



Annual Report 2006 ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Task Force on Collaboration

Submitted By:
Edward Teague, Co-chair
Elaine Paul, Co-chair

Date: April 1, 2007

Current Charge:

To study the relationship between ARLIS/NA and the VRA, analyzing the overlap of interests as well as areas of uniqueness focusing on the organizational structures of the two associations and recommending collaborative possibilities. The Task Force will gather information from the memberships of the VRA and ARLIS//NA through open fora, surveys, focus group sessions, interviews, and other appropriate means. Finally the Task Force will look at other organizations with interests related to those of ARLIS/NA and the VRA to explore the concept of creating a federation of affiliated societies and associations. A federation would pull like groups together more often for conferences, workshops, or other appropriate joint ventures. Different than a merger, a federation provides opportunities for similar groups to work together more formally than is done now.

Accomplishments:

The ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Task Force on Collaboration has established a strategy to address its charge by working through three teams. Each team is focusing on a particular result-oriented issue, has a team leader, and communicates by way of a wiki (open to all committee members). The Task Force home page is the virtual base for these activities.

Communication vehicles:

The ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Task Force on Collaboration home page
<<http://www.uoregon.edu/~ehteague/taskforce.html>>

Wikis:

- General discussion; conference activities
- Team 1. ARLIS/NA-VRA Commonalities/Differences. Team leader: Elaine Paul
- Team 2. ARLIS/NA-VRA Collaborative Opportunities. Team leader: Brian Shelburne
- Team 3. Federation of affiliated societies and organizations. Team leader: Ed Teague

Goals:

1. Analyze organizational governance & structure.
2. Analyze organizational demographics, especially memberships in other organizations.
3. Interview members of both organizations to identify what they expect from each organization.
4. Identify what collaborations have taken place at the chapter, regional, national level that can be built upon.
5. Identify organizations with common interests.

6. Identify organizations affiliated with VRA and with ARLIS/NA, how affiliations are established, what benefits derive from affiliation.

Enabling Activities:

- The TF has organized into teams to carry out specific assignments
- The TF has scheduled venues at both the VRA and ARLIS/NA 2007 conferences for discussions and interviews with members of both organizations
- The TF has created a short survey to enable interested ARLIS-L and VRA-L members to share observations about collaborative opportunities
- The TF has requested demographic information about what other memberships ARLIS/NA-VRA members have reported
- The Task Force has begun an analysis of 56 organizations with which ARLIS/NA, VRA, and CAA have affiliations to identify commonalities and prospects of greater collaboration

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- Identify organizations with common interests.
- Identify organizations affiliated with VRA and with ARLIS/NA, how affiliations are established, what benefits derive from affiliation.
- Identify federated organizations, their benefits and roles, and legal status.

By June 30, 2007, the Task Force plans to make its recommendations to the Boards of ARLIS/NA and VRA.

Board Action Requested:

Announce the role of the TF at the ARLIS/NA membership meeting and the survey deadline, May 1, 2007. No other action requested at this time.

List of Committee Members (Cite Names and Institutions):

Greta Bahnemann, Cornell University; Meghan Gross, Johns Hopkins University; Amy McKenna, Williams College; Elaine Paul (Co-chair), University of Colorado at Boulder; Brian Shelburne, ; Edward Teague (Co-chair), University of Oregon

Respectfully submitted,

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co-chairs