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## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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With Spring Break in full swing here at Saint Louis University, I have had some time to step back and reflect on the past year. First in my mind was the excellent chapter meeting in Lindsborg, KS, hosted by Ron Michael. I truly enjoyed seeing the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery, the presentations we had on Friday, and driving up to Salina the following day to see the Salina Art Center and learning about the Paperworks Initiative. In the month following the meeting I must have described the Paperworks Initiative to at least two

dozen different people. I always look forward to our chapter meetings as much as I do the ARLIS/NA annual conference and sometimes even more. The opportunity to get together with chapter members, see exciting art and spaces, and learn about programs from across the Central Plains has been a key component in my development as a librarian. The annual conference in New Orleans this past February was also a great experience. I loved the setting next to the Vieux Carré and though I left the conference exhausted, as I seem to do every year, I am always filled with new ideas and a long list of things to plan, research, and adopt into my own library practices.

Looking forward to the rest of 2017, we will be meeting in Kansas City in mid-October. Many thanks to Amelia Nelson for starting the planning process for this event. Details on the meeting will be coming later this year. We should also expect to see changes in the way ARLIS/NA communicates with and supports the regional chapters. When I have more details on these functions, I will share them with the chapter. And last, but definitely not least, this past summer we voted for and approved our submission to host the 2020 ARLIS/NA annual conference. Congratulations to our Program Co-Chairs, Rina Vecchiola and Skye Lacerte and our Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, Jennifer Akins and Andrea Degener. It will be an exciting next few years as we plan and develop the conference and welcome several hundred ARLIS/NA members to St. Louis.

All my best,

*Mikael D Kriz, Subject Librarian for Fine & Performing Art and Communication, Saint Louis University*

## UPCOMING FALL CHAPTER MEETING: KANSAS CITY

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Planning for our next chapter meeting is in the works. Amelia Nelson and M.J. Poehler are coordinating with colleagues in Kansas City, to host our next chapter meeting at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening and Friday, with an optional tour on Saturday morning, October 19 - 21. As details fall into place, we will send them along. For more information contact Amelia at [anelson@nelson-atkins.org](mailto:anelson@nelson-atkins.org)

We hope to see you in October!

## REPORT ON THE 2017 ARLIS/NA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

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Vintage postcard | photo: French Quarter, New Orleans, photo by Erica Chang  
([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French\\_Quarter,\\_New\\_Orleans\\_USA\\_-\\_panoramio.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Quarter,_New_Orleans_USA_-_panoramio.jpg) (CC attribution 3.0 Unported))

## ARLIS/NA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

The early spring conference in New Orleans was filled with the usual highlights, great opportunities to network with new and old colleagues, wonderful art at both the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and last, but not least, thought provoking sessions of a variety of topics. During my conference, I focusing of sessions exploring Fair Use and Visual Literacy in Information Literacy Instruction as well as updates from vendors. I also attended an interesting session, *Impacts of Working with Linked Data*. This session provided detailed insights into the technology and workflows used to create online searchable resources. The first panel in this session presented an overview of the tools and project management workflows used to create an online database of Bernard Berenson's catalogue raisonné of Florentine Painters, *The Drawings of the Florentine Painters* (<http://florentinedrawings.itatti.harvard.edu/pages/background>). The panelist presented many tools they

used to create this database including Gephi, Triplestore, SparqlEndpoints, Blazegraph, metaphacts, to name a few. The team's presentation focused not only the exciting research possibilities of a project like this, but also provided insight into the technical skills required and complex workflow needed to successfully complete this project.

In addition to the many great sessions and SIG's that I attended, I also learned about several new updates from our vendors. The merging of the ARTstor and JSTOR platforms sounds like it will bring some exciting synergies between images in JSTOR articles and ARTstor's digital library, <http://www.artstor.org/press-release/artstor-and-ithaka-will-join-forces>. At the OCLC session, presenters introduced the Art Discovery Catalog, <http://ArtDiscovery.net>. The catalog makes content from several European libraries, not previously included in Worldcat, discoverable as well as the art-historical resources in *kubikat*. As usual I left the conference with pages and pages of notes to digest over the next few months and energized by the exciting programs, initiatives and people at the conference.

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## ARLIS/CP NEW INITIATIVE TO DOCUMENT THE CHAPTER'S HISTORY

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*Submitted by Susan Craig, Emeritus Art & Architecture Librarian, University of Kansas*

At our business meeting at the recent New Orleans Conference, Mikael reported that chapters have been encouraged to compile histories of their chapters. I volunteered to start this process for Central Plains but will need help from many of you to fill some gaps. Some of the sections that I'm working on include a year-by-year list of chapter officers, meeting dates and sites, reports on the Annual Conference that we've hosted, and our publications. I'll be reporting on the project at our fall meeting but don't be too surprised if you hear from me sooner.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ARLIS/NA CHAPTERS LIAISON

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*Submitted by Catherine Essinger, ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison  
Architecture and Art Library Coordinator, University of Houston, [cwessinger@uh.edu](mailto:cwessinger@uh.edu)*



Greetings! Last month I began a two year term as your Chapters Liaison on the ARLIS/NA Executive Board. I have been a member of the Texas-Mexico Chapter for twelve years, where I served as Secretary, committee member, and as Programs Co-Chair for the 2015 Annual Conference in Fort Worth. Until now, all my service to the Society has been at the chapter level and I am very glad to have this opportunity to work with other chapters as they support art information professionals through community building and innovative programming. On behalf of the Executive Board, I'd like to let you know about some important activities and developments.

### **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

The successful 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in New Orleans resulted in many new developments and projects. Thanks to the work of the conference committee, attendees had ample opportunities to broaden their knowledge and develop new skills. The Society also affirmed its commitment to accessibility by captioning some content for hearing-impaired members and piloting an onsite child care project for members with small children. A forthcoming Census Survey report will aid the Society's efforts to

understand the evolving needs of its membership. The Finance Committee has elected to henceforth hold open meetings in order to increase transparency and inclusivity, and invited any interested members to attend its meeting in New Orleans. The Society held a Diversity Forum for the second year in a row, which served as a safe space for members to engage in discussion and brainstorm ways to uphold our core value of Diversity and Inclusion. Many thanks to your chapter for donating funds to support this productive conference.

### **Getting Involved**

President Eumie Imm Stroukoff recently hosted an [onboarding webinar](#) for new leaders, which is accessible in the [Learning Portal](#). Both new and experienced leaders may listen to learn more about the Society's structure and opportunities. Anyone interested in becoming more involved in ARLIS/NA or moving into leadership positions will be interested to hear more about the Society's operational structure.

### **Service Charters**

In response to input from one of the chapters, the Executive Board has made the process of applying for [Project & Service Charters](#) more flexible. Chapters may now apply for support from the Society in order to complete a project any time during the year. Chapters may also submit [Special Funding Requests](#) twice annually.

### **Advocacy**

These are unusual times for anyone working in the arts or working with information literacy. The Society has responded to cultural divisions and threats to arts and humanities funding with the following statements:

a [press release](#) endorsing Carla Hayden for Librarian of Congress

a [statement](#) affirming ARLIS/NA's commitment to diversity and inclusion

a [press release](#) opposing the proposed elimination of funding for NEA, NEH, and IMLS

The Public Policy Committee continues to track trends and legal matters affecting our profession and helps the Executive Board navigate emerging challenges and opportunities in the realm of public policy. The Museum Libraries Division also recently authored *The State of Art Museum Libraries 2016*, which can be used to advocate for art museum libraries at this critical time. This white paper will be soon available on the ARLIS/NA website.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Diversity and Inclusion is both a Core Value and a Strategic Direction of ARLIS/NA. Remember that we have a [Diversity Committee](#) interested in advancing diversity, not merely within the Society, but in collections and the art information fields, at large. Please let me know if your chapter is interested in pursuing any projects that support this value or have any related concerns.

### **For Parents and Caregivers**

[The Art Librarian Parents and Caregivers \(ALPACA\) SIG](#) is now a year old. Its mission is to provide support and distribute professional resources for art librarians juggling professional challenges while caring for a family. I am hopeful this group can help members with obligations to parents, children, and others take better advantage of the support and professional development opportunities offered by the Society.

I look forward to working with your chapter and its officers during the next two years. Please feel free to contact me with questions or requests. Have a productive and pleasant spring.

— 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 University Libraries as a whole reviewed subscriptions to all electronic serials showing a ratio of greater than \$30 per use.

Phil Jones missed New Orleans, but will attend ACRL in Baltimore, where he will serve as one of four panelists for a session entitled “How Many Hands Are Needed on Deck? Mooring Staffing to ACRL’s Value of Academic Libraries (VAL).” He applied for a Kress Foundation Award for International Travel to attend ARLIS UK & Ireland in Dublin in July.

Jones is also pleased to announce the appointment of a new librarian at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Jeanne Besaw. Welcome!

— KANSAS —



*Greetings from Mari Russell, Retired Art Librarian*

The news I have is personal since I am now retired. I travel a lot & I will be in Santa Fe, NM in mid-March & travel on to see family in Southern California. Then I will be attending the Great Plains Symposium at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska the end of March. Plans for the coming summer are to be a participant in the ARLIS/NA Art Study trip to Paris, France in June. There are 20 ARLIS members going. From there I will spend time in Barcelona & Madrid, Spain. And then I will spend two weeks at the Gladstone Library in Hawarden, Wales. I still have a studio casita in Santa Fe, NM so I will spend some time there this summer as well. I enjoyed the annual ARLIS conference in New Orleans & look forward to the CP meeting in Kansas City this Fall.

— MISSOURI —



*New from the Saint Louis Public Library*

*Submitted by Suzy Frechette, Library Head, Fine Arts Department*

Suzy Frechette reports that her colleague of 25 years in the Fine Arts department, Tim Willman, retired at the end of 2016. Although not a chapter member, he valiantly held down the fort, enabling Suzy to attend and enjoy almost every chapter meeting and ARLIS/NA conference during this time. He will be missed by library staff and patrons, especially his thorough familiarity with the decorative arts and all things Art Deco.

***News from the Saint Louis Art Museum***  
***Submitted by Marianne L. Cavanaugh, Head Librarian***

The Richardson Memorial Library received a significant donation from a former dealer in African and Asian art. Nearly 50 linear feet, over 400 books, were delivered in February. Work on checking the inventory against the 33 boxes of books continues.

Also, a delegation of guests from the Fo Guang Shan in Taiwan along with the St. Louis Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Center purchased the 20 volume set, *The Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts*, for the Library. This is the first edition of the set published in English and we are delighted to receive it. The presentation of the gift is in March and will include the Venerable Abbot Hsin Bao from Taiwan and the Venerable Jue Huang from St. Louis.

The exhibition *Degas, Impressionism, & the Paris Millinery Trade*, is very popular and might be our highest attended exhibition in the past several years. More information about the exhibition can be found here: <http://www.slam.org/exhibitions/degas.php>

***News from the Kansas City Art Institute***  
***Submitted by M.J. Poehler, Library Director***

The Jannes Library lawn is the new home of the Illustration department's annual Rail Project. Illustration sophomores work in teams to construct out of cardboard and glue a vehicle that will carry a student and roll or somehow move down a "rail" that is 18 inches off the ground and about 80 feet long. The slope of the lawn provides just the right momentum for the varied vehicles to glide down the rail and survive to the finish (if all goes well). The assignment emphasizes collaboration, exploration, play, invention and discovery. Library staff enjoy it for the opportunity to get outdoors and appreciate student work. The next Rail Project will be April 26, 2017.



In other Jannes Library news, recent donations to KCAI have enabled the college to catch up on deferred maintenance. The library has benefitted – a new roof has recently been installed (no more leaks in the stacks, fingers crossed!), and currently our HVAC control system is being upgraded. We look forward to installation of a new key-card access system throughout campus and including the library.

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

I'm pleased to be able to announce two important staffing changes at the Spencer Art Reference Library. After a national search, Tara Zachary Laver was hired as the museum's archivist, starting in January 2017. Tara replaced Holly Wright who served in the position for 14 years. Tara comes to the archives from Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge where she was the Head, Public and Research Services of the Special Collections. Tara has an extensive publication record, project management experience and a record of professional service. We're excited to welcome Tara to the museum and to introduce her to our colleagues in ARLIS/CP!

In addition, as part of a larger re-organization in the education division, I am pleased to announce that Amelia Nelson was promoted to Senior Librarian, Public Services. Amelia has been an enthusiastic supporter of library programs and initiatives. She has worked as part of a team to develop new outreach programs to connect library resources to audiences throughout Kansas City and the region and her efforts have contributed to a wider audience for library services.

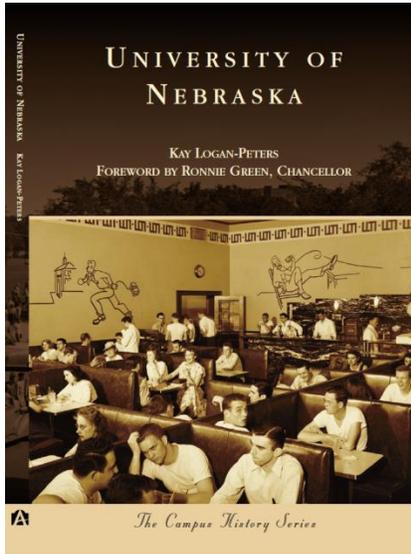


*Submitted by Amelia Nelson, Senior Public Services Librarian*

On February 25 the Spencer Art Reference Library hosted a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon as part of the museum's Black History month celebrations. Our edit-a-thon focused on documenting Kansas City's African American artists, both historic and contemporary. We were very fortunate to have a library volunteer, Rachel Marshall, who worked to identify and pre-

research artists who needed a Wikipedia article created or who had a Wikipedia article that could be improved. We had several goals for this program including to increase knowledge about African American artists in the Kansas City area, which aligns with and supports the library's Artists' File Initiative project, to connect those interested and knowledgeable about Kansas City's African American artists to the Wikipedia platforms and to share the research materials in the Spencer Art Reference Library with new audiences. The program agenda included an introduction to Wikipedia, and its editing guidelines, followed by a hands-on workshop where library staff helped participants research, edit and create articles. Over the course of the program and the following weeks, we had 17 new editor accounts created, 24 edits to existing articles and 8 new articles either completed or in progress. This was an exciting program and I would be happy to share more information about it with anyone who is interested.

# NEBRASKA



*News from The University of Nebraska - Lincoln*  
*Submitted by Kay Logan-Peters, Architecture Librarian*

The news from Lincoln is that I completed the manuscript, (on time!), for an upcoming book I was working on last year while I was on Faculty Development Leave. The *University of Nebraska* is part of the Campus History Series from Arcadia Publishing. It contains 178 photos with captions and chapter introductions that tell the story of the university. Publication is set for September 20, 2017.

