



35th Annual Conference
Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-May 1

Leadership Breakfast
Friday, April 27th, 7:30 – 9:00am

I hope what I will share in the next few moments about where ARLIS/NA is headed in the next few years will serve as a sort of philosophical guide to all of us leaders of the Society during a period of change.

We truly are at a momentous juncture from which we will eventually – sooner than later – evolve. As we just heard from Ann, we have been very busy this past year evaluating our structure and how it is benefiting our mission, goals, and vision. I give the Board under Ann’s leadership, tremendous credit for taking initiative to bring us to this level of self-examination.

The next year will undoubtedly be one of transition. So how will we proceed? During this time, a collaborative environment at all levels of the Society will be the most important. And so that once we progress to implementing changes we will do so with common interests and goals and vision.

As ARLIS/NA anticipates forthcoming revisions we must do so by trusting the skills and resources, knowledge, and insight of our various constituencies. With a collaborative approach that hinges on the input and expertise of our members, the Society will effectively find itself comfortable with a transformation of itself.

I am committed to facilitating ARLIS/NA during this period of transition. As new and continuing leaders for ARLIS/NA, I know that you have all offered to commit your time and direct your efforts on behalf of the Society during a challenging time. But if we pursue the coming year as an opportunity to invent new ways to collaborate and inspire collegiality, we will ultimately empower each other, the Society, and our profession.

In Megan Macken’s article in *Art Documentation* from this past fall, 2006, on art library as place, she discusses Max Dupree’s book Leadership as an Art and the characteristics that emphasize the human element in space. I found that most of the characteristics were quite resonant to how I perceive positive leadership in-the-midst of change:

Encourage an open community, fortuitous encounters
Enabling people to connect with ease

Keep future options open [that can] change with grace
Be open to surprise, comfortable with conflict, forgiving of mistakes in
planning
Enable a community to reach continually toward its potential

Deborah K. Ultan Boudewyns
Vice-President, ARLIS/NA 2006-2007