**Annual Report 2012**
**Architecture Section**

Submitted by: Amy Trendler  
aetrendler@bsu.edu  
765-285-5858

**Officers**  
Amy Trendler, Ball State University, became section moderator at the conclusion of the 2012 Architecture Section meeting at the ARLIS/NA conference. Trendler had served as vice-moderator the previous year.

Jesse Vestermark, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, was elected vice-moderator at the Architecture Section meeting at the 2012 ARLIS/NA conference. Vestermark will assume the moderator role at the conclusion of the 2013 Architecture Section meeting.

**Architecture Section Meeting**  
The section met at the annual ARLIS/NA conference in Toronto on Friday, March 30, 2012. The section’s 2012 moderator, Jennifer Parker, ran the meeting. Section business included the election of a new vice-moderator (Vestermark) and reports from the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) liaison Janine Henri and Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL) liaison Jennifer Parker. During the remainder of the meeting section members discussed architecture-related sessions at recent ARLIS/NA conferences and ideas for future conference sessions and workshops.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan**  
Architecture Section members considered how the section relates to the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 by answering questions on a survey designed by Trendler and Vestermark and then discussing the results on the section listserv, ARCHSEC-l. A full report of the survey and listserv discussion is copied below.

Following the listserv discussion, section members participated in a priorities poll to identify which of the projects and ideas identified during the survey and discussion were high priority and which should be considered in the future. Trendler then formed an ad-hoc committee consisting of herself, Vestermark and volunteers Kathy Edwards and Karen DeWitt to consider next steps and develop options to present to section members at the 2013 Architecture Section meeting at the ARLIS/NA conference. The work of this committee is ongoing, but will be completed by the end of the Architecture Section meeting and the committee disbanded.

**Issues for the Executive Board**  
At this time the section has no issues for the Executive Board.
The Architecture Section & the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan Survey – Final Report

Architecture Section Moderator, 2012-2013: Amy Trendler
Vice-moderator 2012-2013: Jesse Vestermark

For a basic overview of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan as submitted on March 20, 2012, see:

For the most recent, fully detailed outline of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan see:
http://www.arlisna.org/organization/admindocs/planning/stratplan11-15actionsFINAL.pdf

Total started survey: 36
Total finished survey: 22

Timeline
11/15/12 – The Architecture Section Survey on the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan opens.
12/7/12 – Survey closes.
1/15/13 – Discussion of the survey results on ARCHSEC-I commences.
2/13/13 – Final report written.
2/13 – Discussion on the listserv wraps up.

Table of Contents
• Summary of Projects and Ideas Generated by the Survey and Discussion
• Part 1 – Goal III. Create Stronger Leadership Through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy
  o Summary of results
  o Highlights from the comments for this section
  o Questions for discussion
  o Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-I
• Part 2 - Goal IV. Emphasize Our Collections and Stewardship Role
  o Summary of results
  o Highlights from the comments for this section
  o Questions for discussion
  o Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-I
• Part 3 – Additional Goals to Support
  o Summary of results
  o Highlights from the comments for this section
  o Questions for discussion
  o Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-I
Summary of Projects and Ideas Generated by the Survey and Discussion

**Collaboration**

- Joint conference sessions with other organizations
- Joint webinars with other organizations
- Collaborative articles
- Collaborations in research and publishing

**Projects**

- An Architecture Section blog
- Portal of digital projects
- Portal for architectural plans
- Clearinghouse for collection development policies
- Coordinated architectural record surveys
- User needs assessment in architecture collections
- Common LibGuides
- Disciplinary focus and shared collection development strategies for regional high-density storage collections.
- Shared information on collection development and reference techniques

**Advocacy**

- Advocate for better e-books with publishers
- Advocate for print on demand
- Support the idea that library positions require training in library science (i.e. not solely a PhD in the subject area, with no formal library training)

**Support**

- Support Architecture Section participation in ARLIS/NA Career Mentoring Program
- Encourage contributions to ARTstor and SAHARA

**Preservation, Digitization, and Access**

- Digitization of archival collections of architecture materials
- Preservation of archival collections of architecture materials
- Public access to digitized architecture archives
- Access to collections
Part 1.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan 2011-2015:
Goal III. Create Stronger Leadership Through Promotion, Cooperation and Advocacy

Summary of survey results:

- Most respondents (20 out of 28 responses) were also members of AASL, and a significant number (10 out of 28) were members of SAH. Note: ARLIS/NA has liaisons with both of these organizations. Jennifer Parker is currently the AASL liaison, and Ann Whiteside is the SAH liaison.
- Most respondents preferred written reports (31 out of 36 responses) of other organizations' activities, although repeat programming (19) and oral reports (11) received a significant number of responses.
- Most respondents preferred to share written reports (28 out of 31 responses) with other organizations, although repeat programming (12) and oral reports (9) also received a significant number of responses.
- Of the types of joint programs or projects the Architecture Section could pursue with other organizations, conference sessions (31 out of 34 responses) were most popular, followed by webinars (24) and articles (24). Projects received the fewest responses (5).

Highlights from the survey comments for this section:

- I wish we had a section blog rather than a webpage, where members could post notices. We could then have an RSS feed. Perhaps also a section Facebook page that would feed to the blog?
- This could provide some excellent programming for chapter meetings.
- Projects related to bibliographies or best practices or accreditation come to mind-- but open to consider others
- Web portals, web archiving, lists of digital projects, etc. Continue collab. with AASL re: NAAB standards.
- I don't have any specific projects in mind, but it would be great if the Architecture Section could collaborate with other organizations on projects we develop or other organizations' projects that we could lend our expertise to.

Questions for discussion on ARCHSEC-I:

- How could the section work with other organizations to organize conference sessions?
- What do you think about the suggestion for an Architecture Section blog or Facebook page?
- Are there projects you think the Architecture Section should start or support?

Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-I:

- I wonder if the Section could host a clearinghouse for collection development policies? [Patti Cossard, Architecture Library, Univ. of Maryland]
• I am a member of Society of American Archivists and the Special Libraries Association. I'm also a member of the Boston Society of Architects Info Wizards group, which is a small group of design firm librarians in Boston. Collaboration between ARLIS and these diverse groups would be beneficial to people like me who do not work in colleges, special collections, or museums. [Deirdre Doran, Sasaki Associates]

• I would also be interested in reading blogs of other people's experiences working with architectural records, particularly at design firms. I've been thinking about starting a blog myself to see if I can get any input on my day to day work. [Deirdre Doran, Sasaki Associates]

• As one of the survey respondents that advocated for the blog idea as well as for collaborative projects and information exchange with related groups such as the ABCD Caucus & the Society of American Archivists' Architectural Roundtable (in addition to AASL & SAH), I'm certainly in support of this. [Janine Henri, UCLA Arts Library]

• Some of the collaborative projects can be as ‘simple’ as creating a web portal with links to best practices, case studies, model projects, digital visualizations, etc. [Janine Henri, UCLA Arts Library]

• I also work for an architecture firm, in Atlanta, not a museum/college/library and am interested in a way to include these kinds of archives in our discussions! I think a blog could be a great way to share. [Lindsey Reynolds, The Portman Archives]
Part 1 – Survey Results.
1. What other architecture-related organizations do you belong to? Answered question: 28.

Other (please specify):
- Society for Industrial Archaeology
- DOCOMOMO-US
- ALA (including ACRL's Arts Section & Images Resources Roundtable)
- Although I don’t belong to these organizations, I also follow the listservs of ARCLIB (the UK architecture librarians group), the Architectural Roundtable of the Soc. of American Archivists, and the Special Libraries Association's Architecture, Building Engineering, Construction and Design Caucus.

Key:
- AASL (Assoc. of Architecture School Librarians)
- ACSA (Assoc. of Collegiate Schools of Architecture)
- AIA (American Institute of Architects)
- APA (American Planning Association)
- ASID (American Society of Interior Designers)
- ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects)
- FIDER (Foundation for Interior Design Ed. Research)
- NAAB (National Architectural Accrediting Board)
- SAH (Society of Architectural Historians)
2. How would you like to see information from other organizations shared with Architecture Section members? Answered question: 36.

**How to Share Information from Other Organizations with Architecture Section Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Reports</th>
<th>Oral Reports</th>
<th>Repeat Programming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other (please specify):
- I wish we had a section blog rather than a webpage, where members could post notices. We could then have an RSS feed. Perhaps also a section facebook page that would feed to the blog?
- This could provide some excellent programming for chapter meetings.
3. How would you like to see information from other organizations shared with ARLIS/NA members?
Answered question: 31.

Other (please specify):
- Not everything needs to be reported both orally & in writing.
4. What kinds of joint programs or initiatives might the Architecture Section jointly pursue with related organizations? Answered question: 34.

Other (please specify):
- Projects related to bibliographies or best practices or accreditation come to mind-- but open to consider others
- Web portals, web archiving, lists of digital projects, etc. Continue collab. with AASL re: NAAB standards.
- I don't have any specific projects in mind, but it would be great if the Architecture Section could collaborate with other organizations on projects we develop or other organizations’ projects that we could lend our expertise to.
Part 2.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan 2011-2015:
Goal IV. Emphasize Our Collections and Stewardship Role

Summary of survey results:

• Most respondents participate in interlibrary loan services, usually through regional consortiums.
• Several respondents noted that interlibrary loan services are managed by the main library or library administration and not the branch librarian or subject specialist.
• When asked what resource-sharing collaborations the Architecture Section might support, responses included:
  o A disciplinary focus and shared collection development strategies for regional high-density storage collections.
  o Digitization of drawings, plans, and other archival collections of architecture materials.
  o Public access to digitized architecture archives.
  o Encourage contributions to ARTstor and SAHARA.
  o Common LibGuides.
  o Collaborations in research and publishing.
  o Shared information on collection development and reference techniques.
  o Advocate for print on demand.
• When asked what some of the stewardship and preservation issues are for architecture collections, responses included:
  o Print journal preservation.
  o Mass digitization.
  o Preserving archival records, including blueprints and AutoCAD or other digital files.
  o Keeping out-of-date technical manuals and handbooks (for their historical value and for historic preservationists) when space is tight.
  o Protecting print materials when they are being shuttled back and forth to offsite shelving.
  o Shelving oversize materials.
  o Security.
  o Use and handling as it relates to library furniture and fixtures.
  o Web archiving.
  o Weeding.
  o Advocating better e-books from publishers.
• When asked about stewardship and preservation issues for special collections in architecture, responses included:
  o Preserving born-digital records.
  o Preserving architectural models.
Access to collections.
Access that is too restrictive.
Promoting the collections.

Highlights from the comments:

• My institution belongs to a consortium of libraries. My library is the only Architecture Library within the consortium so we tend to lend significant amounts of materials to users from the other member libraries. Other than that though, my institution does not have significant holdings of architecture or art materials that we could share with others.

• Access to digitized architectural drawings, plans, sections and elevations from their archives and special collections, provided copyright/fair use clearance requirements are met.

• Maybe not resource-sharing, but what about coordinating architectural record surveys? (reviving COPAR?).

• When to switch to e-books, if ever.

• We need better ebooks! As a group we should be pushing publishers to develop these.

• Access [to special collections] (it’s TOO secure); promotion (beyond the creation of CDM collections, the average user is not excited by that); collaboration among library staff (you know that’s not happening now)

• The immense problems of maintaining architectural documents, both paper and digital.

Questions for discussion:

• How can the Architecture Section best advocate resource-sharing, stewardship and preservation of collections?

• Are there other organizations or groups the Architecture Section should collaborate with to support resource-sharing, stewardship and preservation?

Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-I:

• As an academic librarian who works primarily with undergrad architects in a hands-on polytechnic setting, the big need I see is for digitized plans, sections and elevations, since they are much more scarce in general than photos, yet also more useful due to the technical details that photos lack. [Jesse Vestermark, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo]

• One thing that our section has done is to talk with the JSTOR folks about increasing the number of architecture titles and including professional practice titles. .... JSTOR has been working on this but not all publishers want to deal with them. And I’ve heard that JSTOR subscriptions are also problematic for some smaller institutions: these institutions would like to create their own groupings of titles rather than have to subscribe to the various JSTOR collections. So perhaps our section could find a way to encourage JSTOR to create an ‘architecture and design’ collection? [Janine Henri, UCLA Arts Library]

• ... I really would like us to have a ‘portal’ where we could link to digital projects and a blog where we could announce architectural collections that our various institutions are
digitizing. … A portal would allow us to create links to the various similar projects in the US & elsewhere. This might spur additional projects in regions where such projects are not already underway. And once we have a portal set up, perhaps we could undertake something a bit more ambitious, such as indexing selected blogs that regularly publish plans? And if we did that, would we also want to consider web archiving projects? [Janine Henri, UCLA Arts Library]

• Here’s a possible model for us for an “architecture scanning registry” or a “building plan registry.” Map Scanning Registry: http://mapregistry.library.arizona.edu/ [Janine Henri, UCLA Arts Library]

• As the archivist at a practicing architectural firm, my initial thought on this is that there should be a partnership between working firms and academic libraries to supply these types of materials. The partners at Pelli Clarke Pelli: http://pcparch.com/ are big believers in mentoring young architects and there is a good chance that they would be on board with this mission. Obviously access, copyright and use restrictions would need to be worked out. [Nicole Soriano, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects]

• I was wondering if we should consider a collaboration between the Architecture Section and the Architectural Records Roundtable on some of these issues. ARLIS/NA has a liaison to the roundtable’s parent organization, the Society of American Archivists, but should we be exploring a less formal liaison relationship between the Architecture Section and the roundtable? [Amy Trendler, Architecture Library, Ball State University]

• I think coordination with the Roundtable on the topic of plans is critical. [Patti Cossard, Architecture Library, Univ. Of Maryland]

Part 2 – Survey Results.

5. What resource-sharing initiatives do you or your library participate in?
Answered question: 13.

• Basic ILL services managed by the main library.
• IVAAG-- Ivies Art and Architecture Group (collaborative collection development initiative.
• SAHARA (though dormant right now)
• My institution belongs to a consortium of libraries. My library is the only Architecture Library within the consortium so we tend to lend significant amounts of materials to users from the other member libraries. Other than that though, my institution does not have significant holdings of architecture or art materials that we could share with others.
• Link+ for books (50 academic and public libraries in the region spanning Reno, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and the Bay Area). ILLiad. Online Archive of California. ARLIS-NA Urban and Regional Planning SIG Wiki
• Orbis Cascade consortium
• I work for a subscription database that shares many architecture collections.
• Ivies Art and Architecture Group BorrowDirect E-Z Borrow Standard ILL OCLC Shares
• California Digital Library; Online Archive of California; WEST; Hathi Trust; JSTOR Dim Archive; SHARES; Internet Archive; eScholarship
• OhioLINK
• Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Chicago, Career Education Corporation library consortium
• ILL etc-- all done at the upper administration level not by subject librarians except informally
• The University of Florida and the University of Miami have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create the Collaborative Academic Library Collection, a shared collection that will be housed in Gainesville for long-term preservation and retention of low use or duplicate library materials.

6. What resource-sharing collaborations might the Architecture Section support?
Answered question: 9.

• In HathiTrust libraries, as we move towards mass digitization, there is a move towards regional high density storage libraries for print items. I believe that there is a need for a disciplinary focus as well with shared collection development strategies.
• I don't know if it is the proper role of the Architecture Section, but I would like to encourage librarians at institutions with significant holdings of original architecture materials to lobby their institutions to digitize their collections and make their holdings available to the public as well as through ARTstor.
• Access to digitized architectural drawings, plans, sections and elevations from their archives and special collections, provided copyright/fair use clearance requirements are met.
• Ivies Art and Architecture Group
• N/A
• Maybe not resource-sharing, but what about coordinating architectural record surveys? (reviving COPAR?)
• Might encourage contributions to SAH's SAHARA project
• Advocating for print on demand?

7. What are some of the stewardship and preservation issues for architecture collections?
Answered question: 11.

• Print journal preservation
• Mass digitization
• preservation and conservation of blueprints; long-term storage and access to 'new' data -- AutoCAD files, other computer files (replacements to blueprints)
• With pressure to trim our print collections at my institution I hope there are other collections out there that can preserve the out-of-date technical and practical manuals
and similar materials that will someday be important to document the history of the architectural profession or as resources for future historic preservationists.

- I don't have any particular insight in this area.
- When to switch to e-books, if ever.
- rare printed materials: access, handling, shuttling between offsite shelving and main library without damage
- Web archiving
- Guidelines or good examples for shelving oversize works; security; use and handling as it relates to library furniture and fixtures.
- Weeding, storage, digitization
- We need better ebooks! As a group we should be pushing publishers to develop these.

8. What are some of the stewardship and preservation issues for special collections in architecture?
Answered question: 11.

- preservation of architectural models
- same
- same as 7
- I don't have any particular insight in this area.
- The immense problems of maintaining architectural documents, both paper and digital.
- Providing access to archives and preserving archives, analog and digital
- preservation of born digital records
- Access (it's TOO secure); promotion (beyond the creation of CDM collections, the average user is not excited by that); collaboration among library staff (you know that's not happening now);
- Preservation of digital archival files is a growing issue.
- digitization, preservation of the physical object
- Preservation and conservation of digitally born architecture design collections.
Part 3.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan 2011-2015:
Additional Goals to Support

Question for discussion:

- Are there other aspects of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan that you would like to see the Architecture Section support?

Excerpts from discussion on ARCHSEC-l:

- How many Architecture Section members are already participating in the ARLIS/NA career mentoring program? Maybe these folks want to get in touch with one another to share ideas. Is there something more the section could do to support mentoring? [Amy Trendler, Ball State University]

Part 3 – Survey Results.
9. Are there other aspects of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan that you would like to see the Architecture Section support? Answered question: 7.

- I think 1, 3 and 4 have been touched on by my earlier comments about wanting a cooperative database of digitized plans. Regarding number 5 about strengthening the society's communication, I have always hated skimming through the ARLIS/NA email listserv, past all the "do you have x issue of y journal?" emails for scraps of relevance to whatever my unique situation was at my different art librarian positions. I never understood why we don't have some sort of wiki, social network or faceted communication system--especially as librarians. Maybe if the Arch Section piloted something on it's own, and it worked, it could set an example for the national chapter.
- Perhaps some sort of cross-group collaboration could occur with AASL. Perhaps we could have a written summary of their conference papers.
- Mentoring: I see a role for section members to mentor new architecture librarians; Foster partnerships: we should be reaching out to colleagues outside of N. America and to colleagues in architecture related subgroups in SAA & SLA
- Support the idea that the best qualified candidates for position openings are formally trained in a subject area such as art or art history and stop chasing the out-of-work PhD's who are crowding into the libraries with no formal training in the area(s) they grab. A PhD is not a guarantee of anything more than the fact that the bearer didn't / couldn't join the professorate.
- User needs assessment in Architecture Collections would be a good project.
- Not sure without group discussion
- No recommendations.

Submitted by Amy Trendler, 2/13/13.