Welcome to *The Medium*, the semi-annual newsletter of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter. The Spring 2018 issue (v. 44, no.1) contains conference reports from the recent ARLIS/NA Annual Conference held in New York City, New York, an update from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison, and articles about professional activities from our chapter members.
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President's Column

As an adoptive Texan in exile, it was a delight to welcome you all to my current hometown of New York City. Our Chapter’s attendance was terrific—we had twenty-two members at the Chapter Meeting and not all Texas/Mexico members who were at the conference were there, as is often the case with so much activity going on at the same time. As Hilary’s Treasurer’s Report indicated our total Chapter Membership stands at twenty-seven members, this is truly an extraordinary attendance figure—over 81% of current membership made it to the conference. And what a well-attended conference it was, with over 900 attendees, making it the largest ARLIS/NA conference to date.

And our membership did far more than just show up; the following Chapter members participated in these programs, committees, and leadership roles:

- Beverly Mitchell and Jolene de Verges presented on their curatorial fellowship, and Beverly Mitchell will be continuing on the International Relations Committee.
- Becca Pad presented on Zines.
- Katie Pierce Meyer presented on distinctive collections.
- Sam Duncan presented on Artist Files at NYPL Picture collection and participated in the Wikipedia discussion.
- Mark Pompelia presented on the VR scope drift panel, chaired the Finance Committee, and serves as website content editor.
- Elizabeth Schaub presented on the VR Scope drift panel.
- Eric Wolf presented on publishing at the ArLiSNAP Workshop and chaired Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting.

And these are only the members who reported their activities to me! So, it is truly wonderful to see our membership thriving and participating in both programmatic and leadership roles in the Society.

I am excited to get to work on planning our 2018 Chapter Meeting in Austin, Texas for the Fall (scheduled for October 26-28) and continuing to work with such a dynamic and active group of art information professionals. And I am missing Texas weather this cold winter in New York.

Eric M. Wolf
President, ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
Head Librarian, Sotheby’s Institute of Art, New York
Updates from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison

Catherine Essinger

It has been a pleasure to serve as your liaison to the Executive Board this year.

The board has been busy this year with initiatives that support the ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions, particularly in the areas of advocacy, diversity and inclusion, and organizational advancement.

Our Public Policy Committee has been aggressively tracking policy decisions that may impact intellectual freedom and access to information, several of which have resulted in official statements.

We are building programs on diversity and inclusion into the annual budget and investigating ways to ensure our conference speakers reflect many perspectives. With the encouragement of the Executive Board, the Diversity Committee also sponsored an exceptional program on implicit bias directed by Project Implicit during the 2018 Annual Conference.

ARLIS/NA membership remains strong with more than 1200 members. Membership was positively impacted by the annual conference in New York City this year. The conference was attended by more than 900 people, including 103 new members, who could participate in any of 250 scheduled events. The conference schedule was one of the largest in ARLIS/NA history.

My activities on behalf of chapters this year have focused on communication, documentation, archiving, and officer onboarding. Last summer officers from nearly all chapters engaged in a virtual meeting on chapter archiving. We also asked the curator of the ARLIS/NA archive at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to expand the collection guidelines to include papers from chapters. Additionally, website archiving is now performed on all ARLIS/NA-hosted chapter websites. A checklist for both departing and incoming chapter officers was also developed, in order to make transitions as orderly and stress-free as possible.

In 2018 we will explore fundraising options, as well as methods for cultivating and maintaining membership. I worked with officers in all chapters this winter to gather membership data and found that only 63% of ARLIS/NA members were also members of their regional chapter in 2017. That number is part of a long trend toward centralized membership. This summer chapter officers and I will investigate ways to mitigate challenges to joining and renewing, so that regional chapters...
can enjoy greater stability. Membership was discussed at the chapter leaders meeting during the annual conference, as was development. Several chapters have recently launched fundraising projects and more hope to do so in 2018-2019. Chapters can submit a project charter to initiate a fundraising campaign or project. They should also notify the ARLIS/NA Development Committee if they intend to approach potential sponsors or vendors.

The Executive Board is launching and investigating innovative approaches to communication and strategic planning. Recent ARLIS/NA research projects have prompted the Executive Board to establish a new position and standing committee on data management. The Data Assessment Coordinator will be an appointed position with a stipend.

There have also been a number of changes to ARLIS/NA groups in the past year. Both a section and SIG requested name changes to reflect their evolving foci. The Reference and Informational Services Section is now the Research and Informational Services Section. The Retired Members SIG is now the Retirement SIG, as it has evolved to address matters pertinent to both retired members and members who are considering their future retirement. A new SIG on Critical Librarianship was also formed. Chapter members who would like to become more involved in the Society, as well as their profession, can review a list of chapters (you can belong to more than one), committees, divisions, sections, and SIG’s on the website.

I anticipate another productive year working with the Texas-Mexico officers. All Texas-Mexico Chapter members are welcome to contact me anytime with any suggestions, feedback, or questions.
Galveston Meeting Minutes

Minutes taken by Lauren Gottlieb-Miller.

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Meeting Minutes – Galveston
Marriott Courtyard Camanche Meeting Room
November 12, 2017

Executive Committee present: Joel Pelanne, President (MFAH); Eric Wolf, Vice President/President-Elect (UT Austin); Alison Larson, Treasurer (Baylor); Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Secretary (Menil); Jon Evans, Past-President (MFAH).

Members in Attendance:
Lauren Gottlieb-Miller (Menil)
Catherine Essinger (U. Houston)
Edward Lukasek (Retired)
Shari Salisbury (UTSA)
Elizabeth Shaub (UT Austin)
Becca Pad (UT Austin)
Helen Lueders (MFAH Bayou Bend)
Eric Wolf (UT Austin)
Alison Larson (Baylor)
Fernando Corona (National Bank of Mexico)
Sha Towers (Baylor)
Joel Pelanne (MFAH)
Jon Evans (MFAH)

Meeting called to order at 9:27am

1. Call to Order
   a. Joel Pelanne, Chapter President, called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of New Orleans Meeting Minutes
   a. Eric Wolf moved that the minutes be approved. Helen seconds. No discussion. All in favor, 0 oppose.
3. Chapter Officer Reports
   a. President’s Report
      i. Working on a few different things. Press from exec board on chapter archiving. Do we plan to deposit papers or electronic material via U-Illinois (hub for chapter archiving)? Jon says chapter papers are at the MFAH. Is there any desire to send these to U-Illinois? Edward: What are other chapters doing? Catherine: Many do not have established archives. If there’s no reason to move them, we don’t need to. Recall would be slower if they’re at Illinois. Chapters can now go directly to the curator and request materials. Jon says that Illinois is very responsive but they maintain lots of different society papers. Are there online finding aids? (Shari asks, Eric says yes). Catherine confirms that it’s up to date. Should we do digital archiving there? If we have the photo archivist doing this kind of work this would be an option moving forward. We would just contact the archivist at Illinois directly, fill out paperwork, and that’s it. Elizabeth says they have the local chapter. Defunct chapters are there. Delaware Valley needs to go there. Digital archiving moving forward, will not send papers there.
      ii. Updates from Catherine and the board. Currently working on bundling membership registration with national ARLIS/NA. Proposal will be sent out in the future. Discussing feasibility of funding dues. There will be a way to join chapters at the same time at joining NA. It is possible to do it with the software. Is it seamless for chapters that have different dues structures and currency types?
      iii. Upcoming virtual meeting for chapter for new members (late November).
      iv. Joel thanks everyone for the opportunity to serve. “Show people the unseen Galveston.”

b. Vice-President’s Report
   i. Thank you for those who’ve agreed to write for the Medium. Eric encourages anyone else to write on the other events. The more the better. Early to talk about next year’s conference. Next year will be in Austin. Fall of 2018. Sooner rather than later we will be thinking about dates. Eric makes a motion to commend Joel for organizing a terrific conference and for a great year of service. Jon seconds. Discussion. All in favor, 0 oppose.

c. Treasurer’s Report
   i. As of 11/11 chapter $1944.09. No expenses since last report. Deposits $155. Current 2017 membership # is 29. Concerned that the balance is steadily declining. After this conference and the next LSJ award we’ll be around
$1000. Donations have not matched what we’ve awarded. Need to build this back up. This year is $750. Last year was $500. Seattle was $750. Something to think about.

d. Secretary’s Report
  i. Nothing to report.

4. Nominating Committee Slate for Elections
   (Jon and Sha) Jon believed he sent out the nominating slate. But MFAH has been having distribution efforts. Jon thought he had sent it but it did not go out. Sha and Jon have been working. Sha thanks everyone for helping round up nominations.
   a. Vice-President/President Elect – Sunyoung Park (MFAH)
   b. Treasurer – Hillary Veeder (Public Services librarian from Texas Tech)

Lauren motions to approve slate. Helen seconds. No discussion. All approve, no decline. Motion carries.

5. Lois Swan Jones Committee Report (Helen)
   Allison and Helen talked, coffers are a little low. It would be great if there was a way to donate money. Right now you can either send a check or you can donate when you purchase your membership. Allison tried to set up a PayPal account which got bungled. Allison will work with Hillary to set up something with Wells Fargo or will piggy back on whatever national is doing. Catherine suggests that we wait to see how things go with bundled membership. Eric suggests that we explore (in addition to) doing a little fundraising work and reach out to past members to see if we can’t replenish the coffer and get our numbers back to $4000. Eric would like to form a fundraising task force, Eric is willing to take this on. Elizabeth suggests sending out a callout through the listserv.
   Catherine has asked the development committee to talk to chapters about Development options. It is a concern for many other chapters. Some are doing merchandizing and some have reconfigured their travel rewards. It’s a reward for officers which gives more incentive to get involved in the chapter. Catherine says the development committee hopes there will be guidelines available for the spring. Shari comments that our conference sign up, the registration is bundled with the membership. Our institutions reimburse for certain things but not for others. Jon says to Catherine’s point, Jon thinks that restructuring the reward for officers. Shari says that member renewal and conference being bundled is an issue. Sha says we need to separate them out so that we can create a number of different options for people.
Elizabeth: Can we create something that is separate from conference registration to give people the opportunity to donate, join, register given our current infrastructure? We’re using Eventbrite. Can we use that with little effort? Lauren will reach out to ArLiSnap to ask what they’re using for their crowd-funding. What are other chapters doing?

Elizabeth pointed out if you give a gift over $599 there is certain tax reporting. It’ll be taxed at about 30%. This conversation came up with Mark Pompelia. Form needs to be a 1099-MISC issued by the treasurer. Recipient to submit a reimbursement request. One way to do it would be to split the award.

A little more complicated when we talk to the recipient. We’ll award half before the end of the year and the rest in 2018.

Lauren motions to split the award to $599/149, Helen seconds. Motion carries.

6. ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Listserv (Elizabeth)
   a. Recap: Discussion in New Orleans. Chapter listserv platform. Chapters have their listservs hosted by LSOFT license. Made transition in March. Instructions for new listserv distributed. MFAH members having issues receiving messages. On the management end we were able to turn off auto-delete feature so that MFAH folks won’t be deleted. Robert K. at AEG/Formerly GEI is aware of this issue. In New Orleans we talked about former list archives. Beth Dodd and Elizabeth talked to iSchool professor and talked about her students looking at forming a business plan to move them into an environment that we can access moving forward. Joel’s workaround was using a personal e-mail. There’s a “spoofing” issue.

7. Image Archivist Position Discussion
   a. Joel: No language in the bylaws about this position and creating new positions. We can add language for special appointments or we can make it an elected appointment rather than having them as a special appointment filled as needed. What should we do going forward? Elected? Appointments? Need to amend the bylaws to include these positions in the future. Eric: In New York they did amend the bylaws. They were appointments with fixed terms. People are very generous with their time. Including a stated term in the bylaws will give people an out. Eric thinks we should make it a fixed term that’s renewable but at a fixed term. Lauren says that Lisa Cruces is interested in the position. We’re waiting to appoint her until we figure out how to move forward. Is this elected or appointed?
Catherine: Special positions should be by appointment. Makes renewal easier. Eric would like to lean towards appointments with renewable terms. Motion to write an amended text to send to the list and vote on in New York. Motion to assign someone to write the proposed bylaws changes and instigate a review process.

Eric moves to charge President Joel Pelanne to propose new language for an amendment for chapter bylaws establishing appointed board positions for web position and image archivist.

Sha seconds.

Vote all in favor, 0 oppose.

8. Future Conference Location Discussion (Eric)
Covered earlier in Vice Presidents report. Some ideas about maybe hosting in Lubbock. Hillary is very open and interested in working with Sunyoung on working on a Lubbock conference. VP/President-Elect will work on this.

9. New Business
Elizabeth: Issue in New Orleans, possibility of the society hosting a conference in Mexico City. Planning starts 3 years out. Robert Kopchinski says they’ll be starting this process. Do we want to talk about this as a chapter? Do we want to move forward on the proposal for a Mexico City conference in 2021. Fernando, is it feasible to do something in Mexico? Fernando: it will be a great challenge. Interesting exercise to involve people in Mexico. Many colleagues are interested. In many cases the chief librarian in interested but the Director has other ideas. Next week, Annual meeting of librarians of Mexico City. Invited Fernando to talk about his involvement in ARLIS. Fernando can approach his colleagues next week and make a formal report in Austin based on their feedback. Robert K. talking about vendors ability to sell – they won’t be able to sell in Mexico. Elizabeth – can Robert foresee other issues with holding the conference in Mexico City and how we might have a national conference there. Maybe holding the chapter conference in 2020 or 2021. We could try another nearby city like Puebla, for instance. Eric: When is the next VRA Joint Conference?
Catherine: Chapters have a different contract now. A board oversees this group. If there’s a listserv issue this should be sent to Catherine as Chapters Liaison rather than reaching out to Robert directly.

Jon asks about vendors not being able to sell in Mexico. There were fewer vendors in Canada. We are curious about what Robert said in New Orleans. We will likely lose a quarter to a third of our vendors. Jon says they are an integral part of our society but we should not allow this to dictate where we hold the conference.

Jon says, from our standpoint, for clarity, there’s a structure in place so that there are two local arrangements co-chairs, and two other co-chairs. There are four people planning the conference in addition to the entire chapter and the executive board. If there are people in Mexico who want to play a bigger role all that they need to do is join the chapter and the society so that they could serve in a formal role.

Alison: Do we need to motion to send the $350 for conference support. Joel motions to donate $350. Lauren motions to donate. Jon seconds. No discussion, motion carries.

10. Break

11. Research Roundtable Presentations

12. Adjourn / Group Photo
First and foremost, I want to start by thanking the Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award Committee and ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter members for supporting my attendance at the 2018 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in New York City, Sunday, February 25-Thursday, March 1, 2018. I was thoroughly engaged throughout the duration of the conference attending 1 workshop, 2 tours, 4 meetings, 5 special events, and 6 sessions. This accounting includes the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter meeting where, in my role as chapter secretary, I took notes as well as the session in which I presented: Scope Drift – Blending and Rebranding in Visual Resources.

After returning to Austin and having had an opportunity to reflect on and assimilate the myriad experiences I had gained and information I had gathered at the conference, I thought about what might be most useful to present to fellow chapter members in the form of this report. I decided that I would review the 57 pages of notes I took and provide a distillation of key points that could prove not only practical and informative but also inspirational and aspirational. The aforementioned characteristics describe why for me conference-going is both useful on a practical plane but also integral in supporting one’s professional development. To that end, what follows reflects my conference schedule and associated salient points. I have provided only the title of the given program item as details are available via the online conference program.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

SESSION: Consulting with Artists: Creating, Describing, and Disseminating the Visual Arts.

- In his copyright-related presentation, Nazareth Pantaloni, Head, Copyright Program, Indiana University Libraries, presented about the interesting case of Kelley v. Chicago Park District *7th Circ.2011). The case resulted in a ruling that Chapman Kelley’s Wildflower Works was not copyrightable and could not be protected under the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA). The significance of this case is addressed here by the National Coalition Against Censorship. Note that the underlying works, such as the design drawings Kelley made, are copyrighted.
- Colin Post, Doctoral Student, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, presented about the Artists’ Studio Archives Project, an IMLS-
funded project (2014-2017). One can download the Artists’ Studio Archives Project Workbook for free from the project’s website.

TOUR: New York Public Library, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs

• I was enchanted by the library’s Picture Collection, introduced by Managing Librarian Jessica Cline. The collection deals only in analog materials as it has since its inception in 1915. Later in the week, I returned to the collection in order to experience it from a patron’s perspective, using “Dachshund” and “Italian Greyhound” as my search terms. Additionally, I was able to look through the log books, dating from May 1917-January 1925 and February 1925-February 1928 respectively. These log books, maintained by collection librarians, reflect a fascinating record of the subjects patrons were interested in at the time.

Monday, February 26, 2018

MEETING: Texas-Mexico Chapter Meeting

• During the business meeting, the chapter’s upcoming annual conference in Austin, Texas was discussed. Mark your calendars and plan to attend October 26-28, 2018!

SESSION: Reaching Out and Showing Off: Exhibitions and Collections in Academic Libraries

• ARLIS/NA Texas Mexico Chapter members Jolene de Verges and Beverly Mitchell presented on their curatorial fellowship program. Their joint presentation included communicating what they had learned from their effort to experiment through exhibitions and programming within the library. They noted that the checklists created by the first curatorial fellow were essential and collaboration with an academic department added immense value to their program.

• Emilee Mathews referenced the article “Strategies, Sample Scenarios, and the Call to Action”, which influenced how she assessed the effectiveness of her outreach activities.

SESSION: Design Thinking for Libraries: Strategies, Tools and a Case Study

• Dr. Susan Smith, Director of Library Services, Tarrant County College, shared the following tools to be used to facilitate design thinking.
  o IDEO Method Cards
  o IDEO Nature Cards
  o Plex Cards
  o The Thing from the Future

• During her presentation about her involvement in the Watermill Center’s development of Robert Wilson’s visionary Library of Inspiration, Deb
Verhoff referenced the project’s use of Google Cloud Vision, which employs artificial intelligence to associate metadata with images.

MEETING: Artstor Digital Library User Group

- Artstor launched a new platform in July 2017, moving to the JSTOR platform. This move has allowed them to work more quickly on version updates and fix bugs. They have also added the IIIF image viewer that replaces the old Flash pop-up viewer.
- Collections Editor Nancy Minty reported that 360,000 images were added to the Artstor Digital Library in 2017. The Artstor Digital Library is approaching 2.5 million images.

MEETING: Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines: Revisions & Critical Updates

- I took part in a breakout session focused on the “Architecture” and “Architectural History” sections of the revised draft version of Information Competencies in Art, Architecture, and Design Disciplines. Alan Michelson and James Sobczak from the University of Washington lead the discussion. Ideas were generated related to how we might engage graduates about perceived gaps in their education related to the competencies. In addition, discussion about how to map the competencies to current curricula across programs was addressed.

- Alan Michelson referenced both Situating Information Literacy in the Disciplines: A Practical and Systematic Approach for Academic Librarians and Strategies for Planning Successful Information Literacy Assignments for Architecture Students as influences whilst working on the aforementioned sections of the revised document.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

MEETING: Visual Resources Division

- The Visual Resources Division (VRD) “…supports members who are engaged in the acquisition, cataloging, curation, preservation, discovery, and circulation of visual content in analog and digital formats.” It was noted during the conversation that was had by meeting attendees that given the work carried out by division members, there are many potential intersections with other divisions and special interest groups within the Society. The challenge for the VRD is to capitalize on those intersections and make it more widely known how work by VRD members is relevant across multiple dimensions in the larger discipline.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

- Attendees were addressed by guest speaker Wendall K. Harrington, Head of Projection Design at the Yale School of Drama. During her spirited address, Ms. Harrington referenced NYPL’s Picture Collection—which I had toured
earlier in the conference—likening the act of image seeking to marriage where one goes through hundreds to find the one. She also referenced her use of The University of Texas at Austin’s Harry Ransom Center noting her use of Ransom Center materials for *The View from the Bridge* that takes place in Redhook. Staff at the Ransom Center were “incredible” suggesting she might want to look at Arthur Miller’s notes about the play. The research and use of the materials paid off; Arthur Miller turned to her at one point and said the “images are like characters.”

- Ms. Harrington discussed the class she developed at Yale University called Visual Storytelling. She was compelled to develop it because she found that so few students had useful visual information, indicating that there is a difference between looking and seeing. She noted that as designers, students need to understand how pictures talk to each other. She finds this impossible on a computer but it happens in the studio where the books and pictures are adjacent and “talking” to each other.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

- The following items of note were reported during the meeting:
  - The New York City conference had 908 participants from 16 countries, including Canada and the US (record-breaking); 278 first time attendees and 134 new members
  - 82 exhibitors
  - $158,575 raised for the conference, representing sponsors (including ARLIS/NA chapters)
  - Conference sponsorship: $56,000
  - Society assets: $1.4 million (cash, checking, investments)

**SESSION: Accessing Visual Culture:**
Deconstructing the Intellectual and Physical Challenges of Making Visual Content Accessible for Researchers

- During their presentation “Taking Visual Materials ‘Out of Bounds:’ Using Our Visual Collections to Teach Information Literacy Outside the Arts Curriculum”, colleagues Peggy Keeran, Jennifer Bowers, Katherine Crowe, and Kristen Korfitzen from the University of Denver referenced a helpful website resource called TeachArchives.org, where one can find sample in-archives exercises as well as articles reflecting on pedagogy and practical advice. In addition, a sample in-class exercise and feedback form are available here.

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**SESSION: Copyright Assessment in the Trenches:** Workflow, Tools, Metadata, and more
• Greg Cram, Associate Director of Copyright and Information Policy at New York Public Library (NYPL) noted that out of 1.5 million collection items, 1.3 million have rights statements. Information about collection assets such as licensing information, restrictions, and associated documentation are digitally associated with said assets. Eventually NYPL will reveal this underlying data so that users can see how they arrived at the rights statement assigned to a given asset.

• Mr. Cram also discussed the project that lead to a set of standardized rights statements available on RightsStatements.org. The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and Europeana collaborated to create 12 standardized statements, taking into account both US and European copyright laws.

• An incredibly helpful resources list provided to attendees can be found here.

SESSION: PHAROS: The Photo Archive Re-Imagined for Digital Art History

• From the PHAROS website: “PHAROS is an international consortium of fourteen European and North American art historical photo archives committed to creating a digital research platform allowing for comprehensive consolidated access to photo archive images and their associated scholarly documentation.” The project launched its website in June 2016.

• Melissa Fournier, Head of Imaging and Intellectual Property at the Yale Center for British Art, reported that PHAROS has been keeping an eye on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) related to image matching. She referenced John Resig’s work specific to AI image matching utilized on the site Ukiyo-e.org. Of interest, and specific to PHAROS, is a blog post by John Resig titled “Building an Art History Database Using Computer Vision” wherein he discusses his collaboration with the Frick Art Reference Library Photoarchive, a member of the PHAROS consortium.

SESSION: Blending and Rebranding in Visual Resources

• During my presentation titled “Evolving the Visual Resources Collection: Developing Student-Centered Resources & Services” I discussed the development and staffing by my unit of a Lighting Studio to meet the documentation needs of School of Architecture students at The University of Texas at Austin.

CONVOCATION/AWARDS

CEREMONY/RECEPTION

• In the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, convocation attendees were treated to a keynote given by artist Paul Chan who founded the
• Kathryn Wayne received the Society’s 2017 Distinguished Service Award. Her witty acceptance speech can be found here.
• I was happy to discover that the cathedral’s art collection includes a beautiful triptych altarpiece covered in white-gold by Keith Haring called *The Life of Christ* (1990) located in the Chapel of St. Columba. A list of cathedral highlights is found here.

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

**TOUR: New Haven Day Trip: A Tour of Yale Art Libraries and Museums**

• The tour of Yale included stops at the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library, The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale Center for British Art and the Yale University Art Gallery. Our day ended with a walking tour which included a walk-about inside the Temple Street Garage designed by Paul Rudolph. Constructed in 1961, it is a monolithic structure stretching two city blocks.
First Time Attendee Report
Lisa Cruces

This past February I joined hundreds of fellow ARLIS/NA members in New York City for the 46th Annual Conference. Held February 25-March 1st, the 2018 ARLIS/NA annual conference theme was “Out of Bounds” and the program emphasized innovation and expanding the boundaries of art librarianship. Both an early-career professional and new member to ARLIS/NA, I was primarily interested in attending to learn more about the professional support provided by the Society and art libraries’ intersection with archives. I was happily surprised!

“Consulting with Artists: Creating, Describing, and Disseminating the Visual Arts”, one of several pre-conference workshops offered, was especially beneficial and relevant to topics in archives and librarianship—copyright, digitization, and collection development. My favorite presentations and panel conversations focused on exhibits,
cross-disciplinary collaborations, and outreach with zines. Fortunately the program offered a little bit of everything for everyone. Special events such as the Reception for First-Time attendees and New Members, and the ArLiSNAP (Art Library Students & New ARLIS Professionals) Night Out were both welcoming networking and informational opportunities for newbies like me to learn more about the diversity in our profession.

Now with my first ARLIS/NA annual meeting complete, I have a deeper understanding of the meaningful support ARLIS/NA and the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter provide to the profession and look forward to my next conference.
Zines: Exploring Projects and Perspectives across Institutions

Becca Pad

The ARLIS/NA 2018 annual conference session, Zines: Exploring Projects and Perspectives Across Institutions, brought together librarians from academic institutions who work with zine collections. This session had six lightning talks and speakers included Madeline Veitch, Cristina Favretto, Katie Riel, Marta Chudolinska, Susan Thomas and myself. Each speaker presented on a different area of zine librarianship resulting in a session with rich information for individuals looking to engage with or develop collections at their home institutions. Below is summary of the six presentations.

In her talk, Zines as Community Praxis: Reading, Making, and Collecting Zines at SUNY New Paltz, Madeline Veitch discussed a 24-hour zine-making event. The 24-hour event challenged students to create a self-published work within the timeframe. This event was an opportunity for the New Paltz community to learn about and create zines. Veitch explained that the library supported student makers participating in the event by providing photocopies of their zines. While the production of copies is an important factor in zine distribution, Veitch explained students may lack access to photocopiers. Library supported photocopies allowed students to see their work in multiple and have the opportunity to trade or distribute their zine.

Veitch also described other resources available to students interested in zine-making. The library created zine-making kits with supplies such as scissors and markers allowing students to explore their creative expression, as they make content for zines. Additionally, there are typewriters available at the library for students to use. Both the typewriters and the zine-making kits circulate.

Cristina Favretto’s talk, Logical Synergies: Zine-based Library/Museum Collaborations, discussed the University of Miami Libraries Special Collections collaboration with the Lowe Art Museum. The Lowe Art Museum is the university art museum at the University of Miami. In 2013, Favretto worked with the Lowe Art Museum to curate the show, #@*$%! the Mainstream: The Art of DIY Self Expression, Zines from Special Collections, University of Miami Libraries. This partnership presented an interesting case study for how to collaborate across campus and engage a wider audience.

Katie Riel’s talk, DIY Zine Collecting: How to Start a Zine Collection at Your Library, shared
the perspective of a librarian in the early stages of developing a zine library. Riel is developing the zine collection at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Riel discussed issues such as storage, access, discovery, and collection development. She talked about the challenge of differentiating between an artist book and zine. Riel also shared a collection development strategy to address long-term preservation. For items that are popular or frequently used in instruction, Riel decided to buy a second copy.

Susan Thomas shared *Zines in Higher Education: A Multidisciplinary Survey of Faculty Practices*. Thomas has written many publications on zines and currently works at Long Island University Brooklyn. In her latest research, she explored how faculty engage with zines in the classroom. Her research showed an increase in faculty interest for utilizing zines within assignment design and instruction.

Marta Chudolinska’s talk, *Creating Digital Access to the OCAD University Library Zine Collection through Artstor Shared Shelf*, discussed creating a zine catalog on an open access platform. Chudolinska described the need to create a digital catalog of zines that was accessible to the Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCAD) community as well as the public. It was a joint effort with the Visual Resources department at OCAD to digitize and describe the zines for the Shared Shelf collection. Chudolinska felt an open access catalog was important because of the DIY and freely accessible nature of zines. The OCAD Shared Shelf site contains over 2200 zines each with a scanned cover. The covers replicate some facets of physical browsing by allowing users to explore zines that visually draw them in.

I presented on zine programming at the University of Texas Libraries, *Collaborations Beyond the Library: Creating a Citywide Zine Fest*. Last year, I collaborated with other zine librarians in Austin to organize Lone Star Zine Fest. The absence of a zine festival in Austin presented an opportunity to create a new event that supported zine culture within the city. We had around 30 vendors and over 375 attendees come to the event. Collaborating on a citywide festival allowed me to pilot a new method of liaison outreach at UT Austin. A model that moves beyond the institution to engage with the art and creative communities at large.

Each of these talks presented a different project related to zine librarianship. A common theme of engagement was seen across presentations. Within each project, speakers shared a way they engage the campus community or public with zine culture. Several librarians also mentioned teaching classes about zines or creating zine-based assignments. These presentations demonstrate that zine culture and creation within libraries continues to grow. The DIY, anything-goes nature of zines, not only makes them interesting reading material but allows patrons to easily engage in the process of making.
Graphic Novels Special Interest Group Updates and Meeting

Tara Spies Smith

The Graphic Novels Special Interest Group met at the ARLIS/NA 2018 Conference in New York City on Wednesday, February 28th from 12:30-1:30pm in Murray Hill West room at the Hilton Hotel. We had 22 attendees. Co-coordinators include Olivia Miller from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Tara Spies Smith from Texas State University, and Andrew Wang, Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale University.

Our meeting consisted of a presentation by a guest speaker and a brief discussion by attendees about basic SIG information including signing up to our listserv, and a discussion of how to submit nominations for our SIG’s Notable Graphic Novels Published in 2017 list. The deadline to submit nominations was April 6th, 2018. We also informed attendees about our 10 Notable Graphic Novels Published in 2016 list.

Both of our Notable Graphic Novels lists were compiled based on poll results by SIG members, ARLIS/NA members, and our ARLIS/NA Graphic Novels SIG Facebook group. First, a poll was sent out for nominations for the top 10 lists and then based on the titles nominated, a new poll was sent out for ARLIS/NA members to vote for the top 10 notable graphic novels published for the year. For the 2016 list, co-coordinators Olivia Miller and Andrew Wang read and reviewed the top 10 graphic novels on our list, and then we published the reviews with the list. For the 2017 list, we are asking for volunteers to review the final top 10 titles with the most votes. This provides volunteer reviewers with an opportunity for professional development. The polls for nominations, voting, and the call for reviewers promote and encourage membership in our Graphic Novels Special Interest Group.

Our guest speaker Paul Levitz presented on the work of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund (CBLDF) organization. He discussed how a lot of the cases they handle deal with provocative sexual content and the depiction of minors. Levitz also mentioned how CBLDF often helps people who have issues at the border bringing over comics. The CBLDF has had many prominent cartoonists/artists on their board. You can find a list of board members on their site. Librarians can help by contributing donations and by promoting their work.

Levitz serves on the board of this non-profit dedicated to providing "legal referrals,
representation, advice, assistance
and education to cases affecting the First
Amendment right to read, create, publish,
sell, and distribute comics and graphic
novels." Levitz is an interesting person on his
own having served as the President &
Publisher of DC Comics from 2002-2009,
being the author of several fiction and non-
fiction titles (75 Years of DC Comics: The Art
of Modern Mythmaking won an Eisner), and
teaching at several institutions on publishing,
writing, and American culture. You can learn
more about his work on his website.

We were very pleased to have Levitz speak to
our SIG at our meeting about the work of the
Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. The meeting
was a success. There will be announcements
on the ARLIS/NA listserv about the call for the
top 10 graphic novel title reviewers as well as
about our SIG’s final Notable Graphic
Novels Published in 2017 list with the
reviews. SIG coordinators will co-edit the
reviews and publish the list. Both of the
Graphic Novels SIG’s notable graphic novels
published lists are intended to help librarians
and library workers improve their collections.
ARLIS/NA Yearlong Mentoring Program

Sha Towers

I was invited to participate in the program as a mentor this year and am glad I said yes! The Mentoring Subcommittee has put together a really strong program and workshop at the annual meeting. The subcommittee was led by Jennifer Friedman, Lynn Cunningham, Shira Loev Eller, Darin Murphy, and Mackenzie Salisbury. The subcommittee did a really great job matching up mentees with mentors. What I found to be really great (and a little spooky) was that by the end of the workshop, I understood why they paired me with the mentee they did, but I also think they realized there was a lot I could learn from my mentee about my own particular role in my institution and get a better perspective on several issues that I could be blind to that my mentee could definitely help me see!

Prior to the workshop, all mentees and mentors had homework to do that included sharing information about each other and several readings focused on the creation of SMART goals. We read the article "Begin With the End in Mind: The Goal-Driven Mentoring Relationship" by Lois Zachary and Lory Fischer and explored several SMART goals resources:

- SMART Goals Defined
- How to Write a SMART Goal (2:39 video)
- Stepping Up SMART Goals

The workshop was held on Sunday, February 25th, from 9am-1pm at the conference hotel. The Mentoring Subcommittee facilitated thoughtful and interactive sessions that included presentations on mentoring strategies and time for each mentor/mentee pair to meet. In these meetings, we discussed expectations for our work together. We also discussed goals and the means and frequency of pair meetings throughout the year.

Following our meetings, we participated in a breakout session specifically for mentors to brainstorm desirable traits of mentors while the mentees met to brainstorm this as well and to share what they hoped to gain from the mentoring experience. We came back together to talk about our groups' work.

While I know some might find a yearlong formal mentoring program to be a big commitment, I think this program has a lot of value for both the mentee and the mentor. It provides thoughtful and reflective ways for growth regardless of which side of the table you're sitting on. There should always be space for growth and this program provides just that. I encourage everyone, whether you're a brand new in the profession or a seasoned veteran, to consider this great opportunity.
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**Guenther Collection**

Joel Pelanne

**Arrival**

In the spring of 2008 the Hirsch Library began the initial processing of a collection of roughly 900 books donated by the estate of Peter Guenther, a noted professor of art history who worked at the University of Houston for over 3 decades (and chaired the Art Department there for 13 years). The collection itself, while a truly unique and invaluable survey of a wide variety of art historical topics (focused chiefly on German art in the early to mid-20th century), did present Hirsch cataloging staff with one major challenge: having been a personal book collection used in the home of a frequent smoker, the books were saturated with the thick and musty odor of stale cigarettes. And while the phrase “saturated with the thick and musty odor of stale cigarettes” may be appealing if used to metaphorically describe the general vibe and sound of, say, a Tom Waits album ... well, it is considerably less of a plus when said smell is palpably wafting off of a volume on Expressionism one happens to be attempting to peruse without gagging. So! What to do?

**Quarantine**

Hirsch staff made the decision to give the books some preliminary/incomplete cataloging and send them off-site to the library’s “Fannin Storage” location (a small room with shelving adjacent to the MFAH’s parking garage, shared with the museum’s Learning and Interpretation department). Holdings were added to OCLC and records were entered into the Hirsch’s online catalog, but rather than assigning LC numbers, a “Guenther number” was added to each book as it was processed (starting with G001 and following to G876, with the books then being shelved off-site in order of Guenther number). In this way the books were kept

*Photo: Joel Pelanne*
away from both the main library collection and the noses of the unsuspecting public.

As Guenther books were discovered via the Hirsch’s online catalog, they would receive complete cataloging after their use and shelved in with the general collection. As such, the Guenther collection was slowly brought into the fold, piece by piece. It remained of interest to do something more to “de-odor” the collection on a grander scale, and bring the bulk of the Guenther books out of storage. A possible solution to this problem was offered up by cultural heritage and paper specialist Rebecca Elder as part of a Preservation Assessment Survey the Hirsch funded in 2015.

Meow

For a first attempt, Rebecca recommended sealing the books in an air-tight container with unscented clay cat litter. Specifically, the instructions were as follows:

1. Pour a layer of the cat litter into the bottom of the container to be used.
2. Fan out the books so as many of the pages can be exposed to the interior environment of the container as is possible.
3. Use some variety of sheeting or a platform to provide a physical layer between the books themselves and the litter so they aren’t actually touching (very crucial step).
4. Seal container, wait for two weeks, and open to hopefully find books smelling much better than they did previously.

Hirsch staff (here in particular, “Hirsch Staff” meaning “me, Joel”) tried an initial run of de-odorizing books with the litter method using three plastic tubs typically used to transport books to various MFAH campus locations. And while the two weeks spent in litter-based confinement did improve the cigarette smell of the books somewhat, it quickly became clear to Hirsch Staff* that the process wouldn’t be a sustainable method of dealing with a collection of books as large as the Guenther collection. So again! What to do?

Polygon

After ruling out the litter method, Hirsch Staff* got back in contact with Rebecca Elder to see if she had any recommendations for treating a larger smoke-exposed collection quickly and efficiently. Rebecca recommended the services of the Polygon Group. Polygon’s method of de-odorizing books involves sealing them in chamber with a small device called the Vapor Shark. The Shark is filled with small packets of essential oils. Once sealed in the chamber with the books, the Shark heats and sweats the packets to disperse the oils through the air as a dry vapor. This vapor permeates the books and neutralizes odors. Polygon uses a specific packet called S.O.S. (Smoke Odor Solution) used to neutralize the smell of cigarette smoke.
Once contacted, Polygon offered to treat a small grouping of the books at no cost so that Hirsch Staff* could gauge the effectiveness of the process. The books were sent out and returned by Polygon within a month, and the results were at least as effective as the litter method but without the cost to staff time (and associated cat litter disposal).

Conclusion

The Hirsch signed a contact with Polygon and the Guenther collection was packed and picked up in mid-September of 2017 (delayed slightly by Hurricane Harvey). The books were returned to the library on December 20th, 2017 – and fully cataloged by January, 2018 – roughly 10 years after their arrival and initial processing. Though as of writing this, Hirsch Staff* still has one box of cat litter under their* desk.
Images from New York

Convocation Reception at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Photo: Sunyoung Park
Convocation Reception at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Photo: Sunyoung Park
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