The Provenance Special Interest Group (SIG) was established in February 2013 to keep ARLIS/NA members informed of current issues and activities related to provenance research. The group additionally acts as a forum for provenance-related projects and seeks to contribute to ARLIS/NA sessions and workshops.

The annual meeting of the Provenance SIG was held in the Washington Board Room, Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C., on May 2, 2014, as part of the ARLIS/NA annual conference. Attendees reviewed the group’s mandate and past accomplishments, and discussed a range of potential future projects. Interest in the Provenance SIG remains high. The group currently has seventy-two members. Since December 2014, fifty-five ARLIS/NA members have expressed interest in the group through the ARLIS/NA membership form.

A workshop initiated by the Provenance SIG, entitled "Second World War Provenance Research: Methods and Resources," was held on May 5th, 2014, at the ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, D.C. The four-hour event was directed by Nancy H. Yeide, Head, Department of Curatorial Records, National Gallery of Art, and provided introductory training in provenance research methods and resources related to art and other cultural property looted during the Nazi era in Germany and surrounding countries. Other instructors included Victoria Reed, Sadler Curator for Provenance, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Chris Naylor, Director of Textual Records, Research Services, National Archives and Records Administration; Megan Lewis, Reference Librarian, Library and Archives, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Marisa Bourgoin, Chief of Reference Services, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution; and Barbara Aikens, Chief, Collections Processing, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Forty members attended the workshop and feedback was all positive.

Attempts to develop a Provenance SIG listserv over the past several months have failed due to technical issues. Sharing information among group members is a high priority of the group and creating tools for accomplishing this objective remains high on the agenda for the upcoming year. The Provenance SIG is currently preparing a survey to gauge specific interest areas of members and is also exploring the possibility of developing a specialized website devoted to provenance issues and research.

Submit electronically to:
- ARLIS/NA Headquarters: info@arlisna.org