Annual Report 2014
Architecture Section

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Summary: Activity for the year focused on formalizing ArchSec, the section’s website, and investigating avenues to make it a more robust resource. An analysis of architecture-based conference programming at the last five ARLIS/NA conferences was conducted.

Membership
The moderator sent out approximately 263 welcome emails to ARLIS/NA members that selected an interest in the Architecture Section when joining or renewing their membership. There are 148 subscribers to the Architecture Section’s listserv.

ArchSec (archsec.arlisna.org) (ongoing)
The Architecture Section’s primary method to integrate the goals of the 2011-15 ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan is through the website ArchSec. Specifically, the website aligns with the following goals and points of the Strategic Plan (status and qualifications added in italics).

Primary Alignment (completed & ongoing)
Goal IV: Emphasize our Collections and Stewardship Role

Secondary Alignment (ongoing & pending)
Goal I: Articulate New Directions and Identity for the Profession (specifically):
  o Advocate the art information professionals’ value and relevance so as to strengthen our membership’s standing within our institutions and their respective constituencies
  o Provide opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship
Goal III: Create Stronger Leadership through Promotions, Cooperation and Advocacy (specifically):
- Foster partnerships and affiliations with other professional organizations by identifying opportunities for dialogue and collaboration

Goal V: Strengthen the Society’s Communication and Operational Infrastructure (specifically):
- Continually explore ways in which to enhance the Society’s virtual presence through its website and other social media

Six posts were added to ArchSec over the last year. Posts ranged from 300 – 1700 words and topics focused on special collections, regional architecture, technology, and trends in periodical publishing.

The moderators plan to create post guidelines to maintain regularity in content prior to the annual meeting in Fort Worth, TX. The section may want to investigate the possibility of establishing a core team of regular contributors combined with the monthly guest posts to create more frequent and multifaceted content.

With the goal of establishing a more formal website in mind, ArchSec transitioned to a new URL (archsec.arlisna.org) and is now hosted by ARLIS/NA. The new website allows for more functionality with plugins that mean it has regularly scheduled back-ups, upgraded security features, and access to advanced usage statistics.

Future Initiatives (pending)
Moving forward the moderators plan to explore the addition of a digital portal to the website. The portal could take one of two forms: a) a repository for digital projects or b) access to digitized architectural drawings, plans, sections, and elevations. The initiative will be discussed at the annual meeting in Fort Worth, TX and an ArchSec Digital Portal Committee will be established.

The digital portal aligns with the same goals and points of the Strategic Plan as the website.

Architecture-Based Conference Programming (ongoing)
The Summary of Architecture-Related Sessions at Past Conferences on the ARLIS/NA website was updated to include the past five years.

Architecture-based conference programming remains low at the annual ARLIS/NA conference. Despite a push from the ARLIS/NA Executive Board and interactive small-group brainstorming at the 2013 and 2014 annual architecture section meetings, last year’s conference in Washington D.C. had the least architecture-based conference programming in the last five years (see chart below).
Tours continue to be the primary appeal for architecture librarians to attend the ARLIS/NA conference due to a lack of architecture-related workshops, sessions, and poster sessions.

**Issues for the Executive Board**

The lack of architecture-based conference programming is likely two-fold: 1) a lack of architecture-related proposals and 2) a low acceptance rate of architecture-related proposals. The section moderators will continue to foster content for future conferences and recommends that the Executive Board communicate to future conference planning committees the importance of architecture-related content. In order for ARLIS/NA to increase attendance of architecture librarians it is important to maintain ties with kindred organizations like the Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL). The ARLIS/NA Architecture Section encourages the Executive Board to accommodated participants with appropriate conference programming and scheduling.