Annual Report 2012
Central Plains Chapter

Submitted by: Phillip J. Jones
pj27jones@yahoo.com; pjj01@uark.edu
479-575-3081 (office); 479-575-6656 (fax)

Officers for 2012 in the Central Plains Chapter included Chair Ellen Urton (Kansas State University), Secretary/Treasurer Clare Vasquez (St. Louis Art Museum), and Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Phillip Jones (University of Arkansas). Skye Lacerte (Washington University) was past-chair. Nominations to fill the two vacant offices for 2013 were delayed. Jennifer Akins (Washington University) and Tracey Boswell (Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art) were elected in February 2013 as secretary/treasurer and vice-chair/chair-elect respectively. Jones became chair automatically in January.

In addition to an informal gathering in Toronto at the annual conference of ARLIS/NA, Central Plains held two regular chapter meetings: 1) in Wichita in April and 2) in Lawrence in September. Kansas was a good draw, with above average attendance at both meetings. Nineteen persons attended the business meeting in Wichita and twenty-one attended the business meeting in Lawrence.

Most of the chapter’s energy was directed toward discussing ideas to make the chapter a more vibrant organization and improving communication among members. These activities aligned with three goals of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan: I, III, and V. The chapter’s Webmaster revised the chapter’s Web page and moved its contents to the TEI server. However, the work was not completed and the page remained unpublished. Chair Urton established and tested an account in Google Drive that might serve as a repository of the chapter’s official documents. Given that the chapter had discussed recruiting librarians in the region who were potential members of Central Plains, Urton included a file in Google for tracking this recruitment. Urton plans to present her work at the chapter’s spring meeting. The chapter also discussed using social media to promote communication and professional development, although no action was taken.

Suzy Frechette (St. Louis Public Library) compiled news from members in the spring and produced Issue 48 of The Irregular, the chapter’s official newsletter, which was posted in mid-2012. Additional information can be found online in this issue of the newsletter at http://centralplains.arlisna.org/newsletter/no48.pdf.

Central Plains has planned three meetings for 2013: an informal meeting at the annual conference in Pasadena, a regular spring meeting in Omaha, scheduled June 6–8, and a fall meeting in Bentonville and Fayetteville, scheduled November 7–9. As indicated above, there is unfinished business. The Web page must be published and linked from the ARLIS/NA page. The chapter must determine which social media are appropriate to its work, adopt them, and sustain this activity. It is probably time to revisit the chapter’s periodic discussion of hosting both a spring and fall meeting; one candidate for office remarked that committing to attending two chapter meetings per year and the annual conference was a hurdle. The members of the Central Plains Chapter have tremendous ideas and the chapter meetings are an excellent venue for their percolation. The challenge of the leadership in 2013 and successors will be to harness these ideas and move the membership forward.

The chapter has no matters to bring to the Executive Board.