Annual Report 2009
ARLIS/NA Diversity Committee

Submitted on October 5, 2009 by:

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Board Liaison: Ken Soehner

Committee Members (2008-2009): Annette Haines, Laura Haxer, Meredith Kahn, Vanessa Kam, Rebecca Price, Dorothy Tao

Annual Business Meeting:

The committee held its annual business meeting during the Indianapolis conference on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Discussion included proposal ideas for the Boston conference, the Alternative Voices Speaker fund, and details of the Indianapolis conference panel session.

Conference events:

In conjunction with Meredith Kahn, the committee proposed and organized a panel session that April 18, 2009. The details of the session follow:

Reaching Out & Bringing In: Understanding & Encouraging Diversity In the Library
Laura Haxer, Moderator

Dorothy Tao: "Who are the Diverse User Groups in the 21st Century Library? What Do We Know About Them? How Can We Better Serve Them?"

Pnina Shachaf: "Are Virtual Reference Services Color Blind?"


Description: This session will address how ARLIS/NA members can work to serve the needs of diverse populations in our disciplines, particularly underrepresented and international students. Such efforts represent a coming together (a "convergence," if you will) of
libraries and their larger institutions to build student populations that include individuals from a range of backgrounds. Educational institutions must do more than merely grant admission to students in order to work toward diversity. They must also work to ensure those students' academic success. The ability of librarians to teach research skills, as well as make the library itself a welcoming environment, is key to ensuring that diverse student populations achieve that success. Together, educational institutions and their libraries can work to create as well as maintain a diverse student body.