



Report from the Chair



Spring is upon us, and I am enjoying the first peony blooms. Somehow the daffodils came and went so quickly last month. The latter is an appropriate metaphor for my and probably everyone else's personal and work lives.

I wanted to belatedly thank Tracey for her leadership this past year and the willingness of Jenny Akins to step in and continue serving as Secretary/Treasurer. It is with pleasure that I look forward to working with Jenny and Andi Back, who is our new Vice-Chair/Chair Elect. Andi, Susan Craig and others have been working hard to prepare a great chapter meeting in Lawrence this coming June. It will be a little bitter-sweet moment for me as it will be connected with Susan's retirement. This is symbolic of the continual change that takes place, just when everything seems even keeled change takes place. For me Susan has represented the best of the profession in the past and the present. Yet, I

am pleased to see that other's like Andi show that the profession and the chapter has great promise and strength.

Over the years as a solo librarian, it has been the opportunity to be with fellow professionals at our chapter meetings that has provided enormous support and growth for me. It is my hope that this is and continues to be the case for other chapter members. I look forward to being with you all in Lawrence in early June.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Young, *Philbrook Museum of Art*

Upcoming Spring Chapter Meeting, Lawrence

The spring meeting in Lawrence, Kansas from June 4-6 has been finalized. The morning session will include a panel discussion on community arts engagement with local arts leaders who will also address community arts engagement at large. The afternoon session will include a panel discussion on justifying the existence of art libraries and their staff. The schedule and registration form have been sent out to the ARLIS/NA-CP listserv. Registration is due by May 18th. For more information contact Andi at aback@ku.edu. We hope to see you in June.

Report on the 2015 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, Fort Worth, Texas

Submitted by Thomas E. Young, ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter Chair, 29 April 2015

As I was born in Fort Worth and regularly visit family there, this trip was to familiar territory. Fort Worth has always impressed me with its excellent art museums, which are housed in facilities designed by some of the leading architects of our time. The program for the conference was well put together, and reflected in large part the growth and importance of technology in the 21st century library. The institutions and individuals in Fort Worth were welcoming and very much reflected the generosity of Texas hospitality.

I attended the Chapter Chairs Roundtable and the Leadership Breakfast. At the leadership breakfast, chapter officers were given an introduction to the society's leadership, current programs, and issues. One of the changes on the board is the proposed merging of the board liaisons for Development, Diversion and Membership into a single Advancement Liaison. The Society is currently working on the next Strategic Plan to begin in 2016, and will be shifting from a five year plan to a more flexible three year "strategic directions." The intent is to be more flexible. The chapters have been asked to be more aware of the strategic plan, and see how the chapter activities can be more in-line with the society's goals. Among the other items discussed, were the revision of our bylaws on which we just voted; revisions of the Policy Manual and the establishment of a Code of Conduct for both conferences and the organization. The revised Policy Manual should be available on-line in May. Financially, the society seems to be in a good place, as the Washington, D.C. conference was very successful, and it appears that the Ft. Worth conference will also follow suit. Communication between the chapters and the board is important and is being better facilitated through new ways, such as use of Basecamp for on-line communication between the board Chapters Liaison and the chapter officers. Since 2014 the Chapter Liaison has organized Chapter Chairs Roundtable Meetings, with discussions on chapter mentoring programs, etc. We were reminded that the deadline for chapter applications for Special Funding (up to \$500) is July 15, 2015. A new membership brochure has been produced and is now available in French, English and Spanish.

Ten members of the Central Plains chapter met informally for dinner at Taverna restaurant. Andi Back gave us an update about our upcoming meeting in Lawrence in June. Sessions of particular interest to me included *1 + 1 = 3: Connections within and between Texas Digital Collections*, *Telling Stories: Regional Artists and their Art*, and *Known Unknowns and Unknown Knowns: Privacy, Secrets, and the Limitations of Archives*. The common thread with all of these programs is the development, digitization and access to archive and/or special collections.

Sadly, it always seems that I am just getting into the swing of the conference when it is over. To me one of the most important aspects of these professional meetings remains the opportunity to meet and renew relationships with other professionals.



Chapter Chair Tom Young enjoys the Fort Worth Water Gardens Plaza, designed by Philip Johnson, directly across the street from the hotel.

Suzy Frechette, *Library Head, Fine Arts Department, Saint Louis Public Library*

The ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Fort Worth had something for

everyone. To the general public, the city may have the reputation of being Dallas' cowtown little sister, but its cultural complex that includes the Kimbell, the Amon Carter, and the Modern Art Museum is second to none, and many events and tours took place there. The sessions ranged from the highly technical to the traditional "how-we-do-it-good-in-our-library" varieties. If I do say so myself, one of the most successful this year was the one sponsored by the Public Libraries SIG that addressed how libraries can serve working and aspiring artists. Our bibliography of useful titles was in great demand for the rest of the conference. The 36 poster sessions were also varied and instructive – there seem to be more every year! The vendors had wonderful things, as usual, but there was no one Big New Thing this year.

At the Convocation, the Wittenborn publishing award was bestowed, for the second year in a row, on a digital-only resource. Unlike last year when it was an app (!), this one is a free website created by the National Gallery of Art: <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/research/online-editions/17th-century-dutch-paintings.html>. Daniel Starr, a friend to many CPers and catalogers, received the Distinguished Service Award for his long and productive service to the Society.

The conference also featured many tours, from neighborhood and downtown walking tours to the one I took, an all-day tour of Dallas. We saw all the shiny new buildings, most by living "star-chitects", as well as visited the Dallas Public Library and the Art Deco Texas State Fair Grounds.

Last but never least, our chapter met for a delightful meal and visit at a nice Italian restaurant near the hotel. It was great to see and visit with those who could make it to the conference –for me, this is always the most meaningful aspect of our meetings and conferences. I hope many of us are able to go to Seattle.

Submitted by Marilyn Carbonell, *Head, Library Services, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*

In March the lovely Texas Spring weather greeted us in Fort Worth for the ARLIS/NA 43rd Annual Conference. At the Artist Files Special Interest Group session, co-chairs Samantha Deutch and Sally McKay, covered our ARLIS/NA affiliate session at CAA in February, and I gave a report on my Artist File Initiative paper from the same session and received more enquiries about our project. I attended the Museum Division meeting, chaired by our Chapter's Catherine Petersen (Crystal Bridges), and volunteered to work on the art museum libraries statistics project lead by Heather Slania. At the OCLC Research Library Partnership roundtable, Dennis Massie announced a new project of customized museum library ILL data. For me, this conference had two major thematic interests: supporting artists and new technology. Sessions supporting artists had obvious appeal given our library's Artist File project and

approaches involving selecting geographic-centered groups, videotaping oral histories, research publications, and continuing relationships were very interesting. These included: *Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice*; *Telling Stories: Regional Artists and Their Art*; and *Known Unknown Knowns: Privacy, Secrets, and the Limitations of Archives*. One of the most useful take-aways was the bibliography, “Resources for Working Artists,” compiled by our own Suzy Frechette (St. Louis Public) from the Public Librarians SIG. Technology sessions included: *This Town is Big enough for All of Us: Managing Assets Across an Organization* (ranging for small to large organizations); *How the West was Won: Collaborative Approaches to Web Archiving* (including a speaker from the Internet Archives); and the poster session, *Please See Attached; The Challenges of Collecting PDF Exhibition Catalogs at the Thomas J. Watson Library* (Metropolitan Museum). Two other sessions provided much useful content: *What Can I Do with this Image?* covering reproduction fees and copyright, and *Photographers’ Self-Publishing: Contexts for Collecting Contemporary Photobooks*. Other benefits of attending this conference: learning opportunities, networking with colleagues, meeting our suppliers and vendors who exhibited, and visiting other museum libraries! Looking forward to next year in Seattle!

Report on the ARLIS/NA session for the College Art Association 103rd Annual Conference, New York City, 11-14 February 2015

Submitted by Marilyn Carbonell, Head, Library Services, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City



Cold winter blasted New York City when I presented a paper on the Artist’s File Initiative at the Nelson-Atkins at the ARLIS/NA sponsored affiliate session at the College Art Association Annual Conference on 12 February 2015. This session, entitled, *Documenting Artists: Creating, Collecting, and Preserving Ephemeral Material* explored the following: “Librarians, archivists and scholars have long recognized that unique valuable artist information often only exists in ephemeral objects: early career postcards, flyers, press releases. Institutions have a legacy of collecting this information. The names of these collections are varied, often called artist archives or artist files, but the goal is the same: to document artists’ legacy through collections of ephemera, publications, and press. As the use of these materials in scholarship rises and influence on curatorial practice is evident with the increased inclusion of archival material in exhibitions, how are institutions innovating to maximize access?”

The international session’s speakers included: Roman Koot (Head, Library & Archives, Netherlands Institute for Art History) on *From Marginal to Mainstream: Art Ephemera as Research Material at the RKD*; Marilyn Carbonell (Head, Library Services, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City) on *Artist Files Initiative at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City: Supporting Artists and Community Engagement*; Liv Valmestad (Art Librarian, University of Manitoba) on *Making the Fleeting Permanent: The “Winnipeg Effect” and Communities of Collaboration*; and Samantha Deutch (Assistant Director, Center for the History of Collecting, The Frick Collection, Frick Art Reference Library) with Sally McKay (Head of Special Collections Services, Research Library, Getty Research Institute) on *The Future of Artist Files: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow*, which described the work and projects of the ARLIS/NA Artist Files Special Interest Group. Co-moderators and presenters were Tony White, (then Director,

Decker Library, Maryland Institute College of Art) and Francine Snyder (Director, Library & Archives, the Guggenheim Museum).

CAA is not on my regular conference itinerary so it was enlightening to attend art historical sessions on a variety of subjects for insight on how library services might be utilized to support advanced studies and new interest areas. Sessions I attended included: *Original Copies: Art and the Practice of Copying*, *Walt Disney and the 'Birth of an American Art,'* (especially interesting to Kansas City, where Walt Disney first drew the famous Mickey Mouse) and *The Market for Medieval Art in America*. The launch session by the CAA Committee on Intellectual Property presented the document, *A Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for the Visual Arts* (approved 1/2015; published 2/2015), which is an important statement for all of us involved in the visual arts. The presenters described aims of the all-inclusive nature of the code, which I found very exciting. For a description of the 2015 CAA conference, see:

<http://conference2015.collegeart.org/schedule/sessions/> .

Message from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison



Greetings Central Plains Chapter Members!

I have just begun my two-year term as Chapters Liaison and hope to continue the excellent work of my predecessor Sarah Sherman. I look forward to working with you and to receiving your feedback and suggestions in the coming months.

I have been a member of ARLIS since the late 1990s, and a member of the New York Chapter for most of that time, although I now live in New Jersey. My first professional position was in the Southeast, however, and I got to spend some time with several of your Chapter's members at a joint conference in New Orleans back in 2003. I have been at Princeton University since 2006, and since June 2007 as one of two librarians at the art and archaeology library at Princeton, called Marquand.

ARLIS/NA Documentation

As you may know, the Executive Board of ARLIS has been working on editing and refining many of our core documents like the Policy Manual, and this has led to a recent discussion about our mission and related statements to ensure they reflect the goals, activities and scope of our membership at this point in time. The Code of Conduct that was created for the Fort Worth conference will evolve into a permanent Code that can be incorporated by Chapters both on their websites and as a guiding document for Chapter activities. I will also be updating the Chapter Success Book during my term on the Board. Lastly, the new strategic planning process is underway and there will more news on that front soon.

Special Funding and Project Charters

The call for special funding has gone out and Chapters have until **July 15** to submit requests that fall within the stated guidelines on the ARLIS/NA site: see Administrative Documents, and then Financial Information down at the bottom. On a related note, ARLIS has recently created a Project and Service Charter form for submitting requests to pursue initiatives of relevance to the Society at large. This form is also available under Administrative Documents and completed forms may be submitted to me at any time to present to the Board; more information about the Project Charter will be communicated to the membership in the coming weeks.

The Executive Board continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis, and will meet in person for our mid-year board meeting on Aug. 20-21 in Philadelphia. Feel free to contact me before those meetings if there are pertinent issues to bring to the Board. A very happy and relaxing spring and summer to all!

-Rebecca Friedman



Catherine Petersen Bids Adieu

Library Director, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

It is with many mixed emotions that I share with you my semi-retirement as Library Director at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. As many of you know, I came to Bentonville, Arkansas and Crystal Bridges from Flagstaff, Arizona. What some of you may not know is that I left my husband, Alan, behind to finish his tenure as an art history and painting instructor. We agreed that the opportunity to build an art museum library from the ground up would be an experience of a lifetime for me considering my background in American art history and librarianship. Having grown up in the Kansas City area, I was familiar with the Ozarks and had spent some great times canoeing the beautiful rivers in the state during my twenties.

And so it began, in June of 2010 we hauled some Craig's list furniture purchases to Arkansas and Alan returned, I was alone in a new place, a new job, facing huge new challenges I'm quite sure many librarians wouldn't tackle. What a ride it has been! Although I was only 5 years in the position, I feel as though it has been many more than that. The first 2 years organizing the materials: a one-time cataloging project, web content, negotiating and implementing a shared catalog with the University of Arkansas Libraries, 4 moves of books from storage, and much more, was the most challenging time; although, like many things, it seems a long time ago. Since then the tough work, long hours, and fast deadlines have resulted in more pounds than I will say, my hair is completely gray, and I'm more or less out of shape. But, the personal and professional growth I have had is undeniable. I am very pleased with what I have accomplished for the Museum but I am ready to be back living a normal life with Alan.

So a special thank you to my ARLIS/Central Plains friends, especially Phil Jones, who has listened to me, collaborated with me, and supported me. You are a great librarian and good friend Phil, and I will think of you often. A special thanks also to Marilyn Carbonell. I first met Marilyn when I was an art history graduate student in at UMKC. During my time in Arkansas she has always been available for advice or just to listen, thanks Marilyn, you are the best! To the rest of CP chapter:

You were so welcoming and fun, my gosh we had fun! As with many other misconceptions about librarians, everyday folks have no idea just what how crazy we can be. I loved learning from you, hosting you at the Museum, I just so enjoyed our shared love of art and libraries. You gave me great tips, spurred me on, and you just "knew," you guys are my peeps and I am so grateful to have spent time with you.

See you in Lawrence, we'll have fun!

KANSAS

Greetings from Mari Russell

I am still enjoying teaching half-time in the Humanities Department at Haskell Indian Nations University. Our Spring semester ends May 7 so I will soon be off on my summer adventures. To date, I plan the following: to Fripp Island, SC to see my son Mark and his family for Mother's Day weekend, then to Lincoln, NE to attend the Great Plains Seminar, and next to Santa Fe May 21-28. On June 5, I will be traveling to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to join the ARLIS/NA Art Study Tour. From Rio on June 15, I travel to London to visit museums and then to Canterbury to join a pilgrimage at the Canterbury cathedral. On June 29, I head west to Hawarden, Wales and the Gladstone Library where I am taking a course. Then home to the States on July 8. Most likely, I will have some R & R before heading back to Santa Fe before Fall Semester begins in mid-August.

MISSOURI

News from the Kansas City Art Institute

M.J. Poehler, *Director of the Jannes Library*



The Kansas City Art Institute is in the process of bidding adieu to its Visual Resources Library (also known as the Slide Library), which has traditionally been housed separately from the main library. The visual resources assistant position was eliminated in June, 2014. Last fall, Deborah Tinsley, Visual Resources Librarian, moved her office and operations to Jannes Library. KCAI has relied solely on digital images for teaching and research for several years, while hanging on to the slide collection. All the while Deborah has been selectively scanning to digital format, a project that continues. We are now disposing of around 110,000 slides, the slide cabinets, and the quaint accouterments related to creating, labeling, storing, viewing and circulating slides. KCAI students have happily carted off many boxes of free slides – most going after slides in bulk, while some are actually scrutinizing them and selecting by image. Go figure.

KCAI left the OCLC cataloging fold exactly one year ago, switching to Innovative's SkyRiver utility from OCLC's CatExpress. Lora Farrell, cataloging and digital services librarian, is quite satisfied with SkyRiver. As members of the Mobius library consortium, we use Innovative's Sierra ILS, so the workflow importing records is a bit smoother with SkyRiver. The hit rate is good – except for items in bluray format. The downside, of course, is not being able to keep our holdings current in OCLC. We do continue to use OCLC for interlibrary loan and some day we will do a batch update of our holdings. Anyone curious about SkyRiver is welcome to contact M. J. Poehler or Lora Farrell for more information.

New From The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Marilyn Carbonell, Head, Library Services

Staff update: Dawn Mackey, former cataloger, Spencer Art Reference Library, joined the staff of the Kansas City Public Library, as their new Technical Services Manager, in mid-February 2015. At KCPL, Dawn manages the cataloging, processing, classification, and receiving for all ten branches of the library system. With her staff of four, Dawn is located in the downtown KCPL Central Library, which was renovated from the old First National Bank Building. Our chapter met at the Central Library in June 2014. Dawn was at the Nelson's Spencer Art Reference Library for almost 18.5 years, most of her career working as cataloger and in book conservation. All of library's beautifully constructed book containers and enclosures were crafted by Dawn and her two long-standing volunteers, who retired when Dawn left SARL. One of her last projects here was assisting a museum pilot project using a schema with metadata from AAT and xml coding for a project involving the sculpture park art work. If you attend the Missouri Library Association annual conferences, Dawn has been active professionally for technical services.



Amelia Nelson, Public Services Librarian

On April 16, 2015 the Spencer Art Reference Library collaborated with the museum's Educator Resource Center to host the program *Research for Inspiration*. Designed to connect library resources to artists and designers in the Kansas City Community, the drop-in program featured books and scrolls from the library's special collections. Participants were encouraged to use these items as the inspiration for future projects in a workshop environment where they sketched and brain-stormed with other artists and with library staff.

Projects inspired by this program will be shared at an informal follow-up scheduled for May and may also be displayed in the Ford Learning Center in June. We're looking forward to seeing the unique responses to these materials from participants who included painters, textile artists, a printmaker and a woodworker.

News from the Post Memorial Art Reference Library

Leslie Simpson, Library Director

Leslie Simpson, director of the Post Memorial Art Reference Library, in Joplin is retiring as of June 1. Leslie has been with the library since it first opened in 1981. She and her husband are moving to St. Louis to be able to spend more time with family.

News from the Saint Louis Art Museum
Marianne Cavanaugh, Head Librarian

On April 18, the Richardson Memorial Library at the Saint Louis Art Museum celebrated the 100th anniversary of opening to the public. The Library is the result of the first legacy gift ever given to the museum by Mary D. Richardson, who wished to honor the memory of her husband J. Clifford Richardson. The anniversary was celebrated by several learning events, over several weeks. First, a workshop, *Love your Library* introduced the library's online resources to area teachers. On the Saturday of the actual anniversary, a family event was held, with storytelling, bookmaking, and gallery tours. The Richardson Library partnered with the Study Room for Prints, Drawings, and Photographs to present a four-part adult seminar on the Book Arts in St. Louis. Finally, a reception was held to thank the library donors, including long-time volunteers and special guests from sister institutions in the area.

News from the Saint Louis Public Library



Suzy Frechette, Library Head, Fine Arts Department, is pleased to report that an exhibit of Steedman Architectural Library materials has been on display in the SLPL Central Library's Great Hall since December. It comprises eight display cases with rare, valuable, influential books and other materials from this special collection. It is supplemented by a 5.5-foot high by 85-foot long mural that wraps around the entire south wall of the Great Hall. The mural is made of vinyl and features images and explanatory text from selected works from the collection. The combined effect is truly stunning, and she invites everyone who can to visit and see it in person before it comes down at the end of May. More information about the Steedman library is available at its blog, also maintained by Suzy:

<http://stedmanarchitecturallibrary.blogspot.com/>

OKLAHOMA

New from the Philbrook Museum of Art
Thomas E. Young, Librarian/Asst. Registrar



Ron King
The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer Guildford, UK: Circle Press, 1978
1979.15

Thomas Young has organized an exhibition of artist's books *Book Works IV*, which will be on display at the Philbrook Museum of Art, April 12 – July 5, 2015. Drawn from the museum's permanent collection, the library's holdings and some promised gifts, this selection of works represents the diversity within the museum's small collection of artist's books. This past March he gave a talk *The New Deal and its impact on Oklahoma Art*. It was presented in association with the exhibition *The First 50 Years of Oklahoma Art*, currently on display at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum at the Oklahoma Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

