Annual Report 2006
ARLIS/NA Art Documentation Editors

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Publications

Two issues of Art Documentation were published in 2006: Vol. 25, #1 Spring 2006 and #2 Fall 2006. Each issue contained an integrated mix of ten articles which included expanded versions of conference presentations, personal research initiatives of members, the best of graduate student papers, and Society-sponsored research. Reviews as part of Art Documentation were phased out during 2006.

Volume 25, #1 Spring 2006: 10 articles, 21 illustrations (10 images, 11 charts/graphs), 25 reviews, 2½ pages paid advertisements, 1 page unpaid advertisements. Total 76 pages.

Volume 25, #2 Fall 2006: 10 articles, 28 illustrations (26 images, 2 charts/graphs), no reviews, 3¼ pages paid advertisements, no pages unpaid advertisements. Total 65 pages.

Activities for 2006

The most notable change during 2006 was the move of the reviews to the ARLIS/NA Web site (AWS) as ARLIS/NA Reviews Online. The change was made to allow the reviews to be updated more frequently, to allow for the publication of more reviews without the cost constraints of print publication, and to allow for better indexing online for past reviews. The removal of the reviews will also open up a few extra pages for articles, plus result in an overall cost reduction for the production of Art Documentation. Reviews editor Joan Stahl will continue to coordinate and edit the reviews, but Art Documentation editors will no longer be involved in the process. The Spring 2006 issue still contained the printed reviews, although the Publications Received listing was moved to the AWS exclusively. The Fall 2006 issue did not contain reviews or the Publications Received list. Beginning in 2007, the new bibliographic feature "Between the Lines" will debut in the form of an in-depth review of a significant
publication, a comparative review featuring related publications, or a bibliographic essay for each issue.

As a result of an extensive discussion on the ARLIS-L listserv concerning the merits of making *Art Documentation* a peer-reviewed publication, an exploration of this question was undertaken this past year. Roger Lawson, chair of the Publications Committee, asked Rebecca Price (Publications Committee member) to compile a report exploring the pros and cons of this issue in relationship to *Art Documentation*. This report and a select list of library science journals with their peer-review statuses were placed on the AWS for members to review. The *Art Documentation* editors also prepared a survey that Roger made available through Survey Monkey in March 2007 for members to record their thoughts about the advantages, disadvantages, and viability of a peer review process for *Art Documentation*. The editors look forward to the results of the survey to help determine the future direction for the journal.

The printing and mailing of the Fall 2006 issue of *Art Documentation* (Vol.25 #2) ran into scheduling problems which were significant enough to be of concern for the future. Once the editing phase of the issue was completed, the printing and mailing was set up to take place in Richmond, BC, instead of in Calgary as usual. As a result of misinformation about the availability of a distribution center in Richmond, the printed issues were then shipped back to Calgary and mailed from there, causing a delay of a little over a month in the receipt of the issue by ARLIS/NA members. This aspect of production will be clarified so that readers receive their copies of *Art Documentation* on a regular schedule.

The Banff Conference provided an opportunity for the Publications Committee, the editorial team, and other ARLIS/NA members to meet Eva Resovsky and Michael Birklein of ion communications at the Exhibits Opening Reception at the Banff Springs Hotel. On Tuesday, May 9, courtesy of Eva Resovsky, a tour was arranged in Calgary for members of the Publications Committee to visit ion communications, the production company for ARLIS/NA publications, and Apache Superior Printing Ltd., the printer that normally prints *Art Documentation* and other ARLIS/NA paper publications. Two members of the Publications Committee, Eileen Markson and Kathy Zimon, were able to attend. The visit to the offices of ion communications was a good opportunity to see how and where the production work on *Art Documentation* takes place. A tour of Apache Superior Printing was given by Marshal d’Sa, a very busy man who oversees the printing plant that operates around the clock with several high-tech, million-dollar printing presses. All phases of the printing process are computerized. Text is sent electronically from ion to Apache for printing. After the fascinating tour, lunch was hosted by Marshal d’Sa and some of his staff at a nearby restaurant. It was a rewarding and educational experience to see how *Art Documentation* is produced and printed.

Due to her heavy commitments during the Banff conference, contents co-editor Kathy Zimon took a much-deserved sabbatical for the Fall 2006 issue of *Art Documentation*. Co-editor Judy Dyki compiled/edited the contents of the entire issue and worked closely with copy editor Eileen Markson in preparing the final versions of the articles. Kathy’s sabbatical continued for the Spring 2007 issue, but she will return to full activity for the Fall 2007 issue.

**New/Continued Initiatives for the Editorial Team**

- Based on the results of the peer review survey, institute a peer-review process for *Art Documentation* if it is determined that the journal would best serve the needs of the membership with this change.
• Revisit the language on the Copyright Transfer Agreement (CTA) form to create a more open-ended agreement that would give authors more publication rights.

• Work closely with Craig Fleming at the ARLIS/NA Headquarters Office to seek ways to solicit additional paid advertisements to help offset the publication costs of *Art Documentation*.

• In conjunction with the EBSCO electronic publishing agreement, investigate the best way to include a copyright statement on each article.

• Update the *Art Documentation* style sheet and production manual to document new practices adopted over the past few years.

• Explore ways to post and maintain a cumulative index for *Art Documentation* on the AWS (ideally in conjunction with the new software used for indexing the reviews on the AWS).

• Continue to explore ways to reduce the production costs of *Art Documentation* while still maintaining a high quality professional publication.