Annual Report 2012
Liaison to the American Library Association (ALA), Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Arts Section

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During the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, June 23-24, 2012, ARLIS/NA volunteers Tom Caswell, Cathy Billings, and Gina Solares staffed the ALA Affiliates booth in the exhibition hall for a total of five hours (of the 21 the booth was open) handing out approximately 50 ARLIS/NA membership brochures and postcards promoting ARLIS/NA’s annual conference next year in neighboring city Pasadena. ARLIS/NA continues to provide a presence among the affiliates and our efforts were once again greatly appreciated by ALA staffers during and after the conference.

ARLIS/NA was represented at the ALA Affiliates meeting on Sunday, June 24th by liaison Tom Caswell, who reported on ARLIS/NA developments such as: the 2012 conference in Toronto; the next year’s conference in Pasadena; ARLIS/NA’s commitment to offering a joint webinar with ACRL/Arts Section by the end of the year; the kick-off of our Virtual Mentoring Program (which generated much enthusiasm among other affiliates); as well as our new venture with University of Chicago publishing our Society’s ArtDoc, which was met with great interest from other affiliate representatives.

Select affiliates reporting on their latest activities included:
- American Indian Library Association (AILA) is establishing a “Joint Conference of Librarians of Color” with ALA in Kansas City, Missouri in September.
- Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) has started a foundation fund of its own and is also working on a “Graphic Novel” conference in the next year.
- Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) is a new affiliate group for ALA.
- Association of Research Libraries (ARL) leadership spoke about their three “core sources of funding” – publishing, conferences, membership – and how they are currently looking for new, additional venues of funding.
- Beta Phi Mu (International Library & Information Studies Honor Society) is moving its headquarters from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida to Drexel College of Information Science and Technology in Philadelphia.
- Medical Library Association (MLA) is currently emphasizing themes of diversity and globalization of information, as well as developing a “Disaster Information Specialist” program, for its membership.
- Music Library Association (MLA) is seeing a trend in music librarians now referring to themselves as the more inclusive “performing arts librarians;” observing a decrease in institutional memberships; and noticing the impact of RDA on music cataloging. Also, the ever-popular Bibliography for Music is now updated and available.
- National Storytelling Network (NSN) is a new affiliate group for ALA.
- Online Audiovisual Catalogers (OLAC) is working on establishing cataloging guidelines for streaming media and also dealing with the impact of RDA on cataloging.

Tom also attended the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Arts Section membership meeting on Sunday, June 24th, where he reported on ARLIS/NA updates and
activities, as he did at the Affiliates meeting. In particular, several Arts Section members stated how anxious they are to have a joint ARLIS/NA-ACRL/Arts webinar in the near future. Arts Section chair Claudia Covert said she has been actively working with ARLIS/NA’s Professional Development Committee and Education Subcommittee in ironing out the details of this joint webinar initiative and they all hope to have a webinar some time in Fall 2012.

On Sunday afternoon, Tom represented ARLIS/NA at the newly renamed “Association Options Fair” (formerly Spectrum Leadership Institute’s Professional Options Fair) where he was an invited presenter at American Library Association’s professional options fair for recently graduated minority librarians and mid-career librarians. This was Tom’s third year representing ARLIS/NA at this event. It consistently ranks as a high point of the conference as this is always a fast-paced, high-energy experience that generates a lot of questioning and interest for new and established librarians who may have never known art librarianship as a career option. Approximately 30 ARLIS/NA membership brochures were distributed.

Post-ALA Conference:

The first joint ARLIS/NA-ACRL/Arts Section professional development webinar entitled “Imagining, Innovating, Leading: Exploring the Connections Between Librarianship and Creativity” was held Friday, December 7, 2012 and explored the role of librarians’ individual creativity and its effects in the library workplace and greater community. Co-presenters were Tina Chan (from ACRL/Arts) and Annette Haines (from ARLIS/NA). There were 47 virtual attendees with a mix of ARLIS/NA and ACRL/Arts members. Future joint webinars will be coordinated by chairs of the ARLIS/NA Education Subcommittee and ACRL/Arts Section Publications and Research Committee.