



Annual Report 2007 ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee

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Members:

Timothy Shipe (Chair), Marc Gartler, Martha González Palacios, Dennis Kreps, Roger Lawson, Ray Anne Lockard, Marilyn Russell, Rijn Templeton.

Executive Board Liaison: Amy Trendler

Activities:

The annual business meeting was held at the national conference in Atlanta on 27 April 2007. The committee approved the following goals for 2007/08 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. (Strategic Plan Goal III)

The committee continued to monitor developments related to the legislative initiatives that had occupied our attention for the past several years (especially orphan works and Section 108 revisions), but there was nothing in the past year that warranted additional official position statements by the Society.

Revise and reorganize the committee website and maintain the content in order to provide a forum for educating ARLIS members about intellectual property, intellectual freedom, and other public policy issues. (Strategic Plan Goals I.A. and IV.C)

Marc Gartler made extensive revisions to the website in accordance with the principles upon which the committee had agreed at the Atlanta meeting (see the 2007 minutes). The committee has had a particular concern that Canadian issues need to be represented on the site. Martha González assisted Gartler in identifying important Canadian links, and these have been incorporated into the pages. The ARLIS/NA webmaster has completed all of the requested updates.

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

The following lists, issues, and organizations were monitored by the committee members indicated:

CAA-CIP (Lockard)
Canadian issues in general (González)
Digital Copyright List (Templeton)
Digital Future Coalition (Templeton)
Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (Kreps)
Liblicense (Shipe)
Library of Congress (Lawson)
Orphan Works (Shipe)
Section 108 (Gartler and Lawson)
U.S. Copyright Office (Lawson)

The committee members forwarded information to ARLIS-L whenever an issue was deemed to be of relevance to the membership. In the future, we may want to consider “branding” such communications so that members are more aware that this is an activity of the Public Policy Committee.

Develop and propose programming related to public policy for the 2008 Denver conference. (Goal I.B)

The committee did not identify any issue developments warranting a conference program.

Engage in dialogue with the Executive Board and within the Public Policy Committee to ensure that the essential elements of the committee's charge (developing position statements on behalf of ARLIS/NA and educating ARLIS/NA membership about public policy issues) are accounted for in any organizational restructuring. (Goals IV.A and IV.B)

Following the Atlanta meeting and some discussion with Executive Board members, the committee suggested that, in line with the organizational structure that was being promoted at the time, the current charge of the committee could be divided between a Public Policy Committee, whose sole

function would be to formulate position statements on behalf of the Society, and a Public Policy Special Interest Group, which would take on the committee's education and outreach charges. In the meantime, we have been informed that the Public Policy Committee will continue with its current charge intact. It will therefore not be necessary to establish a parallel special interest group.

Issues for the Executive Board

None.