Annual Report 2011
Public Policy Committee

Submitted by:
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Members:
Nancy Duff (from January 2012)
Marilyn Nasserden (to October 2011)
Sonja Staum-Kuniej
Marsha Stevenson
Patrick Tomlin
Executive Board Liaison: James Rout

Activities:
• The annual business meeting was held at the annual conference in Minneapolis on March 24, 2011.

• At-large member Marilyn Nasserden stepped down in October 2011; Nancy Duff joined the committee in January 2012.


• The committee members continued to monitor organizational resources and report to the membership as appropriate through ARLIS-L and the ARLIS/NA Web site:
  o US Copyright Office, Section 108 Study Group, Orphan Works, ALA Washington Office (Lawson)
  o Library Copyright Alliance (ALA/ARL/ACRL), Society of Architectural Historians (Stevenson)
  o World Intellectual Property Organization (Orth-Alfie)
  o College Art Association (Orth-Alfie)
  o Society of American Archivists (Orth-Alfie)
  o International Federation of Library Associations (Tomlin)
  o Special Libraries Association (Stevenson)
  o Visual Resources Association (Lawson)
  o Center for Intellectual Property (Orth-Alfie)

Among the issues monitored and reported were the First Sale ruling by the US Second Circuit Court; the Google Books Settlement; orphan works and copyright reform legislation.

• At the request of the Executive Board, the committee drafted a policy on advocacy; the final version was approved by the Executive Board and designated Policy N-7: Advocacy.
• The committee drafted revisions to the committee’s guidelines (Policy Manual G-16) to clarify terms of office for the chair and a newly-designated vice-chair position to provide leadership continuity.

• Strategic Plan Initiatives:

* Maintain the content of committee website in order to provide a forum for educating ARLIS members about intellectual property, intellectual freedom, and other public policy issues. Find ways to make the website more visible and accessible to librarians looking for information on copyright and other issues covered by the committee. (Strategic Plan Goals I.A. and IV.C)

The committee website was updated to add new resources from the Association of Research Libraries, the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and the Humanities, the Library Copyright Alliance, and the Visual Resources Association as well as for the following proposed US legislative items:

  - Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)
  - Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PROTECT IPA, IPA)
  - Online Prevention and Enforcement of Digital Trade Act (OPEN)

* Develop position statements on behalf of ARLIS/NA regarding emerging intellectual property and other public policy issues of relevance to the profession, and forward such statements to the Executive Board for endorsement; make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning position statements developed by other groups seeking ARLIS/NA endorsement. (Strategic Plan Goal III)

The committee recommended that the ARLIS/NA executive board endorse the statement on copyright reform issued on May 16 by the Library Copyright Alliance, whose members include the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Association of College and Research Libraries. The Executive Board approved endorsement in August.

The committee prepared a statement on anti-piracy legislation in response to recent proposed legislation in the US Congress; the Executive Board approved the statement in February and the statement was posted in ARLIS/NA Web site News in March.

The committee clarified the guidelines for preparing advocacy statements consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and qualification as a non-profit organization.