Leadership Update: Amy Trendler will be taking over the role of President on April 22, 2020.

Activities:

This report covers my term as President of ARLIS/NA from the annual membership meeting in Salt Lake City, March 29, 2019 through the virtual annual membership meeting and convocation (which was held online due to the global pandemic, COVID-19).

I. Meetings and communications
II. Conferences
III. Affiliates and Liaisons
IV. Advocacy and Public Policy
V. Association Management Services
VI. Budget and Finance
VII. Development
VIII. Digital Art History Directory (DAHD)
IX. Distinguished Service Award
X. Diversity and Inclusion
XI. Humanities Commons Implementation Task Force (HCITF)
XII. International Relations
XIII. Membership
XIV. NDSR Art
XV. OCLC Policy on Worldcat Holdings
XVI. Summer Educational Institute (SEI)
XVII. Under Development/In Process

I. Meetings and communications
   A. I facilitated and crafted agendas for 14 Executive Board Meetings
      • Salt Lake City, UT, The Grand America Hotel, March 30, 2019
      • UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA, September 12-13, 2019
      • Executive Board Monthly Conference Calls:
         • April 24, 2019; May 22, 2019; June 26, 2019; July 31, 2019; October 30, 2019; November 20, 2019; December 18, 2019; January 22, 2020; February 26, 2020; March 12, 2020; March 25, 2020; April 22, 2020, moved online (co-facilitated with Amy Trendler)
During these meetings, the Executive Board made 94 Motions, created 182 Action Items, and approved 13 Project & Service Charters.

B. I sent out 20 messages on the ARLIS-L Listserv

- 3/31/2020 Remembrances 2019-2020
- 3/26/2020 48th ARLIS/NA Annual Membership Meeting and Convocation Program
- 3/17/2020 Update from the ARLIS/NA President
- 3/12/2020 St. Louis conference update
- 3/6/2020 St. Louis conference update
- 2/10/2020 phishing emails
- 1/31/2020 2020 ARLIS/NA Leadership Institute announcement
- 1/30/2020 Winter announcements from the ARLIS/NA President
- 12/11/2019 Happy Holidays from the ARLIS/NA Executive Board
- 11/21/2019 Fall 2019 message from the ARLIS/NA President
- 11/7/2019 ARLIS/NA Membership Renewals
- 10/18/2019 Feedback on WorldCat Holdings Policy
- 8/19/2019 Summer 2019 message from the ARLIS/NA President
- 6/28/2019 SEI Call for Future Host Sites, 2020-2021
- 6/10/2019 REMINDER: ARLIS/NA-DLF GLAM Cross-Pollinator Opportunity
- 5/30/2019 NDSR Art Update
- 5/29/2019 ARLIS/NA-DLF GLAM Cross-Pollinator Opportunity
- 5/20/2019 ALA Affiliates Booth
- 4/26/2019 RE: ARLIS/NA 50th Anniversary Celebration (Chicago)
- 4/3/2019 Humanities Commons Task Force Report 2019

II. Conferences

A. Conference overview

The 48th Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America was planned for April 20-24, 2020 in St. Louis, Missouri with the theme Preserve, Enhance, Reimagine. On Thursday March 12, the Executive Board voted to cancel the conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Annual Membership Meeting and Convocation have been combined into one 90-minute online event scheduled for April 22 from 9am-10:30am Pacific Time/12:00pm-1:30pm Eastern Time. The executive board will update the membership on the accomplishments of the society over the last year, business will be discussed, awards will be presented and there will be time for Q&A. St. Louis program participants have been given options to deliver their work in another way: 1. present at a synchronous virtual conference, 2. present at an asynchronous virtual conference, 2. publish their material in Art Documentation or as a Research Report, 4. present in Montreal in 2021, or 5. refrain from participating. The date and time for the virtual conference are yet to be determined. What follows are highlights of the events that were to occur in St Louis.

B. Leadership Institute

The theme of the Leadership Institute was Design Thinking focusing on leadership practices for collaborative design. Robert Mark Morgan, Teaching Professor of Performing Arts (Design) at Washington University, was to facilitate the discussions. Rob is director of the Beyond Boundaries Program at the university and an expert in design thinking, and has led human-centered design workshops for many years to a wide variety of audiences. This would have been the 6th Leadership Institute for ARLIS/NA. As Design Thinking was a growth area surfaced by the Strategic Directions Committee, my hope is that we are able to plan a future Leadership Institute with that as the theme.

C. Social Events

Local Arrangement chairs, Jenny Akins and Andrea Degener, did an excellent job planning events. The Welcome Reception was to be held at the St. Louis Art Museum. The Convocation Reception was to be held at Chase Park Plaza’s Starlight Room. The Society Circle event was to be held at the Cupples House at St Louis University. And there was a closing reception planned for the St. Louis City Museum.
special events were designed to support networking and a collaborative community for all ARLIS/NA stakeholders.

D. Programming

Program co-chairs, Skye Lacerte and Rina Vecchiola, built a solid program of panels, workshops, posters, and discussion groups around the conference theme.

The theme **Preserve, Enhance, Reimagine** focused on how art information professionals use, reflect, and build upon our core values and practices to inform our future. The conference was to showcase adaptive reuse, architectural preservation, and social change and activism in the arts, all prevalent in St. Louis. The programming was tied to Core Competencies and featured learning tracks for the second year.

Plenary Speakers scheduled were Wassan Al-Khudhairi, the Chief Curator at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis and Adrienne Davis, William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law; Vice Provost; and the founding Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at Washington University in St. Louis. The Diversity Forum was to focus on accessibility and Cyrée Johnson and Shannon Finnegan were the planned speakers.

From compelling sessions to valuable workshops to inspiring art and architecture to enjoyable social gatherings in a vibrant and diverse city, the 48th Annual Conference was on track to be a very successful and exciting conference. I am so disappointed that the conference was cancelled but I am hopeful that much of the content will be able to be delivered in one form or another.

E. Future Conferences

**2021 Montreal** – Planning for the 49th Annual Conference continues. Conference Planning Co-chairs Adèle Flannery, Viveca Robichaud, Jennifer Garland, and John Latour are meeting regularly and discussing how to move forward after the pandemic. The co-chairs were generous in offering their conference as a potential venue for derailed St. Louis content. The conference dates are May 9-15, 2021 at the Hôtel Bonaventure Montréal.

**2022 Chicago** – At this conference we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ARLIS/NA. The Art Libraries Society of North America was founded in Chicago in the fall of 1972 when a group of ten dedicated art, architecture, and design librarians met during the annual American Library Association (ALA) Conference. A 50th Anniversary Task Force has been charged with coordinating and encouraging efforts around the ARLIS/NA 50th Anniversary throughout the society and throughout the anniversary year, complementing the CPAC. Conference Planning co-chairs are Alexis Burson, Melanie Emerson, Doug Litts, and Rebecca Price.

**2023 Mexico City** – At this conference we will have the opportunity to meet in Mexico for the first time as a Society (though the Texas-Mexico Chapter has meet their twice). Conference Planning co-chairs are Jon Evans, Fernando Corona, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller and Gabrielle Reed.

III. Affiliates and Liaisons

A. As President, I work directly with the appointed **affiliate liaisons**. It was apparent that over the last couple of years, this group of society leaders has not been the getting necessary direction and attention needed and it was time to address this issue. To that end, Executive Board members Kim Collins and Suzanne Rackover were tasked with a report and recommendations which included a new annual report template customized to meet the needs of liaisons and a new basecamp instance to promote community within this cohort who need a venue to learn from and share with one another.

B. This year the **Digital Library Federation (DLF) Cross-Pollinator** initiative was revived. The society membership again became eligible to take part in the DLF’s GLAM Cross-Pollinator Registration Awards program. The program is designed to offer museum and library staff with new opportunities to meet with experienced DLF members to share new viewpoints and develop new strategies for meeting the challenges of the developing digital environment.
C. As ARLIS/NA President, I was invited to attend ARLIS/UK-Ireland as a VIP guest. In addition, I was given the opportunity to present a paper on the Visual Art & Architecture Digital Collections at UC San Diego. Reciprocal complimentary conference registration for the president and executive director of affiliates is a benefit of official affiliation.

D. I also worked closely with Lucy Campbell, the President of the Association of Architecture School Libraries (AASL) on their conference in San Diego, March 12-14, 2020. UC San Diego’s Geisel Library was to be the host on March 13. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this conference was also cancelled.

IV. Advocacy and Public Policy
Thanks to the diligent work of the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee led by Serenity Ibsen, three important documents were drafted this year.

A. Library, archives, and museums closure advocacy statement. This statement is in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and endorses of ALA’s statement on the closure of library facilities.

B. Best Practices in Art Information Job Recruitment is a well-researched report with solid recommendations on transparent and equitable hiring practices. The Professional Development Committee served as consultants on this report and feedback from the membership will be solicited soon.

C. On the treatment of Interns is a statement urging ARLIS/NA member organizations to offer paid internships and provide transparency in internship postings. This statement will be distributed later this spring.

V. Association Management Services
Nancy Short provided excellent support of ARLIS/NA over the past year. Of note, she worked tirelessly on bundled membership and conference support.

A. An annual review of the management company was done in August 2019 with input from the Executive Board and society leadership.

B. ARLIS/NA’s contract with Association Executives Group (AEG) is set to expire April 30, 2021. In anticipation of the contract expiration, a Management Review Task Force was formed and charged with making recommendations for a new management contract including requirements for an RFP. The Task Force recommended contracting with a third party to assess the management company and recommend a way forward. ARLIS/NA has contracted with Bloch & Reed to perform the assessment.

VI. Budget and Finance
2019 was a very good year for ARLIS/NA with the stock market doing well and a financially successful conference in Salt Lake City. ARLIS/NA ended up in the black for 2019. The first quarter of 2020 has been dismal for ARLIS/NA’s finances. The COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic had a two-fold impact on the society. First, without a conference, there will be no conference revenue for 2020. Second, the society’s investments are down because of the weakened economy.

VII. Development
The Development Committee led by Chair Gregg Most focused on evaluating the structure, sustainability, and effectiveness of how development and fundraising is carried out in the Society. In addition, the Committee returned to taking a more active role in conference development activities which proved to be effective and will continue in the future.

A. Keystone and Bequest - The Committee developed long-term giving initiatives over the last year that will be rolled out in coming months

B. Grants – The Committee assisted in developing the following successful grant proposals:

i. The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for the International Relations Committee’s Study Tour to Italy
C. Fundraising – With the cancellation of the 48th Annual Conference, a conference recovery fund was established and announced. Individuals, home institutions, sponsors/business affiliates, and chapters have donated. These contributions will help tremendously with the society’s finances during this difficult year.

VIII. Digital Art History Directory (DAHD)
The DAHD initiative was awarded grant funds from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to support its development. A developer has been hired for this project and the website is being built out. A data-thon is being scheduled and it will be ready for a debut in the coming months. As a reminder the DAHD is a registry of digital art history projects that provides access, discoverability, and pedagogical uses of digital art history projects, the DAHD will also be concerned with sustainability (both intellectually and technologically) and diversity (projects from both large and small institutions/publications).

IX. Distinguished Service Award
The Distinguished Service Award Committee selected Milan Hughston as the 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

X. Diversity and Inclusion
As the Diversity, Membership and Development Committees are all eager to secure grant funding to build diversity in art librarianship, I reached out to the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office of Diversity and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) for advice and consultation. ARL worked with both the Music Library Association and the Society of American Archivists to secure grant funding for these sub-disciplines of librarianship. These specific opportunities are no longer available and ARLIS/NA is not set up to be a PI on a grant therefore we would need to partner with another organization or institution on a grant. Both Gwendolyn Prellwitz, Assistant Director, ALA Office of Diversity and Mark Puente ARL Director of Diversity and Leadership Initiatives were supportive and informative. Gwendolyn offered to act as a PI on behalf of ARLIS/NA, administering a grant and acting as the fiscal agent. She could possibly dedicate 5% of her time to administering a grant for ARLIS/NA. Mark offered to further consult and review any grant proposals developed. The next step is to find a funding opportunity and apply for a grant.

XI. Humanities Commons Implementation Task Force (HCITF)
The Executive Board voted to move forward with the implementation of the Humanities Commons (branded as ARLIS/NA Commons). This year the HCITF lead by Roger Lawson, Editorial Director, and Meredith Kahn, Open Access Coordinator, have worked diligently to prepare the Society to move publications, learning tools, and internal communications to an open access platform exposed to a wider range of related professions. The ARLIS/NA Commons will provide the opportunity to share scholarship openly, collaborate across disciplinary boundaries, and create new digital resources for teaching and research. ARLIS/NA will actively shape the future of how scholarship, pedagogical practices, and communication tools are created and disseminated in the arts and allied disciplines. To be successful, it is essential that members engage in the ARLIS/NA Commons and society leadership will work to make this a priority. Of note, ARLIS/NA was honored to be invited to participate in a Kress funded Humanities Commons grant: Expanding Open Networking in Art and Art History which would fund our member fees in the Humanities Commons for a two year period. While the HCITF has completed as much work as possible for the launch, we are awaiting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the host, Michigan State University (MSU) and there will be additional delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once things normalizes, we look forward to the launch of this important tool.

XII. International Relations
A. The International Relations Committee (IRC) planned a successful trip to Italy in June 2019. The Venice Study Tour and Building Bridges Symposium was organized and led by Isotta Poggi and Spyros Koulouris. The Delmas Foundation generously funded the Chorus Pass to Churches, the
group entrance fees to the Venice Biennale, and transportation throughout the week. 21 individuals attend the Study Tour.

B. Future International Relations Committee (IRC) study tours have been planned. Japan in October 2020 was originally scheduled but due to the COVID-19 pandemic this tour has been postponed until October 2021. Greece, originally scheduled for 2021, has been pushed back to 2022 and Chile, originally scheduled for 2022 has been pushed back to 2023. A portion of the Kress Grant for International Travel will be used for a Study Tour Scholarship each year.

C. The IRC scheduled a meeting with REDARTE and ARLIS/NA leadership in June. During this fruitful meeting connections were made, ideas were exchanged, and our Brazilian colleagues has the opportunity to showcase their institutions and job responsibilities.

XIII. Membership
A. As of March 2020, these are the ARLIS/NA membership numbers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactive</td>
<td>318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Affiliate</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed/Bridge</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Bundled membership was rolled out during Fall 2019 after AEG completed the transition to a new membership database which was necessary for Humanities Commons implementation and to move our data into a newer infrastructure. Though the implementation had some issues that needed to be addressed, it was successful. While the database was being redesigned, bundled membership was added as a feature. Individual members of ARLIS/NA now have the opportunity to join one chapter of their choice when renewing or joining and we can proceed with Humanities Commons implementation. Enhancements that still need to be addressed include the ability to join more than one chapter and discussing the possibility with chapters of making all membership levels the same dues amount therefore providing bundled membership to all types of members. 324 members took advantage of the bundled membership this year. I appreciate the patience of all of the members and chapter leaders as we made the transition. Thank you to all our chapters, as well as Stefanie Hilles, Chapters Liaison and Laurel Bliss Membership Committee Chair and the membership committee for championing this effort and troubleshooting all of the details.

C. The Paraprofessional Membership Task Force Report and recommendations were completed in January 2020. The Task Force was convened to insure ARLIS/NA was giving members at all places in their career as much support as possible. The Task Force explored the feasibility of creating a new membership category for support and paraprofessional staff. Through the analysis of members’ job titles, an environmental scan, a literature review and a survey, the Task Force developed their report and recommendations which included creating a new membership level for paraprofessionals and support staff and creating or adopting a statement of “inclusiveness and mutual respect” in the style of the ALA statement on the topic. The recommendations demonstrate ARLIS/NA’s continued commitment to inclusion.

XIV. NDSR Art
In July 2019, the National Digital Stewardship Residency for art information professionals (NDSR Art) concluded with the end of the second and final cohort. Over the last year, the NDSR Art Update was published. Written by Cory Budden, Abigail Dansiger, and Anne Trenholme, the Report includes a
summary of the first year of the NDSR Art program, recommendations for continuing education in digital preservation and stewardship for ARLIS/NA membership, and possible next steps for a follow up report after the second year of NDSR Art concluded. The 2018-2019 NDSR Art Cohort Institutions were the Art Institute of Chicago, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Small Data Industries, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

**Project Descriptions and Final Reports** are available to review. ARLIS/NA continues to be deeply interested in the future of NDSR Art and will be engaging over the coming year on what is next for this important program. Thanks to Kristen Regina and Karina Wratschko who served as the PIs and continue to champion the project.

**XV. OCLC Policy on Worldcat holdings**

Promoted by a lively discussion on ARLIS-L in Fall 2020 on OCLC holdings disparities and Firstsearch subscription pricing, I drafted a communication to OCLC and sent it to Bruce Crocco, Vice-President for North America Relations. I outlined the problem that small libraries contribute records to OCLC but in most cases do not have access to these records because the pricing model for Firstsearch is out of reach. In addition, researchers not affiliated with a subscribing institution are also not able to view these important records on the Worldcat.org platform. Included in the communication were recommendations that OCLC to implement a tiered pricing model for Firstsearch so that small libraries can subscribe therefore expose their records to the research community. An alternative, albeit less desirable recommendation was to offer a discount to the current pricing based on the number of records contributed. OCLC is interested in working with ARLIS/NA to come up with a solution. A proposal from OCLC is forthcoming in May which includes a group pricing model for ARLIS/NA members that would provide discounts on the OCLC subscription and would result in holdings displayed in worldcat.org.

**XVI. SEI (Summer Educational Institute)**

This year SEI changed their name from Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management to Summer Educational Institute for Digital Stewardship of Visual Information. SEI developed a Code of Conduct this year. Northwestern University was selected as host site for 2020 and 2021 but the June 2020 Institute was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next SEI will be in June 2021. ARLIS/NA suggested a curriculum review and transformation including integration of NDSR Art learning objectives. Lastly, SEI was the subject of a copyright infringement lawsuit that began in Fall 2018 and was resolved by the ARLIS/NA and VRAF Boards in Fall 2019.

**XVII. Under Development/In Progress**


As a follow-up to the Academic Division’s State of the Academic Art Libraries 2019 report and the Museum Division’s 2016 report, the Art & Design School Division was charged with drafting a report. While the primary audience will be Art & Design School librarians, the information in the report will have much broader applications.

B. **Collection of Art and Design Open Educational Resources (OER)**

The Research and Information Services Section (RISS) is working with Meredith Kahn, Open Access Coordinator on a centralized OER index featuring resources relevant to art and design curricula that will provided short descriptions and be regularly updated.

**Conclusion and Goals in my role as Past-President in 2019-2020:**

I look forward to working with the Strategic Directions Committee and assisting as needed with the ARLIS/NA Commons project. I will oversee the Kress International Travel Awards for the next cycle. I will also continue to pursue grant opportunities to support diversity in art librarianship and NDSR Art curriculum. Furthermore, I will dedicate my year as Past-President to overcoming challenges the Society is facing due to the long-lasting impact of COVID-19.

It has been an honor to serve the Society as President. I would like to thank the 2019-2020 Executive Board – Stefanie Hilles, Lindsay King, Doug Litts, Roger Lawson, Lauren MacDonald, Suzanne Rackover, Rachel Resnik, Nancy Short and Amy Trendler as well as all the leaders and members of the society. We are stronger together.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schwartz, President, ARLIS/NA, 2019-2020