



[HOME](#)

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[CONTACT](#)

## Winberta Yao Travel Award

### Past Award Recipients

#### **2020/2021** **Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor**

A new member of the Mountain West region, Shoshana is the new art librarian at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also new to the ARLIS/NA annual conference, Shoshana aims to focus on the Yearlong Mentor Program and connecting with peers. She also wishes to become more involved in ARLIS/NA and the Mountain West Chapter from an organizational and leadership perspective.

NOTE: Since the **ARLIS/NA 48th annual conference** in St. Louis was canceled due to the pandemic, the MW Chapter decided to carry over the travel award from 2020 to 2021.

**Shoshana Vegh-Gaynor** was the recipient of the Winberta Yao Travel Award for 2020.

---

#### **2019** **Richard Zwiercan**

Richard Zwiercan attended the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Salt Lake City. Richard graduated from the University of North Texas with a Master of Science in Information Science in May 2018, and recently accepted the position of Art, Architecture & Design Librarian at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is also a new member of the Mountain West Chapter.

---

#### **2018** **Amanda Meeks | [Report](#)**

Amanda attended the ARLIS/NA 46th annual conference in New York City, February 25 – March 1, 2018. A new member of the Mountain West region, Amanda is the Teaching, Learning and Research Services Librarian at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library in Flagstaff, Arizona. At the conference, she helped to facilitate the workshop "From the Margins to the Center: Cultivating a Critical, Reflective, and Radical Practice in Art Librarianship" and the working meeting "Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines: Revisions & Critical Updates."

---

#### **2017** **John Burns | [Report](#)**

John earned his MLIS from the University Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2010 and serves as the 2016 Chair of our Mountain West Chapter. He is an assistant professor, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Electronic Resources Librarian and Art Librarian at Dixie State University, St. George, Utah. John will be a panelist in the following sessions at the New Orleans conference: "Engaging Library Users in Collection Development" and "When Research Doesn't Start with a Question: Teaching with the Framework within Art and Architecture Librarianship". He will also chair our annual Mountain West Chapter's business meeting.

The award supported travel expenses for John's attendance at the ARLIS/NA 45th annual conference in New Orleans February 5th-9th, 2017. We are pleased to be able to support John's attendance at the upcoming conference in New Orleans. It is a measure of our appreciation for his contributions to the Mountain West Chapter. The Winberta Yao Travel Award Committee also wishes to extend special thanks to all contributing chapter members who made the award possible.

---

#### **2016** **Jessica Mlotkowski | [Report](#)**

Jessica earned her MLIS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2011, where her concentration was in the organization of information and materials. She is currently the Cataloger and Public Services Librarian at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), in Santa Fe, New Mexico. IAIA is the only four-year degree fine arts institution in the United States devoted to contemporary Native American and Alaska Native Arts.

Jessica's academic focus has been on cataloging and metadata management for visual resources, as well as the

role our cultural perspectives and perceptions play in the description and retrieval of those resources. Diversity, social justice, and bias in descriptive practices are themes that Jessica considers daily in her personal work.

---

**2015**  
**Caroline Dechert**

Caroline earned her MLIS from Drexel University and was the Museum Cross-Pollinator Fellow at the Digital Library Federation Forum in 2014. Currently, Caroline is the Librarian and Archivist for the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The museum holds the world's largest collection of international folk art. The museum's special research library serves museum staff, volunteers, research associates and interested visitors.

Caroline is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Global Folk Arts Network, the Museum Collections Committee, the Website Committee, and the Steering Committee for the Center for International Textiles and Dress. In her letter of application, Caroline expressed the value of attending ARLIS/NA in Fort Worth, as she will attend several sessions on digitization projects and as well as the session on customizing library services.

---

**2014**  
**Alison Verplaetse**

Alison earned her MA in Art History and her MLS with a specialization in Fine Arts Librarianship from Indiana University. She is currently Digital Preservation Specialist at Dayton Memorial Library at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Alison co-presented her poster *Slipping the Bonds of Earthly Metadata Schemas: Cataloging the Regis University Santo Collection* (with Tom Riedel) at the annual ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, D.C.

Alison's many professional interests include the art of social movements, the collecting of non-mainstream library materials (such as political zines), digital humanities, and photography collection digitization and management. In addition, she has published multiple book reviews of Art History titles, both in ARLIS/NA Reviews as well as in ALA's *Choice* Reviews. Alison is very interested in collegial networking and looks forward to strengthening her ties to her ARLIS/NA colleagues around the country through conference attendance and committee work.

---

**2013**  
**Rebecca Potance**

Rebecca is the Librarian/Archivist/Webmaster at the New Mexico Museum of Art, a position she has held since October 2012. As a solo librarian, she is responsible for managing all aspects of the museum's library, archives, and website. Rebecca has an MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA from Case Western Reserve University. The ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Pasadena was Rebecca's first ARLIS/NA conference.

---

**2012**  
No awards.

---

**2011**  
**Heather Kline**

**Heather** earned her MLIS in 2007 from the University of Alabama, and is currently enrolled in the graduate art history program at the University of New Mexico, where she also works as a research assistant in the Bunting Visual Resources Library. Her professional interests focus on the collaboration between libraries and museums, and the integration of visual resources into art collections. She has published several book reviews in the ARLIS/NA Reviews and is very interested in collegial networking.

---

**2010**  
**Alexandria Caster** | **Report**

Alexandria is a SIRLS graduate student at the University of Arizona. She participated in the Boston conference mentorship program, and will also create and share a blog with all ARLIS members from the perspective of a first-time conference attendee.

---

**2009**  
**Elizabeth Ehrnst** | **Report**

Elizabeth has been a member of ARLIS/NA since 2006 and is a brand new member of ARLIS/MW. She began her position as the Archives and Digital Collections Librarian at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center (in Santa Fe, NM) in August 2008. Liz completed her Masters of Library Science degree at Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2007. She used this award to attend the ARLIS/NA annual meeting in Indianapolis.

---

**2008**  
**Tammy Ravas**

Tammy was the recipient of the Winberta Yao Travel Award for 2008, and she used the award to travel to the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Denver in May 2008. Tammy is the Fine Arts Librarian and Media Coordinator at the Mansfield Library, University of Montana.

---

**2007**  
**Meredith Friedman**, graduate student in the School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) program at the University of Arizona (graduated August 2007). Since enrolling in SIRLS, Meredith has attended

the Summer Institute in Florence, Italy through the Pratt Institute and has been awarded the Ansel Adams intern at the Center for Creative Photography of the University of Arizona. Meredith attended the 2007 ARLIS/NA annual conference.

---

**2006**

**Angelica Moyes Lopez** used the award to attend the ARLIS/NA conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Angelica is a Librarian at the Salt Lake City Public Library.

---

**2005**

**Jennifer Parker**, Art and Architecture Librarian at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Jennifer attended the chapter conference in Santa Fe.

---

**2004**

**Alessia Zanin-Yost**, Montana State University, Bozeman. Alessia attended the chapter conference in Denver.