Annual Report 2008
ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee

Kristen Regina, Chair
kregina@hillwoodmuseum.org
202-243-3934
202-966-7846 fax

1) There are no officer changes for 2009, the current chair will be serving the second of a two-year term.

2) In 2008 the IRC wrote a new charge, as its old charge had become obsolete, and created new goals.

The new charge is this:
The ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee (IRC) will implement the ARLIS/NA vision to pursue partnerships with librarians and institutions outside of North America in a collaborative effort to support the Society as the leading organization in the arts information field. The IRC will also work to establish greater collaboration within North America, including membership in Canada and Mexico, to support the Society’s charge to represent art librarians in North America. The IRC will actively encourage inclusiveness, collaboration, diversity, and a multiplicity of viewpoints and perspectives for the Society.

The goals and activities laid out by the committee to think about and attempt in 2008 are:

The committee will create a simple survey to determine which members of the Society already have memberships in international organizations, or with which organizations they think ARLIS should be collaborating. This information would allow us to map out where we already have strong connections and in which countries we need to make contact. Ultimately, we hope to develop a network of advisory relationships by region/country around the world as is possible.

We will add a Canadian and a Mexican representative to the committee.

We will start keeping a calendar on our webpage that lists relevant upcoming international meetings and conferences to keep the Society informed of other communities’ activities.

Working with the Development Committee and the Professional Development Committee, we will raise funds to start an International exchange program for professional development.

Working with the Development Committee and the Travel Awards Committee, we will raise funds to help send an IRC member to an International conference to represent ARLIS/NA.
We will work to have at least bi-annual sessions at ARLIS/NA conferences.

We will work with the Canadian and Mexican representatives to support them when they host the ARLIS/NA conferences.

We can ask International librarians (members or not) to send us a biography statement and photograph to be posted on the IRC webpage much like the current “What ARLIS means to me” on the ARLIS/NA homepage), or feature a particular collection or new international project.

We can maintain a list of what foreign languages which Society members speak so that the Board and Society have ready access to such information when the need arises.

We can help with finding volunteers to translate key documents for ARLIS/NA conferences.

We can create an interactive map on our webpage which shows in which countries/organizations we have relationships.

3) Accomplished in 2008 is the initiation of an annual ARLIS/NA endorsed international study trip. We are nearing completion of planning the first trip, which will be to the Netherlands in the fall of 2008. The Board approved of this program and generously supported the first trip with a $600 donation to ARLIS/NL (presuming the trip happens).

IRC has started a dialogue with the Development committee to start finding some support for the study trips.

The committee is finishing the survey to launch to the membership shortly before the May Denver meeting.

In Denver we will gauge the feasibility of and reassess all the projects that were put forward to the Board in 2008 to see how these can be applied in 2009, which are realistic, have already occurred, or need to be dismissed all together.

It is suggested that the Board follow up with the committee at the end of 2009 to reevaluate the IRC’s current charge and projects and make sure that the committee is, and will continue, functioning as proposed.