Annual Report 2014
ARLIS/NA-MW Chapter

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Officers for 2015
Chapter Chair: Luke Leither, University of Utah
Vice Chair/Chair Elect: John Burns, Dixie State University
Secretary/Treasurer: Rebecca Potance, New Mexico Museum of Art
Web Editor: Christiane Ramsey, Brigham Young University
Past Chair: Nicole Beatty, Weber State University

Narrative
The 2014 calendar year was productive for the Mountain West chapter. Our virtual
conference, held every year in the fall, was a great success. This year’s conference
experimented with the virtual-conference format, allowing attendees to watch prerecorded
presentations at their own pace and then gathered everyone for a live Q&A at a later date.
“Testing the Waters: Professional Experimentation in the Arts and Art Librarianship” was
very well received by the attendees and the presenters. A poster session on the experiment
will be offered in Fort Worth this year.

The Utah members of our chapter all came together in the late summer and early fall to put
together a bid to host the ARLIS/NA conference in Salt Lake City in 2017. While the
committee did not accept our bid, the exercise of writing the proposal and working together
was a constructive activity for us and brought us closer together professionally. We plan to
submit again in the coming year.

The chapter held a logo contest in 2014 that was open to any student that attended one of
our members’ institution. We set a cash reward for $250 and put together a committee to
select a winner. The committee members included Christiane Ramsey, BYU, Alexander
Watkins, CU Boulder, Rebecca Potance, New Mexico, and Luke Leither, UoFU. The winner we
selected was a student from BYU and the logo can now be seen on the chapter website
(http://arlisna-mw.lib.byu.edu/).

Our chapter began a blog (https://mwartlibraries.wordpress.com) in June, 2014 that has
now replaced our print newsletter, The Mountain Ledger. This change was officially voted on
in our last business meeting held in December, 2014. The current editor of the blog is
Caroline Dechert, Museum of International Folk Art.
Finally, the Winberta Yao travel award was awarded to Caroline Dechert to attend the ARLIS/NA conference in Fort Worth, TX. Caroline is the Librarian and Archivist for the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The following is a breakdown of our current membership:

2015 Membership

·         New Mexico 11
·         Utah 5
·         Colorado 3
·         Wyoming 1
·         Nevada 1
·         California 1
·         Arizona 0
·         Montana 0

22 total

Strategic Plan/Goals for the coming year

The MW chapter has been in discussions with the TX chapter about hosting a joint, in-person conference in the coming year. (Pending)

- This initiative aligns with Goal 1’s objective: identifying new development opportunities to move the profession forward. It also aligns with Goal 3’s objective: Build stronger partnerships and programming with our North American, European and International organizations
- Action Items:
  o Determine a date that would attract the most amount of participants.
  o Identify an appropriate theme for a joint conference.

Our 2014 conference, “Testing the Waters: Professional Experimentation in the Arts and Art Librarianship” brought together a national panel of presenters, some new to the profession. (Completed)

- This conference aligns with Goal 1’s objective: providing opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship.
- Action Items:
  o Upload the content into ARLIS/NA’s educational platform.

In 2015, chapter members will be building an online platform to share teaching strategies, successful curriculum, and scholarship. (Pending)

- This initiative aligns with Goal 1’s objective: providing opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship. It also aligns with Goal 5: Strengthen the Society’s Communication and Operational Infrastructure.
- Current Action Items:
  o Identify flexible and stable online software that will make this type of sharing simple.
  o Develop a submission form for content to be ingested into the system.

In 2014 we formed a committee to develop a bid to host the 2017 ARLIS/NA conference in Salt Lake City. (Completed)

- This effort aligned with Goal 3’s objective: Promote active chapter involvement as a vital stepping stone towards future societal leadership.
- Action Item:
- Tweak bid and resubmit in 2015.