Annual Report 2009
ARLIS/NA Communications & Publications Committee

Submitted by:
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Committee Members:
Jonathan Franklin, Chair
Roger Lawson, Member-at-Large
Jennifer Hehman, Member-at-Large
Lee Viverette, Member-at-Large

Editors:
Judy Dyki, Art Documentation Contents Editor, ARLIS-L Moderator
Eileen Markson, Art Documentation Copy Editor
Douglas Litts, ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor
Terrie Wilson, ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor
Nedda Ahmed, Web Site Editor
Carol Graney, News & Features Editor
Kraig Binkowski, Professional Resources Editor

Executive Board Liaison: Barbara Rominski

Leadership update:
Joan Stahl, ARLIS/NA Reviews Editor, left the Committee, and her position was taken by Doug Litts and Terrie Wilson, ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editors. Martha Ruddy, Member-at-Large, left the Committee.

1.

Art Documentation Editors

- The editorial model for Art Documentation changed in 2009 from two contents co-editors (Kathy Zimon and Judy Dyki) to a single contents editor (Judy Dyki) upon the retirement of Kathy Zimon after seven years in the position. Eileen Markson stayed on as copy editor.
- A full-scale peer review process was launched in 2009. Although it adds six weeks to the production schedule for each issue, the benefits are many: improved quality of articles through vetting by subject experts; increased opportunities for member involvement with Art Documentation through service as peer reviewers; and a large increase in the number of article proposals, mostly from members in tenure-track positions whose institutions accept articles published only in peer-reviewed journals.
- Abstracts were added to the articles beginning with the 2009 issues.
The 2009 issues are the last ones that will include the "Between the Lines" articles. This feature was added in 2007 after the reviews were moved from Art Documentation to the ARLIS/NA Website, but it did not develop as originally envisioned. The editors are quietly dropping it beginning with the 2010 issues.

The transition from using ion communications (Spring 2009 issue) to Technical Enterprises Inc. (Fall 2009 issue) for design and layout was smooth, and the editors were very pleased with the quality of the one issue that we have done so far with TEI.

Additional paid ads now appear in Art Documentation thanks to the great efforts of Don McMurray at TEI.

A competition for a new cover design for Art Documentation was held. Entries were invited from ARLIS/NA members and design students at ARLIS/NA members' institutions. However, the jury felt that none of the designs that received the most votes by the membership reflected the mission of the journal or the nature of ARLIS/NA. The current cover design will be used for the 2010 issues, and the Communications and Publications Committee will discuss options for moving forward.

2.

ARLIS-L Moderator

- The move of ARLIS-L from the University of Kentucky's server to the TEI server has been delayed with technical issues, which should be resolved soon.
- Guidelines for postings to ARLIS-L were worked on, in relation to General Editorial Policies added to the Policy Manual as Section R28 (see 8. below).

3.

Web Site Editor

- Worked with the new management firm TEI to transition the web site to their servers.
- Established web sites for Committees, Divisions, Sections and Special Interest Groups as requested.
- Created splash images for each new batch of online reviews.
- Shared pdf files for back issues of Art Documentation with a view to getting them online in the Members' Area.

The reinstatement of secure online ordering for publications is still awaited from TEI.

4.

News and Features Editor

- Continued receiving and adding items to the web site.
- Guidelines for postings to News and Features were worked on, in relation to General Editorial Policies added to the Policy Manual as Section R28 (see 8. below).
5.

Professional Resources Editor

Projects completed:

Cataloging Exhibition Publications: Best Practices: SUBJECT HEADINGS
Online Publication
Posted: September 2009 (delayed from May)

Artist Files Revealed: Documentation and Access
Online Publication

Projects in progress:

Online Directory of Artist Files Collections
Online Publication
This interactive directory which is being unveiled in a session on Monday, is hosted off-site from ARLIS/NA. When live, will be linked directly from both the AWS and the Artist Files Revealed online publication.
Time Frame: March 2010 (delayed from 2009)

Occasional Paper
General Content Editor: Martha Ruddy
Projected time frame: completion late 2009/early 2010 (delayed – late 2010)

Copyright for Art Libraries and Visual Resource Collections
Occasional Paper
Authors: Christine Sundt, editor of Visual Resources Journal, and the Publications Chair of ARLIS/UK, Penelope Dade.
Projected time frame: 2010

Topics in Image Collection Management
Occasional Paper (co-published with the VRA)
Content Editor: John Taormina
Projected time frame: awaiting proposal

Projects pending:

Digitization for Art Libraries: A Primer
Occasional Paper
Projected time frame: on hold, other projects taking priority

VRA Professional Status Survey [Joint publication with VRA]
Online Publication
Projected time frame: 2010?

ARLIS/NA Webcasts of ARLIS workshops to be offered for a fee.
Planning stages. Hope to be able to introduce this by 2011 conference.
6.

ARLIS/NA Reviews Editors

Joan Stahl stepped down after holding the position starting with the winter 1992 issue of Art Documentation. Joan built the Reviews into an invaluable resource through years of correspondence with many reviewers and publishers. Douglas Litts and Terrie Wilson, working in partnership as Co-Editors, were selected to take Joan’s place by an evaluation subcommittee of the Communications and Publications Committee, consisting of the Committee chair, ARLIS/NA appointed editors, and Karyn Hinkle representing the Reference and Information Services Section.

The new Editors:
- Changed publication of reviews (formerly published on a quarterly basis) to a bi-monthly schedule.
- Implemented a shorter, more “web friendly” bibliographic citation style for reviewed publications.
- Updated reviewer guidelines to provide current contact information.
- Developed specific guidelines for author’s response to reviews, in relation to General Editorial Policies added to the Policy Manual as section R28 (see 8. below).

During the year, Terrie Wilson also served as Conference Proceedings Editor for the 37th Annual Conference in Indianapolis.

7.

At-large members

Roger Lawson:
- Participated in committee conference calls on communications and publications matters during transition of management services from McPhersonClarke to TEI
- Participated in committee deliberations regarding the Art Documentation cover design competition, guidelines for responses to ARLIS/NA Reviews, and Policy R28, General Editorial Policies.
- With AWS editor Nedda Ahmed, coordinated content review of ARLIS/NA Web site (October 2009); revisions made to the following pages:
  -- Affiliated Organizations (links verified)
  -- Appointments
  -- ARLIS/NA Publications (with J. Dyki, E. Markson, K. Binkowski)
  -- Committees and Liaisons
  -- History and Mission
  -- Information for Advertisers (with Don McMurray)
  -- Join ARLIS/NA (with S. Fojas-White)
  -- Past Presidents
  -- Support the Society (with B. Rockenbach)
- Began review of EBSCO and Scarecrow Press agreements for possible revisions.

Lee Viverette:
Participated in committee email discussions and was a member of the jury for the Art Documentation cover design competition.

Jennifer Hehman:

- Participated in committee email discussions.

8.

Chair

- Oversaw competition to design a new cover for Art Documentation (see 1.), including successful submission to Executive Board of Special Funding request to fund one free membership for winner of the competition. Communicated to Board and ARLISL-L jury recommendation that none of the designs shortlisted should replace the current design.
- Drafted and circulated guidelines for individual channels (ARLIS-L; News and Features; ARLIS/NA Reviews), for posting on website.
- Began work on preparation of 2010 Membership Directory, to be generated from TEI database and made available to members for printing ahead of Boston conference.
  
  Participated in conference calls, telephone conversations and email discussions concerning:
  -- membership database migration out of MemberClicks into TEI system
  -- transfer of templates and logo files from Ion, previous design company, to TEI
  -- production of Art Documentation in coordination with TEI including selection of printer; advertising in Art Documentation and elsewhere (with Don McMurray, TEI Sponsorship/Advertising coordinator).

9. Issues for Executive Board consideration:

Future development of Art Documentation in print/online formats. Brief report to be submitted by the Chair to the Executive Board Liaison for Communications and Publications Committee.

Re-branding. A number of members responded to the unsuccessful Art Documentation cover competition by suggesting a general re-branding of ARLIS/NA and an accompanying re-design of its electronic and print publications. Is this a priority for the Executive Board, and if so will funding be available?

In particular, the web site design is close to 5 years old. We need to start thinking about refreshing our look to include more Web 2.0 technologies, such as Wiki capability for collaborative resources to which members can contribute.

Jonathan Franklin
30 March 2010