Annual Report 2011
ArLiSNAP

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This year was an exciting one for ArLiSNAP as we are in a time of transition. Much of the time since the 2011 ARLIS/NA Conference in Minneapolis has been devoted to an ongoing series of discussions about new ways for the ArLiSNAP membership to become more actively involved both in the group and with ARLIS/NA at large. A variety of possible new volunteer positions were talked about including:

- chapter liaison → volunteer would routinely collect information about different events, developments, and discussions going on in ARLIS/NA regional chapters throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico and disseminate that information to ArLiSNAP members via the blog and other social media outlets
- student group liaison → volunteer would create and maintain a list of active ARLIS/NA-affiliated (or aligned) student and young professionals throughout the ARLIS/NA zones. list would be part of a retooled reference section on the ArLiSNAP website, which would include refreshed links
- education liaison → volunteer would focus on highlighting various educational opportunities (workshops, webinars, symposium, conferences) that could appeal to the ArLiSNAP membership and sharing that via the blog and our other social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
- member-at-large → would report on current events that would be pertinent to the ArLiSNAP membership including developments in policy within ARLIS/NA, legislation, new services, etc.

Many members expressed interested in filling these roles and the ArLiSNAP meeting at the 2012 ARLIS/NA Conference in Toronto will focus on how these positions will be developed/filled in the near future.

The ArLiSNAP blog continues to provide students and young professionals with a judicious use of blog posting, including posts informing its readers of career and internship opportunities aggregating them into one feed from a variety of different sources. The site was redesigned and refreshed in March, 2011. 134 blog posts since March 20th, 2011 netted a total of 34,891 unique visits to the ArLiSNAP blog/website. As in the past, outreach continued with the ArLiSNAP facebook page (currently at 261 “likes” or followers) and in
March 2011, Co-Coordinator Rosemary Davis added a twitter feed (@arlisnap) which has gathered 234 followers in its first year. Using the WordPress “Publicize” feature, content from the website is automatically pushed to both Facebook and Twitter, creating multiple outlets for members to access information. A LinkedIn group was also formed to extend the ArLiSNAP network—as of March 22nd, there are 55 members in this group.

In addition, this year saw the petition to transition from Special Interest Group to Section gain 41 signatures, more than enough to garner being passed on to the ArLiSNAP board for a vote in March. Bryan Loar, Co-Coordinator from 2009-2011, gave continued support throughout the signature collection and approval process, acting as liaison between ArLiSNAP and Alan Michaelson. As of March 21, approval of ArLiSNAP’s transition is awaiting the seal of approval from ARLIS/NA president Jon Evans.

In a similar vein of group development, ArLiSNAP continued working with Chris Roper of TEI to further the process of transitioning the ArLiSNAP website into a new home within the ARLIS/NA official website. Talks for this transition developed in early 2011 and in November, Mr. Roper began to work on collecting the data from ArLiSNAP’s website. Currently, the transition has not been completed, but Co-Coordinator Suzanne will renew discussions after the 2012 conference has completed. At that time, new group volunteers, along with current and former coordinators, will work together to revamp the ArLiSNAP website once it officially relocated.

At the upcoming 2012 Conference in Toronto, ArLiSNAP will continue to foster the growth of a network of students and young professionals through its 7th annual Pub Stop, at the appropriately named Library Bar in Toronto. Flyers were designed and distributed by Suzanne at the conference and posted to the ArLiSNAP blog. Amanda Qualls, ArLiSNAP member volunteered to take notes at the ArLiSNAP group meeting, which will take place at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 31st. Co-Coordinator Rosemary cannot attend the conference due to a funding deficit, but Co-Coordinator Suzanne will helm the meeting. The primary topics of discussion will be:

- ArLiSNAP’s transition from SIG to Section → what this means for leadership, responsibilities, development, relationship to ARLIS/NA
- upcoming election of a new co-moderator for the section → discuss proposed timeline of collecting statements of interest by Friday, April 6th, with elections start April 7th (members will vote via online poll) and closing April 13th, with the winner announced on April 14th.
- developing the aforementioned volunteer positions → asking for suggestions about making these positions effective, requesting for members to take on new responsibilities, etc.
- revamping of the website once it has been relocated → what other features can help members besides job and event postings; possibilities for skill shares within group?
- free-form discussion about what kind of impact ArLiSNAP can have within the larger organization → how to be better advocates for students and young professionals within academic institutions and the professional environment
- any other topics/issues/concerns brought up by the membership present

Overall, 2011-2012 was a time of discussion, questioning, and development for ArLiSNAP. The year saw a growth in membership, online presence, and member participation. The group successfully began to redefine itself within ARLIS/NA, transitioning from Significant Interest Group to Section. And the 2012 Conference in Toronto gives ArLiSNAP members a chance to further develop ways for students and young professionals to make their voice heard within the art librarian and information professional community.