

ARLIS Canada meeting

March 23, 2022

Attendance

1. Pierre B. Landry (incoming ARLIS/NA Canadian Liaison)
2. Amy Furness (outgoing ARLIS/NA Canadian Liaison / Art Gallery of Ontario)
3. Sara Ellis (UBC Music, Art & Architecture Library)
4. Jennifer Garland (McGill Rare Books and Special Collections)
5. Jennifer Préfontaine (Canadian Centre for Architecture)
6. Sylvia Roberts (Simon Fraser University)
7. Viveca Pattison Robichaud (Canadian Centre for Architecture)
8. Michelle Johnson (Ontario Tech University)
9. Alexandra Alisauskas (University of Calgary, Libraries and Cultural Resources)
10. John Latour (Concordia University)
11. Tony White (OCAD University)
12. Mary Gordon (Centre canadien d'architecture)
13. Lois Quail (Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity)
14. Rachel Harris (Scholarly Publishing Librarian, Cinema Librarian, Concordia University)
15. Gwen Mayhew (Canadian Centre for Architecture)
16. Erin Rutherford (Art Gallery of Ontario)
17. Sandra Cowan (Fine Arts Librarian, University of Lethbridge)
18. Peggy Sue Ewanyshyn (University of Alberta)
19. Vanessa Kam (Emily Carr University of Art + Design)
20. Freyja Catton
21. Adele Flannery (Universite du Quebec a Montreal)
22. Paula Farrar (UBC Music, Art & Architecture Library)
23. Nancy Duff (Carleton University)

Agenda

1. Land acknowledgement (Amy Furness)
2. Welcome (Amy Furness and Pierre Landry)
3. Announcements:
 - The State of Artists' Files in Canadian GLAMs & ARCs (Sara Ellis and John Latour)
 - CARTA project (Amy Furness)
 - Migration of <http://canada.arlisna.org/> and CARLIS-L to ARLIS/NA Commons (Amy Furness)
4. Roundtable discussion
5. Group photo

Roundtable discussion prompts

- What recent initiatives / accomplishments would those in the room like to share out to the wider group?
- Identify one (or more) issue or challenge that ARLIS Canada members should be thinking about at a national level, or that we can work on together.

Meeting notes

The State of Artist Files in Canadian GLAMs and ARCs

This is an ongoing research project led by Sara Ellis (UBC Music, Art & Architecture Library) and John Latour (Concordia University Library).

The purpose is to identify:

- The current landscape of artist file collections in Canada, i.e., who is collecting artists' files, what types of materials are being collected, and how these collections are being documented, maintained, developed, and accessed
- Challenges and opportunities for organizations that collect and maintain artists' files
- Emerging trends in the collection and maintenance of artists

To-date, this work has been under-represented and under-researched in LIS literature.

A bilingual (English/French) questionnaire of 30 questions (multiple choice/open text) was sent out ~3 weeks ago and will close in a few days.

Organizations were identified and contacted based on their membership in the following:

- Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference (ARCA)
- Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)
- Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization (CAMDO)
- Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC)
- Artists in Canada Union List, National Gallery of Canada Library & Archives

Initial results will be shared in an online, open access report. Additional details (including a literature review, methodology, analysis, etc.) will be shared in an article later on.

ARLIS Canada members with expressions of interest, questions, feedback, etc. can email John.

Thanks to all of the ARLIS Canada colleagues who have participated.

CARTA - Collaborative Archiving in the Arts

CARTA is a web archiving project involving the Internet Archive, the New York Art Resources Consortium (NYARC), and the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA). See: <https://archive-it.org/blog/learn-more/art-libraries/>.

It provides a collaborative effort to offer support where individual institutional resources may be spread too thin.

Participating Canadian organizations include:

- Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)
- Artexte
- Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECUAD)
- National Gallery of Canada (NGC)

The process to nominate a website for archiving is relatively straightforward and, once submitted, the Internet Archive takes over from there.

More details about web archiving and what that can look like can be found here:

<https://archive-it.org/home/carta>

There is an upcoming webinar that may be of interest: March 29, 2022

Demystifying the WARC: Research Use of Web Archives, Ian Milligan of University of Waterloo

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9qVZ2cWFSH2VGkxcBkS6oQ

Migration of the ARLIS Canada Wordpress website to the ARLIS/NA Humanities Commons

The migration is currently underway. This means that the ARLIS Canada URL will change (though it is unclear yet if there will be a seamless redirect).

This transition will impact the use of the CARLIS-L listserv.

Benefits include moving content off of the servers of the previous management company and streamlining access.

Will the CARLIS-L listserv archives be captured? ARLIS Canada is not the only one facing this. What about other Canadian chapters? Sylvia Roberts offered to investigate.

Roundtable Discussion

There is rising reticence around accepting physical books / Gift-In-Kind (GIK) donations.

- As well as similar difficulties in getting rid of unwanted books.
- Will this have an impact/correlation for a decrease in publishing in the future?
- Some organizations are still accepting GIK, but are limiting the quantity taken on.
 - It is a highly mediated process (by a subject liaison librarian, gifts librarian, etc.)
- Anything that can't be accessioned into the collection can be included in a book sale or "free books" fair. Both options are very popular with students.
- Some organizations have a moratorium on accepting GIK at the moment.
- But ordering new books is still a priority.
 - Items requested by faculty are still primarily print books.
- There is also enhanced appreciation of specific, special formats (e.g., artists' books).
- But open access, open education, ebooks are also of interest.
 - Some organizations have an e-preferred mandate.
- Collections are being centralized.
- Some organizations are shifting to only accepting books that qualify as "rare".

Are there any opportunities for consulting within art librarianship?

- Some details/links were shared in the chat.

It looks like there is some interest in having a session about e-resources.

- Something for the group to consider in the future.

There is uncertainty at some organizations about the staffing and management of libraries and library collections.

- As a collective, we should be keeping an eye on these circumstances.
- How can we be proactive (vs. reactive)?

EDI updates.

- ECUAD has made progress in this area, arising from students taking the institution to task on concrete actions.
 - BIPOC cluster hire.
 - But once hired, how can faculty/staff be retained (mentorship; cohort to share ideas, issues, etc.).
 - Invite opportunities to disrupt classifications, collections, etc. through an EDI lens.
- What can ARLIS Canada do to support EDI initiatives?
 - The new website that is in development could highlight this work and encourage discussion within the chapter.
 - It would be good to provide opportunities for additional sessions to discuss, collaborate.
- [Art] librarianship has privileged whiteness in certain ways. The challenge is: how/where do you start when you look and see so few BIPOC colleagues?

- Some organizations are working to evaluate HR/hiring practices, specifically in relation to the library.

Group photo

