



Annual Report 2006/07 ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee

Submitted March 29, 2007 by:

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Members:

Timothy Shipe (Chair), Marc Gartler, Marlene Gordon, D. Vanessa Kam, Dennis Kreps, Roger Lawson, Cara List, Ray Anne Lockard, Rijn Templeton.

Executive Board Liaison: Leigh Gates

Activities:

Annual business meeting was held at the national conference in Banff on May 6, 2006. The committee approved the following goals for 2006/07 in support of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan. This report is organized around those goals.

Develop position statements on behalf of ARLIS/NA regarding emerging intellectual property and other public policy issues of relevance to the profession, and forward such statements to the Executive Board for endorsement; make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning position statements developed by other groups seeking ARLIS/NA endorsement. (Supporting ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan Goal III)

The committee's chief focus this year was on copyright issues, and particularly on continuing orphan works and Section 108 discussions. In June, the committee drafted a letter to members of Congress in support of H.R. 5439, the Orphan Works Act of 2006. This letter was approved by the Executive Board and sent by President Whiteside on behalf of ARLIS/NA to Representatives Howard L. Berman, John Conyers, Jr., F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., and Lamar Smith, all of who had been identified by Prudence Adler of ARL as the key House members to receive comments on this legislation.

Committee member Marc Gartler attended the Section 108 Study Group's roundtable held in Chicago on 31 January. He reported to the committee on the discussions, and will be forwarding a summary to ARLIS-L. The committee did not have any new response to the issues discussed at the January roundtable; a statement on Section 108 issues had already been developed on behalf of the Society last year. We will, however, be closely monitoring legislation on Section 108 exemptions that is expected to emerge from the Section 108 Study Group's recommendations, and we will probably need to recommend a position for the Society to take on such legislation.

Find a long-term home for the Committee website. Update and maintain the content in order to provide a forum for educating ARLIS members about intellectual property and other public policy issues. (Supporting Strategic Plan Goals I.A. and IV.C)

Marc Gartler became the committee's website editor, and facilitated the transfer of the site from its temporary home on a University of Iowa server to the ARLIS/NA website. He has been cleaning up the site to remove defunct links and make it more useful to Society members. At the Atlanta meeting the committee will discuss the overall content and structure of the site, with the aim of making it more streamlined and relevant to the Society membership.

Monitor public policy discussion lists of relevance to art librarians, and disseminate information from these as warranted. (Supporting Strategic Plan Goal I.A)

Committee members monitored the following public policy related lists, organizations, and issues:

CAA-CIP	Gordon
Digital Copyright list	Gordon
Digital Future Coalition	List
Intellectual Freedom Roundtable	Kreps
LEH, Lesley Ann Harris Newsletter List	
LIBLICENSE	Shipe
Library of Congress	Lawson
Museum Computer Network	Gordon
Orphan Works	Shipe
Section 108	Gartler, Lawson
US Copyright Office	Lawson

Write articles informing membership about key public policy issues (such as proposed legislation on orphan works and possible changes to the Section 108 exemptions in U.S. Copyright law) for *ARLIS/NA Update*. (Supporting Strategic Plan Goal I.A)

This was not done, as *ARLIS/NA Update* has ceased publication. Instead, public policy issues were publicized by individual committee members primarily by means of postings to ARLIS-L.

Develop and propose programming related to public policy for the 2007 Atlanta conference. (Supporting Strategic Plan Goal I.B)

Following the Banff meeting, Tim Shipe and Dennis Kreps wrote a proposal for a "point-counterpoint" session on copyright issues for the Atlanta conference. The proposal was accepted. Roger Lawson subsequently joined the planning group, and agreed to be the primary moderator for the session. Lawson found two impressive speakers: Madelyn Wessel of the University of Virginia and Richard Beck of Kilpatrick Stockton LL. The program will be presented on 28 April under the title "Ten Years After: A Decade of Copyright Developments."

Issues for the Executive Board

Last year the committee raised a concern regarding funding for committee members to travel in order to represent ARLIS/NA interests at hearings, conferences, and roundtables such as the recent series held by the Section 108 Study Group. While such events occur irregularly, when they do occur we feel it is important to have the flexibility to send a representative from the committee even when the venue is at a distance from any of our home institutions. We had suggested the possibility of establishing a contingency line in the budget to support such travel for the Public Policy Committee. In the months following the Banff meeting, Tim Shipe and Leigh Gates discussed an alternative approach whereby the Executive Board would make contingency travel funding available for use by **any** committee with a legitimate request. This seemed like a better approach than asking for our own fund line, since we might only have a need for such travel once every few years, but other groups might have similar needs. In late May Gates reported that the Executive Board had agreed in principle with this approach, and was discussing how such a pool of funding might be made available and how to develop guidelines for use of the funds. We will be eager to learn what further discussions the Board may have on this issue, and would like to know whether the funding might be available for use in the coming year should the occasion arise.