Annual Report 2014
Central Plains Chapter

Submitted by: Tracey Boswell
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Chapter Leadership 2015
Chair: Thomas Young, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Vice-Chair: Andi Back, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Akins, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri
Webmaster, Mikael Kris, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Central Plains chapter has 33 members including 10 lifetime members, and three new members.

2014 Activities
Tracey Boswell (Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art) compiled a local conference planning checklist and timeline based on ARLIS/NA annual conference planning checklist with input from chapter members.

Jennifer Adkins (Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri) arranged for the ability to pay membership dues and local conference registration fees online.

A new Communications/Social Media committee was formed. It will use Google docs and Google hangout for communication and planning. It will also continue the publication of the chapter newsletter, the Plains Irregular.

The chapter decided to invite library school (and other) students to attend local conference meetings free of charge.

Our chapter members, led by Jennifer Akins, Skye Lacerte, and Rina Vecchiola created a proposal to host the ARLIS/NA annual conference in 2017 in St. Louis, Missouri. The last time Central Plains chapter hosted an annual conference in St. Louis was in 2002. Although the proposal to host the annual conference was declined, our committee will consider submitting another proposal for 2019.

ARLIS/NA Washington DC
A dozen Central Plains chapter members met in Washington DC for the annual conference, May 2014. We held an unofficial chapter meeting and were joined by Chapters Liaison Sarah Sherman with guidance on the proposal to host annual conference in 2017. Members
appreciated the cultural and library opportunities which this host site allowed. We also took in information on visual literacy, advocacy, professionalism, sections, and special interest groups.

Central Plains local chapter Spring meeting
The Central Plains local chapter Spring meeting was held in Kansas City, Missouri June 12-14, hosted by the Spencer Art Reference Library at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Jannes Library at the Kansas City Art Institute. The meeting was attended by 30 Art Librarians and staff members. Participants included library science students and independent scholars. The conference theme was Community Engagement: Libraries and Their Communities. Sessions featured research on learning about our communities, programming, and initiatives that are applicable to all types of settings and can be replicated in communities. Specific projects from the Nelson-Atkins were featured: Education Division’s Visitor research in Museums, the Library’s Artists Files Initiative, and the European Department’s Nazi-era Provenance project. Outside speakers included: Janet Simpson, Executive Director, Kansas City Artist Coalition; Bruce Hartman, Director, Nerman Museum of Art; and Kansas City Public Library senior leadership: Cheptoo Kositanny-Buckner and Henry Fortunato.

Central Plains local chapter Fall meeting
The Central Plains local chapter Fall meeting was held in St. Louis, Missouri November 6-9, hosted by the St. Louis Public Library, the St. Louis Art Museum and chapter members in the area. The meeting was attended by 14 members and guests. The theme was 21st Century Reference and Instruction. Panelists from Washington University, St. Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis University, and University of Kansas discussed challenges, practices and communication methods.
A presentation at the St. Louis Art Museum by Jeanette Fausz, Head of Collections and Registrar, described the process of tracking art movement during the building, reconstruction and re-installation of the museum.

The chapter has no matters to bring before the Executive Board.