A Special Interest Group (SIG) devoted to provenance research within ARLIS/NA was proposed by Philip Dombowsky (National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa) to Vice-President/President Elect Gregory P.J. Most in November 2012. The group received early support from Erin Elliott (Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York), Deborah Kempe (Frick Art Reference Library, New York), and Larry Pfaff (Edward P. Taylor Research Library, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto), and was approved by the ARLIS/NA executive board on February 7, 2013.

The Provenance SIG was established to keep art librarians aware of current issues and activities related to provenance research. It will also act as a forum for provenance-related projects, including participation in future ARLIS/NA sessions and workshops. While the main focus will be provenance research as it relates to Nazi-looted cultural objects, the group will also be open to discussing provenance in a broader context, including its application to the history of books.

Shortly after receiving approval, an announcement of the group's formation was posted on ARLIS-L and on the ARLIS/NA website. The response was overwhelmingly positive and fifteen additional members from throughout the United States and Canada expressed an interest in joining the group. The inaugural meeting of the Provenance SIG will be held on Friday, April 26th at the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference in Pasadena. The agenda for the meeting is currently being drafted and will include a discussion of the group's mission, objectives, and future initiatives.