



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

Reference and Information Services section (RISS) meeting
Friday, April 27, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

In attendance: Kira Appel, Amy Ballmer, Hannah Bennett, Jeremy Blatchley, Laurel Bliss, Loree Bourgoïn, Karen Bucky, Rebecca Burnham-Johnson, Michael Carter, Amy Ciccone, Rebecca Clark, Claudia Covert, Susan Davi, Ross Day (Vice-Moderator/Moderator-Elect), Linda Duychak, Jon Evans, Margaret Fast, Alba Fernández-Keys (Recorder), Rebecca Friedman, Laura Graveline (Moderator), Annette Haines, Laura Haver, Jennifer Hehman, Brooke Henderson, Karyn Hinkle, Jennifer Hudson, Jill Luedke, Janice Lurie, Suz Massen, Ian McDermott, Jessica McIntire, Beverly Mitchell, Susan Moon, Naomi Niles, Ellen Petraits, Barbara Prior, Jacqueline Rogers, Linda Seckelson, Sarah Sherman, Rijn Templeton, Ruth Thomas, Lisa Velarde, Deborah Vincelli, Terrie Wilson, Pauline Wolstencroft, Kathy Woodrell, Linda Zieper.

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Laura Graveline. After a round of introductions Laura introduced incoming moderator Ross Day.

2. Approval of minutes from the May 6, 2006 meeting.

Laura asked for approval of the May 6, 2006 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved by the membership.

3. Election of News Editor and Vice Moderator.

Duties for each position were briefly described. Laura Graveline reminded members that the News Editor Position used to post all section news in "Update". The new ARLIS/NA website includes a news column. Jacqueline Rogers (Frick Art Reference Library) volunteered to become Vice-moderator. Rebecca Friedman (Princeton University) volunteered for the News Editor position.

4. Annual Reports

a. RISS Section report on changes to the website (Laura Graveline)

Annette Haines (University of Michigan) has been coordinating the webpage. Now ARLIS/NA is hosting the page for the group. It is a static page updated every time there is a change in leadership. ARLIS/NA recommends maintaining a separate page if we expect to have constant changes to the

site. Ross thanked Annette for hosting and stressed that RISS communication channels need to be improved.

b. RISS Workshop Committee report (Barbara Prior)

RISS sponsored a workshop in Atlanta: "*They Never Covered This in Library School: African Art*". There were 17 attendees and 6 speakers. Evaluations so far have been enthusiastic. Terrie Wilson and Laurel Bliss will communicate with Nedda Ahmed in order to make sure the PowerPoint presentations are accessible on the Conference Proceedings portion of the ARLIS/NA web site. Barbara reminded the group that these workshops are not meant for any specific experience level and that it is ideal to have a specialist/speaker on site.

The committee is looking for topic suggestions for the upcoming conferences. Besides the topics already collected by the committee, there were additional suggestions: intellectual copyright; repatriations (Ross Day); the study of comics and graphic novels; popular culture and body art (Rijn Templeton); architecture; maps and GIS; sustainable architecture (Amy Ciccone); green building (Rebecca Johnson); art & law, fair use; public performance art (Jon Evans); time-based media (Linda Zieper); provenance research (Michael Carter); copyright and profit/ non-profit sources (Ian McDermott). Jennifer Hehman suggested connecting the topic of the workshop to the city where we meet. She can envision workshops on industrial design, public art, theatre, dance, music, war memorials, arts & medicine, connected to a tour when ARLIS/NA meets in Indianapolis in 2009. She added that Kenneth Crews, a well known copyright expert, is based in IUPUI-Indianapolis. Crews is the author of *Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators* (Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2000).

There was discussion about the current format of the workshops. They were originally bibliography-based. Now there is an expectation for workshop to be more hands-on. The format of the workshops has also changed over time in relation to the length. Some years the workshop has been a full-day. Current workshops are half-day.

The deadline for topics for the Denver conference is May 31, 2007. It is critical for local members to contribute the names of on site expert speakers. Any experts' names as well as other suggestions should be sent to Barbara Prior or Ross Day.

c. Artist Files Working Group Report (Jon Evans)

The group is still working towards making a description of the content of artist files available on the Internet. Librarians will soon be able to contribute a statement of files owned at their institution. The group is currently working on a "best practices" document as well as on MARC record recommendations. This information will hopefully be added to the ARLIS/NA site. The group submitted a special funding request to the board but was denied. Members

are now considering using an open-source or wiki format. The group will meet in Atlanta on Saturday at 3:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Communication within the group is done through an e-mail listserv. After the Artist Files website is ready there should be something to present at next year's conference. Members of the group have also discussed the possibility of an article for Art Documentation.

d. Guide to Free Internet Resources (Hannah Bennett)

This is a guide geared to reference and information services in the arts. Hannah asked how other members envision this collection of resources to look. Finding tools for reference may be a more valuable resource at this point than identifying sites. Hannah will post a message to ARLIS-L to solicit tools. Please e-mail her with any suggestions.

Karen Bucky discussed that she had envisioned creating a resource that combines various formats such as del.icio.us, wiki, flickr. A space where art historians, librarians, researchers (new and experienced), students, academics and others can exchange resources, ideas, ask questions, and contribute expert answers. Ross suggested that this idea be sent to ARLIS-L to receive feedback from other members.

5. Other Reference Issues, Open Discussion.

Jennifer Hehman is interested in a project that identifies which full-text online journals include images in articles as many do not. Jennifer agreed to be the point person on this project.

Regarding the Assessment Taskforce's recommendations, RISS' concept is well established and as the recommendations are implemented this group should be able to continue functioning. This is an opportunity for the group to rethink itself and identify its basic needs. Members mentioned that: 1) the change to the DSRTs would provide a less bureaucratic structure so RISS could change as we see need, and 2) at the board level there would no longer be regional representatives. New DSRT structure may make functioning easier. Jon Evans reminded the group that the change would no longer require the group to provide an annual report.

If there are any concerns about this issue please contact Ross Day.

Rebecca Friedman suggested looking at our mission statement. Linda Seckelson suggested it be reviewed due to changes regarding issues of different audiences, collaborative reference, etc. Linda will provide a proposal.

Hannah Bennett announced that Columbia University will host a reference service symposium that will include a debate on the future of the reference desk.

Ross Day wished to know how many had predominantly reference desk duties at their institutions. He would like to receive feedback.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05

Respectfully submitted,
Alba Fernández-Keys