This year, ArLiSNAP has made a greater effort to engage with our followers, exploring our shared interests and promoting discussion. Reviving the position of Discussion Liaison has been an important part of this, and our team of three Discussion Liaisons have made an effort to share news and start conversations on the blog. The Student, Chapter and Education Liaisons are also roles that help share news and opportunities that are relevant to our readers. Our Job Posting Liaisons continue to play a vital role in the activity of the group, compiling job and internship opportunities from a variety of sources. In May of 2013, Ellen Tisdale took on the role of co-moderator for the 2013-2015 term. Elections for a 2014-2016 moderator will be held throughout April 2014.

As of March 27, the number of ARLIS/NA members who have indicated their interest in ArLiSNAP is 355. From March 1 2013 to March 1 2014, the blog saw 34,346 visits. This shows a sizeable increase from the previous term, which saw 31,848 visits between March 1 2012 and March 1 2013. Our Facebook page, another popular venue for discussion, saw an increase to 389 followers, while our Twitter feed has also increased to 400 followers. Our Pinterest page has given us a new venue for sharing relevant images and websites, and we have grown to 51 followers since the creation of the page in the summer of 2013.

ArLiSNAP moderators have once again been involved with the planning process for the Emerging Technology Forum at the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference, discussing requirements and implementation with the Professional Development Committee and the Conference Program Committee. In this way, ArLiSNAP has contributed towards the goal to articulate new directions and identity for the profession from the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan. Our moderators helped in the selection of candidates for the ETF, and also for the New Voices in the Profession panel. ArLiSNAP has promoted the Conference Networking Program through our blog, and plan to highlight the chapter mentorship programs in the coming months to contribute to the ARLIS/NA Strategic Goal to expand mentoring, management and transition skills.
At the upcoming annual conference, two key activities for ArLiSNAP will be our annual meeting and pubstop. At the annual meeting, we aim to elicit feedback from members about which services provided by the group are most important to them, and how we can better meet their needs. This discussion will be extended to an online survey, so that those who are not able to attend the conference will also have their voices heard. We will examine the effectiveness of our current liaison positions, and how they might be modified or which new positions could be useful to the group. Our pubstop will give students and new professionals the chance to socialize in a less formal setting, and will enable the formation of connections between members. We have also made an effort to connect roommates for the conference hotel, and have organized the booking of bunks in the nearby DC Lofty hostel for members looking to save money.

An ongoing challenge for ArLiSNAP has been the migration of the blog to the arlisna.org servers. Our group has been attempting to solve this issue since October of 2009, with challenges arising from a potential incompatibility of the Wordpress platform with the software available from TEI. Our moderators will continue to work with TEI to explore our options to resolve this issue, with the goal of finding a workable solution within the upcoming year. The $14.99 annual fee for the arlisnap.org domain is currently still being charged to Bryan Loar, a past moderator. If a successful migration of the blog to the arlisna.org domain is not possible, our moderators will look into other methods of covering the cost of the arlisnap.org domain.

ArLiSNAP moderators are continuing to explore ways in which the group might raise funds towards a scholarship or travel award for a deserving member, as many cite financial challenges as their main reason for not attending the annual conference. At the 2013 conference in Pasadena, moderators organized a “Make Your Own Button” machine, the donations from which were put towards the Student Diversity Travel Award. We will explore the possibility of repeating this venture at the 2014 conference. Moderators have also been in discussion with the Development Committee regarding other fundraising options, such as the possibility of selling merchandise through a Cafepress shop. The feasibility and interest in these projects will be assessed during our annual meeting at the conference.

Overall, ArLiSNAP has continued to thrive as a group this year, experimenting with new projects and making new connections. In the coming year, our priorities will include finding a long-term solution to the blog hosting issue, determining the most effective way of engaging our members in discussions, and exploring projects that will be of most benefit to our students and new professionals. We hope to give our members the opportunity and inspiration to strengthen their ties with the greater ARLIS/NA community.