communications.
- Answered email queries from members in a timely fashion or forwarded them to the appropriate resource.
- Used ARLIS-L and member emails to communicate with the membership—e.g. the successful SAH affiliation and reminders to renew memberships.
- Posted periodic letters from the president to the AWS New and Events section.

Conference Activities (Strategic Plan, Goal I, IV)

- As Vice-President/President Elect briefly attended all Division and Section meetings at the Houston conference to introduce the incoming Vice-President/President Elect.
- Chaired the Banff Conference Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) in June.
- Wrote the President’s “Welcome to Banff” for the conference web site and a similar welcome for the conference program.
- Prepared a Welcome Party greeting, New Members Orientation agenda, Convocation remarks.
- Participated in the Leadership Breakfast breakouts.
- Planned the Society Circle reception.

Board Activities (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)

- Prepared executive board agendas for the Houston post-conference Board meeting, the Ithaca mid-year board meeting, and the Banff pre-conference Board meeting.
- Served on the Executive Committee of the Executive.
- Served on several taskforces including publications taskforces to appoint an ARLIS/NA Resources Editor and to develop a membership management system RFP.
- Monitored completion of Board action items.

Initiatives

- Continued the initiative begun by Past President Jeanne Brown use the 2005 Leadership Breakfast as an opportunity for Society leadership development by including breakout discussions of chapter officers, and of Division, Section, and Round Table moderators, and Committee leaders. (Strategic Plan, Goal I)
• Brought the request for affiliation with the Society of Architectural Historians first handled by Past President, Jeanne Brown, to resolution through ARLIS/NA’s first on-line vote using SurveyMonkey.
• Continued to advocate for shorter conferences; the Banff conference like the Houston conference is also a five day conference.
• Collaborated with Executive Director, Elizabeth Clarke, and treasurer, Lynda White, to draft a chapter affiliation agreement. This draft is being reviewed by legal counsel. (Strategic Plan, Goal IV)
• Worked with a taskforce (Judy Dyki, Jack Robertson, and Carol Graney) to solicit applications for a ARLIS/NA Resources editor, to evaluate the submissions, and to make an appointment. (Strategic Plan, Goal II)
• Worked with Jack Robertson, Betsy Peck Learned, and Elizabeth Clarke to draft and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a membership management database. Subsequently interviewed via conference call the vendor of the most promising product. (Strategic Plan, Goal II)
• Worked with the Publications Committee to facilitate the sending of back issues of Art Documentation to EBSCO for scanning. (Strategic Plan, Goal II)
• Worked with the Publications Committee and the Executive Director to negotiate the Scarecrow Press contract. Future ARLIS/NA print publications will be produced by Scarecrow press. (Strategic Plan, Goal II)
• Collaborated with VRA to plan a joint ARLIS/NA ~ VRA conference for 2008; this conference would have taken place in San Diego. Unfortunately, we were unable to identify suitable and affordable accommodations for this conference; these plans were abandoned. The 2008 ARLIS/NA conference will, instead, probably be hosted by the Mountain West Chapter and will be held in Denver. (Strategic Plan, Goal I)
• Worked revise the SEI contract between VRA and ARLIS/NA. Collaborated with the VRA Executive Board on the Reed College contract for the 2007 SEI.