

TheMedium

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President's Column

It was nice to see so many busy Texas-Mexico Chapter members in Washington, D.C.! Busy is the operative word as we go forward with the responsibility of planning and hosting next year's 43rd Annual Conference in Fort Worth. As Chapter President, I now appreciate how much effort it takes to pull off such an event and thus we should all be extremely grateful to the Local Arrangements and Programming Co-Chairs for their diligent and dedicated work so far.



Our theme *New Frontiers on the Old Frontier* sums up perfectly what Fort Worth will offer our Society. A pioneer city that embraces the arts like no other, the first-class museums alone will more than impress a first time visitor. My informal quips to colleagues in Washington about the wonders of Fort Worth were greeted very positively with affirming remarks that they couldn't wait to experience it.

Another important ARLIS/NA event happening this year is our Annual Chapter Meeting to be held in Orange, Texas on October 17-19. As Fort Worth may seem new and unexplored to many of our ARLIS/NA colleagues, so Orange may seem to our own chapter members! I can assure you that this small border town is loaded with charm and incredible cultural venues that any larger city would envy!

More announcements on that later...

Many thanks to everyone who contributed content to this issue of *The Medium*.

Best Wishes,

Edward Lukasek
2014 President
Art Library Society of North America
Texas-Mexico Chapter

ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison Report

Hello Texas-Mexico Chapter Members!

I am now half way through my two-year term, as Chapters Liaison on the ARLIS/NA Executive Board. I've enjoyed working with all 17 chapters and I look forward to working with you until the 2015 annual conference in Fort Worth, TX.



At the 2014 annual conference in Washington D.C., the Executive Board had pre- and post-conference meetings and during the conference the Chapter Chairs and I met for a roundtable meeting. I wanted to share few highlights with you:

Conferences

Washington D.C. Conference: It was a record-breaking success (surpassing the success of the 2013 Pasadena conference)! We welcomed 791 registrants, the largest ARLIS/NA conference to date. The fundraising efforts totaled \$77,000. We greatly appreciate the support of the sponsors and the 76 vendors.

Future Conferences: I look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth, TX from March 19-23, 2015. We will meet in Seattle, WA in 2016 for the 3rd joint conference with the Visual Resources Association (VRA). The Executive Board is working with prospective host chapters to select a 2017 location.

Virtual Conference: In June, four taped sessions from the D.C. Conference will be available to members and non-members through our new learning software. Watch ARLIS-L for more details.

Chapter Chairs Roundtable

The chapter chairs will begin to meet virtually every quarter. These virtual meetings will be a venue for chapter chairs to discuss similar topics and brainstorm new ideas. The meetings will also include key members from the Society who will discuss relevant chapter related topics such as development, diversity, and ARLIS/NA's Strategic Plan. In addition, to these virtual meetings, we will have the in-person meeting at the conference and have discussions on the chapters officers listserv.

Strategic Plan 2011-2015

I would like to remind you that chapter activities should align with ARLIS/NA's Strategic Plan. I recommend that all chapter members familiarize themselves with the plan, which is available [here](#).

ARLIS/NA Website (AWS)

I hope you have had the chance to peruse the newly-designed website. Be sure to log in to the website with your member username and password to see all member-only information. The website no longer has a dedicated member's page, instead member-only information can appear on any page within the website.

The Executive Board will continue to have our monthly phone meetings and we will gather in-person in New York for the mid-year Executive Board meeting on August 14-15, 2014. As usual, with every meeting we will have a lot to discuss toward the advancement of ARLIS/NA. I will keep you posted!
If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all the best,

Sarah Sherman
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Conference Reports: Book Art SIG Meeting at ARLIS/NA 42nd Annual Conference

The Book Art Special Interest Group met on Friday May 2, 2014, in the Wilson Room of the Grand Hyatt, with 29 people in attendance. Amanda Meeks and Michelle Strizever convened the meeting. We discussed the [Book Art SIG](#), specifically the results of the survey on the group's use and aims for the blog, topics for the blogs, and incorporation of guest bloggers.

Heather Slania and Jay Fishel updated the group on their team's work on the Book Arts Thesaurus Project which currently includes 158 terms related to structure, binding types, techniques, etc. The group drew on relevant terms from LCSH and RBMS and other sources. They then demonstrated the website and estimated that a version would be released to the group for comment in approximately six months.

The session then moved to the discussion of member topics, including collection development policies and budgets related to book arts. Most institutions did not have a formal collection development policy, though those that did were closely aligned to curricular needs. Most of the group lamented having small budgets and noted that it was rare to have budgetary designations specifically for artists books. Several people noted that flexibility and working creatively with other departments (and their funds!) was often the key to successful collection building as well as building new partnerships. Recommendations also included looking into special funds, discretionary funds, and budget leftovers are possible avenues for building book arts collections.

The meeting concluded with plugs for several book arts related events at the conference, including including:

- [Bookings: Making Makerspaces for Artists Books](#)
- [Artists' Books DC: Developing Access, Promoting Research and Fostering Community from outside the Library](#)
- [Activist Access and Outreach in Book Arts Session](#)
- [Chicago's Read/Write Library Self Preservation Workshop](#)

Sha Towers

Art Liaison Librarian/Director of Liaison Services

Baylor University

Conference Reports: Graphic Novels SIG Meeting at ARLIS/NA 42nd Annual Conference

The Graphic Novels Special Interest Group met at the ARLIS/NA conference in Washington D.C. on Saturday May 3, 2014 3:00PM-4:00PM in the Grand Hyatt Bulfinch/Renwick Room. There were 12 meeting attendees total. Meeting attendees introduced themselves, providing name, affiliation, and position or title. Attendees discussed reasons they wanted to come to the meeting and their relevant background.

In the overview of the first meeting in 2013, Graphic Novels SIG coordinator Tara Spies Smith gave background reasons for wanting to start the SIG including a description of the evolution of the graphic novel collection she started at her institution and the opportunities it has presented for collection development, collaboration, and outreach.

An example of collaboration is the [BLAMMO! Exhibit](#), which was co-curated by Spies Smith and graphic novels studio art professor Matt Rebholz. The exhibit included his fall 2013 students' final projects and books from the Alkek Library Graphic Novel Collection in exhibit cases in the library. The library and the School of Art & Design at Texas State also funded guest writer-artist, T. Edward Bak, to discuss his new graphic novel *Island of Memory*. Bak also taught a [comics workshop](#) in the School of Art & Design during his visit.

Spies Smith talked about what was discussed at the first meeting in Pasadena, California at the 41st Annual ARLIS/NA Conference. This included statement of purpose, modes of communication members wished to set up to share information with each other and other members of ARLIS/NA or the world. Members at the first meeting all agreed a blog and listserv would be good for starting conversations and sharing ideas about graphic novels and their collections.

Accomplishments in the SIG's first year discussed included the creation of the [ARLIS/NA Graphic Novels SIG Blog](#), the posts contributed to it, and the creation of the [gn_sig@arlisna.org listserv](mailto:gn_sig@arlisna.org).

Spies Smith discussed how to be added as an author to the blog and encouraged attendees to contribute. Many attendees showed enthusiasm for wanting to write for the blog. Members present agreed a list of publishers and a list of comics festivals and expos would be a good addition to the blog too. Spies Smith said she could start these sections.

SIG attendees then discussed comics/graphic novelists presenters/events or possible ideas for events that we could host at our own institutions or at the Graphic Novels SIG meeting at the ARLIS/NA 2015 Conference in Ft. Worth, TX, SIG members also talked about ideas for possible proposals for next year's ARLIS/NA Conference. Some ideas brainstormed were teaching with comics, how to reach a younger audience and how to sell the idea of graphic novels for children to parents, and graphic novel collections and the opportunities they present for collection development, collaboration, and outreach.

Meeting minutes will be posted to the Graphic Novels SIG listserv and available with the ARLIS/NA 42nd annual conference proceedings. For more background on the creation of the Graphic Novels SIG and the first meeting see the article, "[The Evolution of the ARLIS/NA Graphic Novels Special Interest Group](#)".

Tara Spies Smith

Research, Instruction, and Outreach Librarian, Art Librarian

Texas State University

Conference Reports: LGBTQ SIG Meeting at ARLIS/NA 42nd Annual Conference

The ARLIS/NA LGBTQ SIG met in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 3, 2014 with special guest Philip Clark, Member of the Board of the [Rainbow History Project](#), who discussed the archives and current projects. Philip also focused on some of the challenges of operating as an all-volunteer nonprofit LGBTQ organization. The Rainbow History Project is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and promoting an active knowledge of the history, arts, and culture relevant to sexually diverse communities in metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Edward Lukasek
Cataloging Librarian
Hirsch Library
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

2014 Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award Recipient

If you had run into me on the first day of [ARLIS/NA 2014](#), I think there would be no doubt as to the amount of excitement and nervous anticipation that I exuded. I was practically giddy with delight just to be present in Washington DC for my first ARLIS/NA conference. From the moment I knew that I would definitely be attending, I was scouring the conference schedule, planning how to get the most out of every session, workshop, and tour. It was frustrating to be sure! I must have changed my mind at least a half dozen times. There were just too many concurrent and/or overlapping events that piqued my curiosity to make it all doable without cloning myself. I will attempt to recap the highlights, although it will not fairly encompass the fun I also had “between times” in chance conversations and in friendships established from collegial rapport:

My conference began with the *Society of the Cincinnati Tour* on Thursday morning, followed by the Mentoring workshop in the afternoon. I was pleased to see this late add-on tour as my conference duties precluded attendance at any others. As a small tour group of five, we were treated to an intimate visit to the collection vault. One of the tour participants agreed to serve as my recorder for my session the next day. That was such a relief since I had attempted and failed to secure one prior to the conference. Afterwards, the workshop focused my goals in arts librarianship and paired me with Canadian librarian Jennifer Garland as my mentor. I am looking forward to a productive year to come with her guidance. Dinner with fellow travel award recipients Courtney Baron and Anna-Sophia Zingarelli-Sweet acclimated me to Penn Quarter as we enjoyed Mexican inspired fare and lively comparisons of our respective library schools and work experiences.

On Friday morning, I moderated the session *Meet the Policy Experts*, and then attended *Pro amore liborum: Rare Book and Special Collections Librarianship* in the afternoon. I mingled with several of the Texas contingency at our chapter meeting. Unfortunately, I missed the First Time Attendees’ Reception, but Friday night, after a visit and dinner with relatives in the area, I hung out with the ArLiSNAP (Art Library Students and New ARLIS Professionals) crowd at Capitol City Brewery across from the Grand Hyatt. Surrounded by some dangerously smart students as well as a few more mature, but no less enthusiastic professionals, I was delighted to finally meet in person some online friends that I have been communicating and collaborating with as a Discussion Liaison over the past year in [ArLiSNAP](#).

I volunteered for Exhibits set-up on Saturday morning early and although most of the work had already been completed by that time, I had a fortuitous encounter with a past ARLIS/NA President, Ted Goodman, who gave me a crash course in exhibits management. I couldn’t have received it from anyone more experienced or more versatile in this area! It was the perfect initiation for duties I will have in Fort Worth next year. I later wandered through the Eastern Market and found myself at Capitol Hill Books – the layout of which was both a treasure hunter’s dream and a librarian’s nightmare: And yes, I did buy a book there!

After a Metro adventure back to the hotel, I enjoyed *Retooling Art Reference and Information Services: Collaborative Tools, Strategies, and Models*, and later, the Emerging Technology Forum. Following a spin through the Exhibit Hall and Posters, it was off to the Convocation and Reception at the Library of Congress, or as Susan Stamberg referred to it during her keynote address, “the Mothership” – a truly inspiring evening that I will always associate with an incredible experience.

I jumped up Sunday morning for an 8am ArLiSNAP business meeting and then sandwiched the Membership Brunch and Meeting between morning and afternoon sessions *Collaborating to Achieve* and *Activist Outreach in the Book Arts*. A pleasant surprise on Sunday evening occurred when I happened upon fellow chapter members on their way to dinner for an informal planning meeting for 2015. Together we digested the enormity of the task before us along with some excellent seafood. Thanks for inviting me along, ladies!

Is it any wonder that I was completely exhausted by the time I got home Monday afternoon? I had a fabulous time start to finish. My brain is still processing all the new information and ideas, yet I feel more clearly focused in the direction I want to go in future coursework and in dedication to finishing my degree in 2015. It was such a pleasure to meet, talk to, and learn from so many interesting people and to get to know some of our chapter members a little bit better. I cannot neglect to thank Cheryl Payne from MFAH for agreeing to be my roommate, although we had never met previously. My experience would not have been possible without the ARLIS/NA-TXMX chapter's generous support, for which I am truly grateful. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the fall meeting in Orange, TX, and of course, for more artful adventures!

Alison A. Larson

MLS student, UNT

Art Reference, Weekend Operations, Baylor University, Crouch Fine Arts Library

Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Winner, 2014

News: Interviews with Texas Artists

I'm thrilled to announce that Texas A&M University Press will be publishing my book of interviews with Texas artists. From my proposal to them, I excerpt these words: "Beyond the art itself, no source is more primary to understanding art and artist than his or her words. After all, who can speak with more authority about one's own influences, motivations, methods, philosophies, and creations? Amazingly enough, there exists no book of interviews with artists from across Texas. Since 2010 I have interviewed 64 of Texas's finest artists with the intention of compiling questions and responses into a substantial, illustrated book. Artists have responded with honesty, clarity, and—naturally—great insight into their own work. None of these interviews has been previously published, even in part. From its conception, this was to be a book of interviews with artists enamored of found materials, honoring Texas's distinguished tradition of "found materialists"—Robert Rauschenberg, Jim Love, Roy Fridge, David McManaway, Dorothy Hood, and many others."

Prominent artists interviewed include The Art Guys, Mary McCleary, Margarita Cabrera, Vernon Fisher, Joseph Havel, Jean Lacy, Celia Alvarez Muñoz, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Dario Robleto, Ken Little, Julie Speed, Lance Letscher, Helen Altman, Frances Bagley, and the late Bert Long Jr. I am just as excited to include artists perhaps lesser-known statewide such as Ward Sanders, Barbara Irwin, Angelica Paez, Dana Harper, Aaron Roe, Norman Kary, Jesse Lott, Mari Omori, and Patrick Turk. Several artists currently live out-of-state but made significant art in Texas in recent years, and in some cases for decades: Tracy Hicks, Mimi Kato, Roberto Del Rio, Cecil Touchon, and Kelly Sears. The choice of artists was entirely personal.

I have many to thank, among them members of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter who provided encouragement, served as references, or provided other assistance. Based in part on sample interviews, I was awarded H.W. Wilson Foundation Research Awards by ARLIS/NA in 2011 and again in 2012. This made possible travel to artists' studios, exhibitions, and collections across the state. These visits were, in most cases, instrumental in composing my questions for each artist. There is still a long way to go. Wish me luck!

Craig Bunch
Assistant Librarian
McNay Art Museum