ARLIS/NA Board Meeting – June 27, 2007

Participating: Deborah Ultan Boudewyns, Cate Cooney, Sue Koskinen, Marilyn Nasserden, Rebecca Price, Fran Scott, Amy Trendler, Ann Whiteside

**Agenda: discussion of the Chat Room format for our online meetings**

Ultan Boudewyns brought up some of the issues of the chat format: short message length, stress of quick responses, lack of ability to attach documents, iffy internet connections (forcing one to be booted from room), etc. She wonders if there is a way to make the chat format work or if we should pursue other options.

She proposes setting only one or two agenda items when we use the chat format, so that discussion can remain focused. The problems with email meetings are that they are often out of synch forcing the discussion to meander and they extend over such a long period of time (2-3 days) that discussions don’t easily come to a close. Suggested switching off from chat to email depending on the number of agenda items.

Others confirmed both the advantages and the discomfort with the chat format. It was suggested that when we use email, we limit the discussion to a 24 hour period, to help focus the conversation. There was agreement this might work well. We can also try to be disciplined about sticking to the agenda order for discussion. A combination of formats may be the best way to go, depending on the number and complexity of issues to be discussed.

Approved 9/17/07
Submitted: Rebecca Price, ARLIS/NA Secretary