



Report from the Chair



This past year has been a whirlwind for me as I witnessed my mentor and predecessor, Susan Craig retire from the University of Kansas. I am happy to report that we voted unanimously to rename our travel award in Susan's honor to recognize her distinguished service as an Art Librarian.

As I continue in my new roles as the Central Plains Chair and the Fine Arts Librarian at the University of Kansas, I recognize I have many of you to thank for your support. I feel fortunate to be a part of a chapter who takes the time to plan, meet, and exchange discourse on a regular basis. Our chapter meetings have provided opportunities for growth and a wider sense of our profession. I want to thank you all for attending the meetings, your participation, taking turns volunteering to serve, and renewing your membership. I have enjoyed visiting the various libraries and communities in which many of our members work and I hope that we can continue this as the years go on. I would like to directly thank Tom Young and Jenny Atkins, it was a pleasure to work with you both. I could not have asked for a better team to learn from as a Vice-Chair/Chair Elect. I would also like to thank Mikael Kriz and Marianne Cavanaugh for agreeing to serve with me and to Amelia Nelson for putting together our newsletter.

Sincerely,

Andi Back, *Fine Arts & Humanities Librarian, University of Kansas*

Upcoming Spring Chapter Meeting: Lindsborg, Kansas

Planning for our next chapter meeting is in the works. Andi Back is coordinating with Ron Michael, Director of the Birger Sandzén Gallery, to host our next chapter meeting in Lindsborg, Kansas on October 7-8, 2016. As details fall into place, we will send them along. For more information contact Andi at aback@ku.edu

We hope to see you in June!

Report on the 2016 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington



Tiffany Von Arnim "Downtown Seattle" <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tiffany98101/15623134190>> (CC BY 2.0)
(view of Seattle, without rain, not seen by conference attendees)

*Submitted by Andi Back, ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter Chair
March 21, 2016*

It seemed very fitting that I was the first to be awarded the recently named Susan V. Craig travel award. I appreciate the work of the awards committee, Suzy Frechette and Susan Bobo, in their selection and consideration.

This year the Leadership Breakfast was replaced by a Leadership Onboarding webinar in the weeks prior to the Society's conference. The webinar is available on the learning portal for anyone who is interested and provides an overview of the Society's organizational structure, financial components, and key guiding documents. A number of technology tools available to ARLIS/NA chapters are also discussed. In short, the webinar covers all of the things one would need to know to be an effective ARLIS/NA leader.

Overall, 813 members attended the ARLIS/NA + VRA Joint Conference in Seattle. Below are listed highlights from the Chapter Chairs meeting:

- Each chapter needs to review their bylaws to ensure officer replacement is covered in the event someone needs to step down from their position on the chapter board. I will work on this in the coming year to ensure the verbiage is there.
- If chapters decide to host virtual meetings the technology is available through the Society. This was mentioned as a way to increase meeting attendance in regards to giving ARLIS/NA members outside of the direct chapter the availability to attend.

- A handbook for chapters with ideas for fundraising is being produced by the ARLIS/NA Development Committee and is forthcoming.
- During our round robin, ideas about membership recruitment were shared. Many chapters host events during area MLS program recruitments and have worked with the ARLIS/NA society to give out a couple of free yearly memberships via a raffle. None of the chapters have yet figured out how to reach students in distance MLS programs.
- The content on the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal is now open access and we are encouraged to share. <https://arlisna.org/career-resources/arlis-na-learning-portal>
- All members of chapters must be members of ARLIS/NA. If you are not a member of ARLIS/NA, but would still like to contribute and be a member of ARLIS/NA-CP we need to list you as a friend or associate in our member directory. Please note if you are not a member of ARLIS/NA you cannot serve on the board of the ARLIS/NA-CP. If you have renewed your CP membership, but are not a member of ARLIS/NA please email me at aback@ku.edu
- Next year's ARLIS/NA Conference will be in New Orleans from February 5-9th. The 2018 conference will be held in New York City and the 2019 conference in Salt Lake City.

While in Seattle, ten members of the chapter met informally for dinner. No new business was discussed. I look forward to working with all of you and I hope to see you in Lindsborg.

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference Highlights

Submitted by Suzy Frechette, Library Head, Fine Arts Department, Saint Louis Public Library

This conference, themed "Natural Connections," was the third joint conference with the Visual Resources Association. It also overlapped with the Association of Architecture School Librarians conference and was preceded by a THATCamp. As such, it was a crowded program (including many unpopular 7:00 am meeting times) with larger crowds than usual. Many sessions and workshops of a technical nature involving VR topics were held, along with the more traditional book and reference-oriented sessions found at ARLIS/NA meetings. To see photos, check social media sites for the official tag of ARLISNAVRA2016.

As advertised, the weather was chilly and rainy most of the time, but the hotel was well located in the heart of downtown, a half-mile or so from both the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Public Library, and other relevant sites.

At the Membership Meeting, upcoming conferences were announced: New Orleans in 2017, New York City in 2018, and Salt Lake City in 2019. Everyone attending was given Mardi Gras beads, lending a festive air to the rest of the day and the evening's reception at the public library.

The Convocation's award highlight was that Ann Baird Whiteside (Harvard, Graduate School of Design) received both the ARLIS/NA and the VRA Distinguished Service Awards, a first. The Wittenborn Award for outstanding art book of 2015 was won by *Kongo: Power and Majesty*, an exhibition catalog published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

About a dozen Central Plains Chapter members attended parts of the conferences. Ten were able to enjoy a pleasant dinner at a seafood restaurant one evening, where we visited and looked forward to our Fall chapter meeting.

Submitted by Amelia Nelson, Public Services Librarian, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

One of the highlights of this year's Seattle conference was the workshop that I was able to attend, "Wikipedia Edit-a-thons from Why to Edit." The four hour workshop was packed with helpful tips and hands on experience for librarians interested in holding their own edit-a-thon. The workshop began with five short case-studies which presented insights into various Wikipedia Edit-a-thon projects that were hosted by institutions as diverse as The Guggenheim, The University of Illinois and the organizers of the Art+Feminism Wikipedia edit-a-thons. The presentations provided great insights in the "why" of edit-a-thons including the statistic that only 11% of Wiki editors are women or the Metropolitan Museum of Art's finding that usage of their digitized publications dramatically increased after linking to these resources in Wiki. The part of the workshop that was the most helpful for me was the planning portion. Presenters talked about the many lessons learned and resources need to host a successful Wiki Edit-a-thon. These included a reliable wi-fi connection, Wikipedia account creator status, a theme, technical support, attendance of a local Wikipedian and the main take-away was to set reasonable expectations for your edit-a-thon. Setting up a Wikipedia account and understanding Wikipedia policies will probably take the majority of most edit-a-thon participant's time, allowing them to update and create Wikipedia articles on their own time. As you might imagine, Wikipedia is a great source of additional information on editing in Wikipedia. I'm also happy to provide more information from this session if you're interested in hosting your own Wikipedia Edit-a-thon.

Message from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison

*Submitted by Rebecca Friedman, ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison
Assistant Librarian, Marquand Library of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
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Hello Central Plains Members!

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am reporting on several items that have kept us busy in 2015 and more recently. Feel free to follow up with me with questions or comments, and if there's anything that needs to be brought to the attention of the Board, do let me know anytime.

Strategic Planning and Directions

The Board has been thinking about and drafting new versions of our core values, vision, mission and goals to help guide the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee is embarking on the next phase of strategic planning at present, which is going to be a more nimble and flexible process than was previously the case. The plan is to cover a two-year, as opposed to a five-year cycle. Executive Board members and the Committee will be determining how and when the greater ARLIS/NA membership can provide feedback, and ultimately, how all ARLIS/NA activities will tie in to the themes of the document. You will hear more about this at the membership meeting in Seattle, if not sooner.

Code of Conduct

The ARLIS/NA Board has finalized a permanent Code of Conduct statement, called a Statement of Appropriate Conduct. Heather Gendron, the current Vice President, is working on finalizing and integrating the document into the ARLIS/NA website and official documentation. All chapter websites will ultimately be asked to include it or link to it.

ARLIS/NA Learning Portal

The Learning Portal was originally created to provide virtual content from ARLIS/NA annual conferences, but has evolved to provide additional programs and sessions. The Board voted last August to provide this content free to members and to all interested parties, as was communicated to Society members in an e-mail that circulated on ARLIS-L. Check out what's there, in any case, if you haven't yet: <https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna>. The Professional Development Committee and its Education Subcommittee will be offering a webinar on using the portal very soon.

Seattle Conference

The Seattle joint conference with VRA, with some cross-listing of content from the Association of Architecture School Librarians conference, looks to be shaping up to be a super event. 33 sessions are scheduled over three days (versus 28 in Fort Worth). Most chapter, section and division meetings are scheduled to meet very early because it has proven challenging to avoid conflicting with sessions. The Getty and Kress Foundations, respectively, will be funding grants to allow delegates from 17 countries to attend! Thanks to the Central Plains Chapter for your generous \$150 donation towards general conference support.

Chapter Archives

ARLIS/NA formed a Documentation Committee this past year to oversee the policies and procedures regarding Society documentation, including oral histories and electronic records. The group is now attempting to come up with a retention schedule for the Society, which could include chapter archives. At the moment, chapters deal with records on their own, with the exception of annual reports. (Note: Web archiving for the Society beyond the ARLIS/NA website is not yet being done.)

Chapter Discussion Lists

All chapters have had the ability to request listservs hosted by ARLIS/NA, but the Board voted at our meeting last September to waive all associated fees for list servs for the chapters. Chapters who had ARLIS-hosted listservs using L-Soft were previously paying \$128 per year for this service.

Special Interest Groups

The current Executive Board has approved the formation of several new ARLIS/NA SIGs this year: for Exhibitions, Retired Members, Solo Art Information Professionals, and Web Archiving.

I wish you all a very productive and eventful spring.

MEMBER NEWS

— ARKANSAS —

New from the University of Arkansas
Submitted by Phillip J. Jones, Head Fine Arts Library

The Fine Arts Library received additional funding from the Art Department and the College of Arts and Sciences to increase monographic holdings in art. The Art Department is placing greater emphasis on graphic and visual design.

— MISSOURI —

News from the Kansas City Art Institute
Submitted by Lora Farrell, Cataloging and Digital Services Librarian

Lora Farrell at the Kansas City Art Institute submitted several reviews for the ARLIS publication [Multimedia & Technology Reviews](#), including a review of the website Destructables. Lora was also awarded a scholarship to attend the Innovative User's Group Conference to be held in San Francisco in March 2016.



The Jannes Library at the Kansas City Art Institute received a donation of the Louis Moulthrop Packaging Archive, which includes colorful examples of cellophane packaging design for food circa 1950s-1970s from Dobeckmun, based in California.

News from The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Submitted by Amelia Nelson, Public Services Librarian

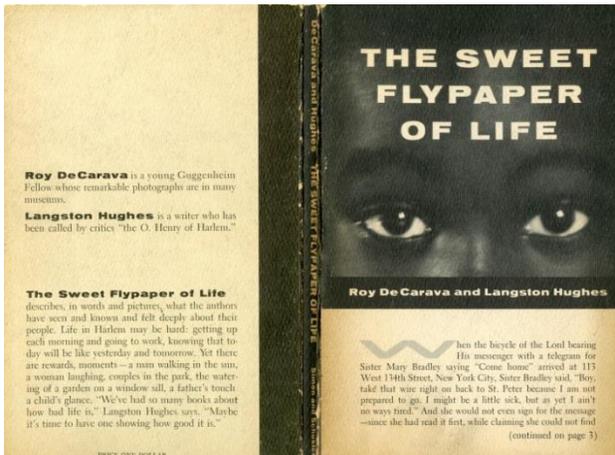
Marilyn Carbonell highlighted the library's Artists' File Initiative in two recent publications:

In the blog, *Artists' Studio Archives*:

<http://artiststudioarchives.org/2016/02/15/preserving-artist-legacies-with-marilyn-carbonell/>

and in the March/April 2016 issue of *KC Studio Magazine* on pages 26 – 27:

<http://www.calameo.com/read/0000092563f2ead9421a3>



The library also hosted photography Curator April Watson in a discussion of the photobook *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*, a collaborative project between the photographer Roy DeCarava and Langston Hughes. In the program Watson contextualized the photobook *The Sweet Flypaper of Life* among other important twentieth century photobooks. Published in 1955, *The Sweet Flypaper of Life* offers unique insight into the themes explored in the exhibition *Through the Lens: Visions of African American Experience, 1950 – 1970*. The program

generated lively discussion and highlighted important photobooks from the library's collection. It was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 in the Spencer Art Reference Library.

Amelia Nelson presented at ARLIS/NA as part of the panel , *Charmed, I'm Sure: Introducing New Users to Libraries and Visual Resources Collections*. In the presentation, *Visual Thinking Strategies: From the Museum to the Library, What going on in this picture?* Amelia talked about how she uses VTS in information literacy instruction sessions to support the core competencies addressed in ACRL's Information Literacy and Visual Literacy Standards as well as the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.

Submitted by Marilyn Carbonell, Head, Library Services
Notable Acquisitions and Gifts

The Spencer Art Reference Library received two notable gifts during 2015. The late John F. Herbst, retired librarian from Kansas City Public Library and lastly, Penn Valley College, gave a very generous gift of funds for library acquisitions. He was pleased that we were able to finally purchase the complete Christian Zervos, *Pablo Picasso Catalogue Raisonné*, the 2014 English-translation in 33 volumes. Going back a few centuries, Prof. Emeritus Lewis L. Gould gave the library funds to purchase an early printed book for the Karen Gould teaching collection of Medieval and Renaissance manuscript leaves. We purchased an intact codex with wooden boards: Marcus Marulus, *Bene vivendi instituta*. Basel, Adam Petri, 1513, 4to, with extensive notes on the flypapers and an engraved title page.

News from the Saint Louis Public Library
Submitted by Suzy Frechette, Head Fine Art Department

Reports that the 2015 series of six architecture lectures, jointly sponsored by the Steedman Architectural Library of SLPL and the St. Louis chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, was a real success. This was the first year for this endeavor, so no one knew just what to expect. Attendance ranged from about a dozen to over 70. Consequently, another series for this year, heavy on St. Louis-related themes (flounder houses, modernist homes, Zumwalt's Fort) has been planned. A list of speakers, topics, and dates can be found on the Steedman blog: [Steedman Architectural Library](#)

