Annual Report 2008
ARLIS/NA Liaison to the American Library Association

Submitted by Jeanne Brown

The liaison to ALA was active at both the ALA annual conference, held this year in Anaheim, CA June 2008 and the midwinter meeting in Denver. ARLIS/NA, being a paid member of the ALA Affiliates Group, has access to several benefits, including the option of submitting a program, and of staffing a booth (at the annual conference) provided free for use by Affiliate members. ARLIS/NA took advantage of these opportunities and others in the following ways.

Affiliates Meeting. Liaison Jeanne Brown attended the affiliates meeting at both the annual Anaheim conference and the mid-winter conference in Denver. This provided the opportunity to give a brief report of what ARLIS/NA is doing, and to hear what other organizations are focusing on. Among the items mentioned for ARLIS were the peer-review status of Art Documentation, the ARLIS archive going to the University of Illinois (true for several of the groups at the meeting), the increase in member dues approved by the membership the request for RFP from management firms, the Indianapolis conference dates, and new online publications such as the directory of library science degree programs. Among the items reported by other groups, the project by the Medical Library Association may be of interest to ARLIS/NA: the MLA is preparing documents/guidelines on a “return on investment” process for medical libraries. Given the uncertain economy, this might be a service for members that ARLIS could investigate. Another project of interest is the Association of Research Libraries white paper on libraries and scholarly communication, expected to be on their website sometime in February.

Affiliates Program. The liaison served as moderator and speaker for the Affiliates Program “Putting Our Expertise to Work: Contributions of Specialized Library Associations and Their Members.” The presentation on ARLIS was titled “Expertise for the Visually-Oriented from the Visually-Oriented: ARLIS/NA Contributions to the Library Profession.”

Affiliates Booth. ARLIS/NA had 6 booth volunteers signing up for 10 hours of booth coverage, more than any other Affiliate, which was certainly noticed by the Affiliates Group in terms of ARLIS being an active organization. Whether it is worth the time to do this is an ongoing question. Activity in the booth really depends on the time of day, and the traffic that goes by. Several volunteers reported good interactions, however, such as “we chatted a little bit with one girl who wants to make the transition from medical to art librarian. We encouraged her to join and I told her about all the wonderful support and information I’ve received through ARLIS.”

Last year volunteers suggested we could increase the impact of our booth presence by creating an ARLIS/NA poster. This was done and volunteers noted the positive impact of the visual. The poster image was also used to create smaller one-sheet handouts and a poster board. (See poster on curtain and in front of booth below with
one-page sheets next to the brown ARLIS brochures, along with volunteers Tammy Rivas and Jeanne Brown.)

Volunteers this year have suggested that we need something to give away at the booth!

**NMRT Orientation.** Midwinter in Denver saw an additional opportunity for an ARLIS presence. The New Members Round Table invited affiliate liaisons to attend their orientation. I did so, and was introduced to the group, and made myself available to answer questions (although the only post orientation interactions were with ARLIS members).

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