Communications & Publications Committee

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Leadership Update: membership remains stable (with the addition of two new at-large members, names TBD, for 2013-2014) –
   Chair: Amy Lucker
   Board Liaison: Melanie Emerson
   Members:
      Rosemary K.J. Davis, [at-large]
      Dennis Moser [at-large]
      TBD (2 positions) [at-large]
      Nedda Ahmed, ARLIS Web Site Editor
      Carol Graney, News & Features Editor
      Judy Dyki, Art Documentation Editor
      Eileen Markson, Art Documentation Copy Editor
      Hannah Bennett, Professional Resources Editor
      Doug Litts, ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor
      Terrie Wilson, ARLIS/NA Reviews Co-Editor

Brief Narrative re. activities, membership, plans, etc.:
The committee met via conference call a number of times. The two major activities for the whole group were 1) the AWS redesign/move to Joomla, and 2) discussion and eventual adoption of a proposal to establish a second Reviews section, Multimedia and Technology Reviews, which will be published bi-monthly, alternating with the existing reviews. This new review section will most likely not commence until after the web site has been re-deployed.

Below are notes from the editors, concerning their activities this past year.

ARLIS/NA REVIEWS
6 issues of ARLIS/NA Reviews were published with 76 reviews (74 monographs, 1 DVD, 1 electronic resource) total for the year. Reviewers included members and nonmembers from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The editors maintain a working relationship with over 70 publishers both from the United States and Canada, and internationally.

We published the first review for an electronic resource (The Public Catalogue Foundation) in the March/April 2012 edition. In order to accommodate more coverage we also published two double reviews in the January/February 2013 edition.

In order to accommodate electronic resources and double reviews, the review guidelines were edited to a designated length.

NEWS & FEATURES
Content for news and events items was culled from ARLIS-L, and other electronic and printed resources, and added to the news and events calendar sections of the AWS.
ARLIS/NA Social Media Presence:
Facebook
There were increases in the number and frequency of postings on ARLIS/NA's Facebook page; this includes "Liking" chapter pages, and relevant library, museum, and library association pages, and sharing their postings on the ARLIS/NA page.

Twitter
ARLIS/NA news was actively posted to the Twitter account, and relevant posts from other organization accounts were re-tweeted.

ARLIS/NA WEBSITE (AWS)
In 2012, Nedda Ahmed completed approximately 295 web site updates, which included publishing 6 editions of ARLIS/NA reviews (now with a new & improved home page), maintaining the Internship Roster, posting information for lunchtime chats and webinars, and many, many changes to leadership rosters. Not included in this number: formatting and posting annual reports and "publishing" the conference proceedings.

The site redesign is going well, now that it's underway. Interactive Mechanics, the design firm we selected, has been fantastic to work with and has already done some great prototypes. The next major step is to have the current content ported into the new site; this work will be done by TEI in the near future.

Once the site is completed, we will revisit the idea of distributed site maintenance. Although it would be helpful for ARLIS leaders to be able to edit their own leadership rosters, for example, it's not clear whether the Joomla learning curve will discourage infrequent users from doing minor updates such as these.

ART DOCUMENTATION
In 2012, the first two issues of Art Documentation (Volume 31, nos. 1-2, Spring and Fall 2012) that were published under the new partnership with the University of Chicago Press successfully made their way into the hands of members and subscribers. The new format (7x10"), revised interior page design, and new cover design were fine-tuned during production of the first issue. The two issues together published a total of twenty-three articles. Cover images (three changing images per issue) were supplied by Bridgeman Art Library. Editorial content continued to be directed by Judy Dyki (Editor) and Eileen Markson (Copy Editor).

The technical staff at University of Chicago Press and TEI worked together to set up access to the full electronic back-run of Art Documentation through the members-only section of the ARLIS/NA website. This allows members to access the journal through the JSTOR Current Scholarship Program even if an individual member does not otherwise have a JSTOR subscription or is not affiliated with a subscribing institution.

The workflow for checking and correcting proofs was streamlined with the University of Chicago Press now sending PDFs of the articles directly to the authors for review. In addition, editors can now enter corrections directly into the PDFs and return them electronically rather than mailing back marked-up paper copies.

The number of active peer reviewers was increased from about 50 to around 100. This allows editors to more closely match articles with areas of expertise since not all reviewers are available for every issue, and two reviewers are needed for each article. Peer reviewing is a great way to ease newer members into active involvement in ARLIS/NA as well as tapping into the deep knowledge of more seasoned members.

University of Chicago Press (and in particular, Marsha Ross, Marketing Manager, UCP Journals) continues to promote Art Documentation individually and in a package with the other UCP art journals. A soft roll-out was done during the 2012 College Art Association
conference (Los Angeles), and a stronger promotion was done during the 2013 CAA conference in New York with a “meet the editor” session at the exhibition booth. A reception was also held at the Morgan Library to which all UCP art editors were invited. Judy Dyki participated in these events both years to help promote the journal.

Calls for papers were posted to numerous listservs to help broaden the pool of authors. Judy Dyki also attended several other conferences (College Art Association, Museum Computer Network, etc.) to scout papers and meet with potential authors.

A new author publication agreement form, with language supplied by the University of Chicago Press, was adopted for use by Art Documentation authors. This form is consistent with those used by all UCP journals.

Initial discussions were held with the new Art Documentation Editorial Board. These will be expanded in the coming year.

ARLIS-L
Statistics as of March 11, 2013:

• Number of subscribers: 2,373 (up 9.9% from March 2012)

• Number of countries represented: 28
  United States: 2,153
  Canada: 115
  United Kingdom: 20
  Australia: 16
  New Zealand: 13
  Netherlands: 10
  Japan: 5
  Belgium: 4
  France: 4
  One or two each from: Argentina, Austria, Cuba, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, and Turkey

• Total number of messages posted for calendar year 2012: 1,901
  Average number per month: 158
  High: 246 (March 2012)
  Low: 89 (December 2012)

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
In 2012, the Professional Resources Editor (Hannah Bennett) brought to the committee questions about the existing categories of Professional Resources. It was felt that the scope for each of the categories, as well as the submission process for proposals, should be updated to better reflect current and emerging trends within the field. At the same time, the group discussed how the Professional Resources Section of the website could be better arranged within the website. Given that the web site redesign project was just getting underway, the group agreed to table these changes until they could be made within the new site. This piece will be addressed sometime later this summer (2013), when the new site is slated to launch.

Emilee Mathews and Amy Ballmer, co-moderators of RISS, submitted the only Professional Resources proposal during this period, a proposal to replace RISS’s current portal. As this research portal continues to grow and as more people turn to it for recommended or highlighted resources, they hoped to establish a better platform that would be easier to navigate and more interactive. Ultimately, the CPC rejected the proposal, largely due to
concerns about how (and how often) the research portal would be monitored for outdated data, bad links, etc.

However, in consultation with Emilee Mathews and Amy Ballmer, Hannah developed a proposal for a new section of reviews, a Multimedia & Technology Reviews section, as noted above. RISS will play a key role in this project with a member of RISS serving on the M&T editorial group, and by identifying at least two research tools or guides to review with every bi-monthly edition.

At the annual meeting in Toronto as well as via email, conference calls, and so on, Hannah took every opportunity to encourage the membership to propose a Professional Resources project. There have been a number of inquiries but the more complete projects were taken to publishers, self-publishing platforms, or other outside agents for publication and promotion.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan:**

**Goal 4. Objective B.**

Define and articulate our role as stewards of our collections and provide guidance and language to encourage good stewardship.

**Action 1:** Establish a clearinghouse or knowledgebase, drawing from both institutions and outside associations, addressing collections stewardship and preservation.

While the CPC will be happy to develop a place or platform to publish such information, it is not the group who should be made responsible for gathering the information. Once a group has been designated that will be responsible for gathering or developing the content, the CPC will be happy to work with them to determine the best way to disseminate it.

**Objective C.** Increase awareness of the importance of unique and special collections and their significance in supporting the missions of their parent organizations.

**Action 1:** Identify and work with ARLIS/NA members charged with directly overseeing special collections to develop a set of talking points or guidelines illustrating the collections’ importance to not only the parent organization but the larger disciplines served.

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**Goal 5. Objective A.** Improve communication across the organization, enhancing relations among and between the Executive Board, committees, divisions and sections, special interest groups, chapters and liaisons.

**Action 1:** Review current communication practices to establish guidelines for improvements and explore new technologies to support organizational dialogue.

Progress is ongoing, with addition of, e.g., more social media links (LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.) and new review section.

**Action 2:** Centralize key societal communication on the ARLIS/NA website and announce site updates on the listserv.

This continues to be done; viz. announcements of new reviews. In addition, the new web site will centralize societal communication.

**Objective B.** Align the Society’s significant business with the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan.

**Action 1:** Incorporate the Strategic Plan into the Society's business agenda with reviews and discussions at the annual conference, the establishment of a standing Strategic Planning
Committee, a report template to track implementation progress, and enhanced website access to ensure continuity and communication of action.

Nothing to report; we will be happy to post a template if one is designed, and the Strategic Plan is easily found on the AWS.

Objective C. Continually explore ways in which to enhance the Society’s virtual presence through its website and other social media.
Action 1: Launch an ARLIS/NA blog with a variety of regularly updated, featured columns.

The new website design incorporates blogs.

Action 2: Create a coordinator position for an ARLIS/NA 'voice', a member responsible for regularly promoting the society’s activities through social media.

This position already exists; it is the "job" of Carol Graney, News & Features Editor. She regularly communicates and coordinates with other groups, e.g., ARLIS-SNAP, conference, etc.