ARLIS/NA Group or Appointment:

International Relations Committee

Submitted by: Name: Beverly Mitchell, IRC chair, 2019-2020
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- Leadership Update (continuing and incoming officers names and roles):

Gabrielle V. L. Reed
Incoming IRC chair, 2020-
Access Services Librarian, Massachusetts College of Art, Morton R. Godine Library, 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 USA
gabrielle.reed@massart.edu Phone: 617-879-7102

Amy Furness
Incoming ARLIS/NA Board Liaison, 2020-
Head, Library & Archives
Art Gallery of Ontario, E.P. Taylor Library & Archives, 317 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M5T 1G4, Canada
amy.furness@ago.ca Phone: 416-979-6660 x356

Viveca Pattison Robichaud, IFLA Liaison, (Ex Officio), 2017-
Special Collections Librarian, University of Notre Dame, Architecture Library, Hesburgh Libraries, 117 Bond Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA
vivcarobichaud@nd.edu Phone: 443-996-2228

- Membership (continuing and incoming members):

Spyros Koulouris, 2018-
Villa I Tatti, Berenson Library, Via Di Vincigliata 22, Florence 50135, Italy
skoulouris@itatti.harvard.edu Phone: +393404657377

Isotta Poggi, 2018-
Assistant Curator, Getty Research Institute, Curatorial Department, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Ste. 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90049 USA
ipoggi@getty.edu Phone: 310-440-7396

Abby Stambach, 2019-
Activities during the past year:

- Venice Study Tour (June 10-16, 2019) - organized and led by IRC members, Spyros Koulouris and Isotta Poggi. This weeklong itinerary to museums, archives and libraries in Venice during a Venice Biennale year, culminated with a symposium, Building Bridges, between ARLIS/NA members and colleagues in Venice. IR study tour scholarship recipient, Chantal Sulkow, shared images and updates with the Society throughout the week, as well as a report. Organizers of the study tour created a final report for ARLIS/NA. This study tour, with the symposium and collaboration with sponsors, was of great value to each of the participants. As study tours have grown in educational and professional value, Spyros Koulouris, Gabrielle Reed, Beverly Mitchell and other members of the IRC have developed an updated study tour planning guide, submitted to the Executive Board in February 2020.

- ARLIS/NA Learning Portal - Spyros Koulouris in collaboration with Amy Hunsaker, member of the ARLIS/NA education subcommittee, compiled and uploaded the presentations from the Venice study tour to the Learning Portal. This symposium, “Building Bridges,” included presentations from both ARLIS/NA members and Venetian librarians.

- Donation to the Marciana Library - owing to the generosity of the ARLIS/NA Executive Board, the Marciana Library, a host institution in Venice, received a $500 donation from the Society and an acknowledgement.

- Support by President Laura Schwartz to Venice institutions affected by the aqua alta weather event - IRC member, Isotta Poggi and chair, Beverly Mitchell requested support from President Schwartz. She responded by supporting the report submitted by Isotta Poggi and Spyros Koulouris to ARLIS-I regarding the Venice flood and its impact upon Venitian libraries.

- Japan Study Tour (postponed for 2021) - organized by Debbie Kempe, Dan Lipcan, and current IRC member, Tad Suzuki. This study tour was originally planned for mid to late October 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tour organizers communicated with the
Japanese hosts to ask for and were granted a postponement to 2021.

- Future study tour venues approved - in keeping with the study tour planning guide’s recommendation to identify sites two years ahead, the IRC proposed two future study tour venues, Greece and Chile. The ARLIS/NA Executive Board approved both venues. IRC member, Spyros Koulouris has volunteered to lead a study tour in Greece, and IRC incoming chair, Gabrielle Reed, has volunteered to lead the one for Chile. Due to the postponement of the Japan study tour, the years for these study tours are pushed out to 2022 for Greece and 2023 for Chile.

- Processing fee for study tour participants - the IRC and study tour organizers for Japan adopted the recommendation from the Executive Board, and planned to implement a processing fee for all study tour participants to cover headquarters cost of time and labor. The fee is based upon number of hours spent on the Venice study tour and HQ’s cost per hour. Treasurer, Doug Litts, was very helpful by collaborating and obtaining this information for the IRC.

- Virtual Meeting in May 2019 - organized with member librarians of Redarte-São Paulo and attended by Laura Schwartz, ARLIS/NA President; Kim Collins, past-president; Carol Ng-He, education sub-committee member; and Beverly Mitchell, IRC chair. Led by ARLIS/NA and Redarte-SP member, Vânia Mara Alves Lima, the librarians of Redarte-SP presented information about their libraries, archives and other collections. This meeting was a new approach for the IRC to meet with international colleagues and offers another model for global meetings.

- IRC-sponsored session, “International Perspectives: panel presentations from art information professionals abroad,” for the ARLIS/NA 48th Annual Conference went out as a call in fall 2019. This call also included a promotion for Kress Travel Grant applications and deadline. One international applicant received a Kress grant and four applicants accepted the invitation to present at this session.

- Art Documentation publication proposal - IRC member, Isotta Poggi and Angela Munari submitted the introductory presentation from the Venice study tour symposium, “Building Bridges.” This presentation by Munari, Fondazione Querini Stampalia and president of the Veneto Chapter of the Italian Library Association, addresses the peril and fluidity of preserving collections and libraries in a constantly changing world, and concludes with the advocacy for libraries to take on an active social role in the communities they serve. The analogy of water and preservation is particularly apt and prescient given Venice’s *aqua alta* weather crisis in October 2019.
• **Ongoing projects:**

- Kim Collins, ARLIS/NA Past-president; Suzanne Rackover, IRC Liaison; and Beverly Mitchell, IRC chair, have formed a working group to review the Society’s international affiliates and its responsibilities to these colleagues.

• **Preliminary goals** for next year:

As Gabrielle Reed takes over as IRC chair for this year, she will be setting goals in collaboration with members of the committee.

Articulate how your activities, projects and goals relate to the ARLIS/NA [Strategic Directions]:

In alignment with the mission of the IRC, the committee’s goals and work for this past year address at least four of the Society’s six Strategic Directions points on an international level. Members of the IRC and study tour participants, in the work referenced above have given support to **leadership and advocacy** of the Society as well as **organizational advancement**. The study tours and sharing of knowledge with the Society through the Learning Portal, **Art Documentation** submission, and IRC conference panel session demonstrate educational and professional development support of **art information professionals**. In all manner of collaboration and communication with international colleagues, the IRC actively supports **diversity and inclusion**.

**Other** (please share anything else you want the membership to know about your group or your role):

In addition to the IRC’s organization and lead of the study tour in Venice and planning of future study tours, the committee has and continues to share international educational and professional development opportunities more broadly with ARLIS/NA members. These opportunities include the symposium on the Learning Portal and the planned conference panel session. In light of the Japan study tour postponement to 2021, the coming months will likely be a time for the IRC to think of the committee’s goals and work in new directions. Having had the honor to serve as the chair, I appreciate and commend the commitment and immense amount of time and effort by IRC members and officers, Suzanne Rackover and Vivica Robichaud, to serve the committee’s objectives of the mission. Their work directly serves the Society and its strengthening of international relations among our affiliates and other art information professionals abroad.