Summary of the Society’s Year

In reviewing this past year, I am overwhelmed by the amount of work that is accomplished by members of the Society. I can’t begin to total the number of hours that ARLIS/NA members give to our organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given of your time and expertise in supporting ARLIS/NA. I would also like to personally thank each member of the Executive Board. We have spent many hours both in conference phone calls, in meetings, in electronic mail messages, and in communicating with our members, to ascertain the direction and the future of our organization, the Art Libraries Society of North America. I thank you.

This year, 2010, began at the Annual Conference in Boston. The Society had hired a new management firm Technology Enterprises, Inc. the year before. Last year, the word for the year was transition. I would suggest that this year the key word has been flexibility. There have been times when I have felt like we have been blowing in the wind. There is an image from Eastern India that often is used to define flexibility and that image is the bamboo. A bamboo stalk is firmly rooted, anchored in the ground, so that even in the strongest winds it won't blow over or break. It is supple and flexible. It is able to bend with the wind. This is the secret of its stability and its longevity. No matter which direction the wind blows, the bamboo can bend with it and then, when the force of the wind is spent, it springs back to its normal, upright position. The bamboo image is a helpful one to remember when you are “blowing in the wind.” Today, I sense that the Society is in a good upright position and we are moving in the right direction.

In our second year with the management firm, TEI, we have become keenly aware of the many steps that are required to move forward and the time it takes for improving our communications and in finding solutions to technological challenges. TEI is a full service Association Management Firm that specializes in association and foundation management, conference and event planning, public relations and media services, publishing, and sponsorship sales. Some of the progress we have seen from TEI this past year include:

- Websites hosted and maintained by TEI such as AWS and the conference website
- Many ARLIS/NA chapter and committee websites
- ARLIS-L is now on a platform hosted on by TEI
- Financial records, banking and membership files
- A prospects database
- Advertising solicitations for Art Documentation
- Hotel contract negotiations for Minneapolis, Toronto and Pasadena conferences
- Reviewing RFP’s for Art Documentation (Chicago Press)
- A Membership directory with updated search options
- Updated Jobnet
Working progress on Content Management
- Responding to special requests by the Executive Board, ARLIS/NA members, committees, divisions, sections, SIG’s, etc.
- Conference Management and the Joint Conference planning with VRA (Chris Roper & TEI Staff)
- Visiting hotels for Minneapolis, Toronto, and Pasadena conference sites

This year presented us the opportunity of hosting a Joint Conference in Minneapolis with the Visual Resources Association. Both VRA & ARLIS/NA Presidents signed the Hilton hotel contract back in 2007. This is the second VRA and ARLIS/NA joint conference. The last one was held in St. Louis 2002. Then, the 2002 joint conference was hosted by the Central Plains chapter. This year’s conference was planned by members of the local ARLIS/Twin Cities and VRA chapters. The theme for this joint conference is “Collaboration: Building Bridges in the 21st Century.” How do we build bridges with others? I would suggest that this involves a three-part approach. One is creating the space for the exchange of ideas and opinions, including those that may be dissenting. Two is finding opportunities for collaboration. And three is continuing the work to strengthen these relationships.

Even after space is created for collaboration and our organizations work on issues of mutual importance, it’s important to strengthen these relationships through consistent and structured interaction. I would invite you to attend the session “Organizational Collaboration: Building Bridges between ARLIS/NA and VRA scheduled Sunday, March 27 at 4:45 pm. The ARLIS/NA & VRA Joint Task Force on Collaboration submitted its final report in 2008. It contained specific recommendations for "a more fertile infrastructure for information exchange between our two organizations and a corresponding reduction in redundancy, while maintaining the individual identities of each group.” Where do we stand as affiliated organizations three years later and where do we go from here to strengthen these relationships?

During this past year, I have been in communication on a regular basis with TEI, our Association and Conference Management Company. These talks have ranged from everything such as contracts, technology issues, hotel negotiations, conference calls, conference details such as program schedules, special events, the joint Convocation Ceremony and Program, and much more. Collaborating with the VRA Board, the Local Conference Planning Committee, and Chris Roper, our Conference Manager plus the staff from TEI has required much time, tact, and negotiation. This collaboration of efforts has, for me personally, developed into the utmost respect with everyone involved. Despite the continuing strain of the economy on both our organizations, we still see strong interest and commitment from members of both organizations. One week before the conference, we have 580 registered attendees for this Joint Conference. At this time it looks like the revenue brought in via Awards, Sponsorships, and In-kind donations totaled $44,150.00. As agreed upon by the VRA and the ARLIS/NA Executive Boards, profits from the conference will be split on a 70%/30% split between our two organizations. We have exceeded our total hotel room block which means we received free meeting space. I reassure you that ARLIS/NA reflects a solid financial balance at this time.

A Few Selected Accomplishments
- The International Relations Committee (IRC) organized a successful study trip to the United Kingdom. A trip to Mexico is planned for 2011.
- The Summer Educational Institute (SEI) continues to be a success. The 2011 conference will be held for the second year at the University of New Mexico. ARLIS/NA and VRAF continue to work together to develop this program and ensure its continued relevance and sustainability.
The Strategic Planning Committee was formed to implement a strategic plan for 2011-15. An e-survey was developed by the SPC to invite members to participate in the strategic planning process to move ARLIS/NA in a stronger new direction. Member responses will improve the goals and will form the basis of an Action Plan to achieve those goals.

The *Art Documentation* Task Force Report was completed by the Communications and Publications committee, and RFP’s were received and evaluated by TEI, the treasurer and the task force members. A contract is in process with the University of Chicago Press to electronically publish *Art Documentation*.

The next phase of the development of *Art Documentation* will be its debut in 2012 in JSTOR Current Scholarship including the complete back file.

Webinar and Lunchtime Chat presentations by the Professional Development committee.

ARLIS-L was successfully launched on the TEI platform and is a viable means of communication for ARLIS/NA members. The listserv is now running under a newer version of the L-Soft software (version 16.0). As of February 22, 2011, there are 1,990 subscribers to ARLIS-L.

The Public Policy Committee initiatives and alerts have gone out over ARLIS-L and the ARLIS/NA Web site. They continue to monitor organizational resources and report to the membership.

Gathering of data for the exploration of an upgrade to L-Soft listserv software for specific use for chapters, committees, divisions, sections and interested groups.

The Society Circle continues to provide financial support for the Society’s programs from individual members.

As of March 1, 2011, there are 1,049 members of ARLIS/NA. With TEI’s help, the Membership Committee developed a new brochure design. A total of 1,000 brochures were printed.

ArLiSNAP continues to position itself as an indispensable resource for art library students and new professionals. Site Statistics give total members at 107.

An evaluation of TEI services was completed by members of the Executive Board.

For additional accomplishments, please read the Annual Reports on AWS

- **Highlighted Activities as President**

  Meetings Attended:
  - Planned and coordinated the Leadership Breakfast in Boston, as Vice-President/President-Elect
  - ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Boston, as Vice-President/President-Elect
  - ARLIS/NA Pre-conference Executive Board meeting in Boston, as Vice-President/President-Elect
  - ARLIS/NA Post-conference Executive Board meeting in Boston
  - Local Conference Planning Committee meeting in Minneapolis
  - Conference Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) meetings in Minneapolis
  - ARLIS/NA Mid Year Executive Board meetings in Santa Fe
  - ARLIS/NA Northwest Chapter meetings in Seattle
  - ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter meetings in Sedalia and St. Louis
  - VRA & ARLIS/NA 2nd Joint Conference in Minneapolis
  - Chaired the ARLIS/NA Annual Membership Meeting in Minneapolis
  - ARLIS/NA Pre-conference Executive Board meetings in Minneapolis
  - ARLIS/NA Post-conference Executive Board meeting in Minneapolis
  - Arranged monthly ARLIS/NA Executive Board Conference Calls

  Meetings to Attend:
  - Conference Advisory Planning Committee meeting in Toronto
  - ARLIS/NA Mid Year Executive Board meetings in Houston
- ARLIS/NA Pre-conference Executive Board meetings in Toronto
- ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Toronto
- Monthly ARLIS/NA Executive Board Conference Calls

Other Selected Activities:
- Signed various contracts, the Joint Conference Agreement between VRA & ARLIS/NA, the Hilton Hotel Minneapolis Addendum to Contract, Sheraton Pasadena Hotel Convention & Meeting Contract, the Summer Educational Institute (SEI) contract by ARLIS/NA and VRAF with the University of New Mexico, and the pending contract with the University of Chicago Press.
- Served as Board Liaison to the Awards and Nominating committees and as a member of the Finance committee.
- Prepared the Society Annual Report.
- Discussed plans with the Strategic Planning Committee, the Membership Committee, the Awards Committees, the Distinguished Service Award Committee, the Nominating Committee, and other groups and individual members in the Society.
- Kept continued communications with TEI, especially Chris Roper, Association and Conference Manager and Scott Sherer, TEI President.
- Answered email queries and wrote thank you notes to appropriate members when needed.
- Sent out periodic messages to ARLIS-L about the Society and Executive Board activities. These messages were also posted to the News portion of the AWS.
- Co-Chaired the Conference Advisory Planning Committee meetings in Minneapolis with the VRA President.
- Prepared the President’s Welcome message for the 2nd Joint VRA & ARLIS/NA Conference Program.
- Prepared remarks and greetings for the following Joint VRA & ARLIS/NA events: the Convocation and Program, the Founder’s Fete, the New Members and First Time Attendees Breakfast, and the Joint VRA & ARLIS/NA Membership Luncheon.
- Hosted a reception in Minneapolis for the current and incoming Executive Board members of VRA, ARLIS/NA and VRAF.
- Hosted an informal gathering of the Society Circle in Minneapolis.
- Prepared the Executive Board agendas for the Post-conference meeting in Boston, the Mid Year EB meetings in Santa Fe, and the Pre-conference EB meetings in Minneapolis.
- Prepared the agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting in Minneapolis.
- Monitored completion of Executive Board action items.

In closing, I would mention that we are in good health, both financially and organizationally. We look forward to new directions under the leadership of Jon Evans and the incoming Executive Board members. I would personally like to thank ARLIS/NA for continuing to make my life one of enriched opportunities for professional and personal growth. It has been my pleasure to serve you, our Society Members, as your President for this past year. THANK YOU.