Annual Report 2019
Art Librarian Parents and Caregivers Special Interest Group

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Leadership Update and Distribution of Duties:
Stephanie Fletcher (Art Institute of Chicago) is Co-Moderator. Lori Salmon (New York University) began her tenure as Co-Moderator in late 2019. The incoming Co-Moderator will coordinate with the Executive Board about the conference childcare program, help advertise conference childcare, and contribute to the development of the annual conference session. The outgoing Co-Moderator will supervise the day-to-day activities of the SIG: sending reminders and announcements to the listserv, planning and scheduling the annual meeting and providing minutes to the membership, writing the annual report, responding to members’ inquiries, coordinating social media and our web presence, leading the development of the annual conference session, and publicizing events.

2019 Activities:
● Annual Meeting: We held our annual meeting on Wednesday March 27, 2019 at 12:30pm in the Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT. Twelve ARLIS/NA members attended and Stephanie Fletcher moderated. We discussed the development of a mentoring program for new caregivers; heard a report on conference childcare from Luke Leither (Salt Lake City Conference Co-Chair for Local Arrangements); discussed the use of Slack and other social media options; and Stephanie Fletcher made a call for Co-Moderator nominations.

● Session at 2019 ARLIS/NA Conference: ALPACA hosted a session entitled “Caregivers in Sight: Normalizing Parenting and Caregiving at Your Library” on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 9:50am. Kat Martinez (Childcare Trainer, Utah Department of Health) gave a keynote talk and a panel of ALPACA members talking about caregiving at their libraries. Panelists were Kate Joranson (University of Pittsburgh), Sonja Lehman (IUPUI), Gwen Mayhew (Metropolitan Museum of Art), and Ian McDermott (LaGuardia Community College). Karyn Hinkle (University of Kentucky) moderated the session.

● Conference Child Care: Luke Leither reported to ALPACA about the conference childcare program in Salt Lake City. Two children from two families were enrolled in 2019, which is a decrease in attendance from the previous two years. He suggested that, to maintain and grow the program, ARLIS/NA should create a dedicated Coordinator position for the conference planning committee and update the conference
planning manual accordingly. Luke pointed out that the program only fails if someone with a childcare need does not get the information about it and therefore cannot benefit from it. Even with lower numbers, this remains an essential service that supports working families and enables parents to attend the annual conference.

- Conference Lactation Room: Stephanie Fletcher coordinated with Nancy Short at the ARLIS/NA office to secure a private lactation room in the conference hotel.

- Session Proposal for 2020 ARLIS/NA Conference: Stephanie Fletcher proposed a session for the 2020 conference entitled “Family-Un/Friendly: Reimagining our Institutions’ Leave Policies.” It was accepted.

- Poster Presentation for 2019 ACRL Conference: Amy Ballmer (Pratt Institute) and Gabriella Karl-Johnson (Princeton University) presented a poster entitled “Conference Child Care: Yes! It is Possible” at the 2019 ACRL conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

- Social Media: The Co-Moderators will embark on a website update in 2020.

- *Art Documentation* Article: Stephanie Fletcher and Anna Simon (University of Wisconsin) authored an article on conference childcare entitled “Addressing the Gender Gap: Confronting Inequities in Librarians’ Professional Advancement by Establishing a Conference Childcare Program.” It was accepted for publication in the Spring 2020 issue of *Art Documentation*.

**Upcoming Events:**

- 2020 ARLIS/NA Conference: The ALPACA session, “Family-Un/Friendly: Reimagining our Institutions’ Leave Policies” was scheduled for the 2020 conference. Lori Salmon and Jill Luedke (Temple University) assisted Stephanie Fletcher with planning and moderating the session.

- Annual Meeting: The 2020 annual meeting was postponed. We will hold the annual meeting virtually later in 2020.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:**

Diversity and Inclusion: ALPACA’s core values are equality, commitment, diversity, and inclusion. Members of this group are committed to fulfilling their roles as librarians and parents/caregivers to the best of their ability, simultaneously. Our goal is to support and enable one another to navigate these roles more successfully while advocating the development of institutional policies that promote the well-being of families through adequate flex and leave time. Many parents and caregivers benefit from the professional support this group provides, promoting inclusion. The existence of a parenting and caregiving group within a professional organization is nearly unheard-of, so we diversify the Society through our efforts to challenge our profession to develop institutional policies that promote and support childbearing, childrearing, and caregiving.
Leadership and Advocacy: ALPACA promotes leadership and advocacy by offering peer mentoring, sharing stories of successes and failures when negotiating for better working conditions and family-friendly policies, and teaching our members how to advocate for themselves and their dependents. A large swath of the art librarian workforce contend with work/life balance. Many of us aspire to hold leadership positions in ARLIS/NA—and we will, with the right support. ALPACA provides that community of support necessary for parents and caregivers to achieve leadership roles within the Society and at their own institutions.

Examples of 2019 initiatives that align with these Strategic Directions are the continuation of the conference childcare program as a permanent fixture at the annual conference; securing a lactation room at the conference hotel in Salt Lake City; hosting the 2019 conference session on normalizing parenting and caregiving in academic and museum libraries; organizing a session for the 2020 conference on family leave policies; and the successful submission of an article for publication in *Art Documentation*. 