Chapter Officers:

Alan Michelson, Chair
Bronwyn Dorhofer, Secretary/Vice-Chair
Sarah Seymore, Communications Officer
Paula Farrar, Treasurer

2016 Meetings:

The ARLIS/NA Northwest Chapter met on two occasions in 2016. We met jointly with the VRA Pacific Rim Chapter on March 11, 2016, at the ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Conference in Seattle and again with the VRA Pacific Rim Chapter in Portland, OR, on Friday, November 4, 2016.

At the March meeting, held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, we had about 20 attendees. We discussed the overall planning of the Seattle joint conference. Many members of both groups were singled out for praise for their hard work and collaborative spirit in getting things done. Specific comments about conference events—what went well, what didn’t--were mentioned. The prospect of obtaining money from the VRAF for a future professional symposium was considered. Morgan Bell, Chair of VRA PRC, took the lead on contacting VRAF for funding. Because our two chapters enjoyed interacting so thoroughly during the planning for Seattle, we decided on trying to hold our fall meeting jointly in Portland.

The Fall Joint Meeting took place in Portland over two days, November 4 and 5, 2016. The first day consisted of a two-hour joint business meeting led by Alan Michelson and Morgan Bell at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, followed by a tour of that institution’s wonderfully renovated Albert Solheim Library. We then walked to lunch at a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon, we took Max Light Rail to the Portland Art Museum to view the Andy Warhol exhibition there, and then toured its library. This was followed by a happy hour at a hotel bar close to the museum. On the next day, Saturday, attendees toured the Lan Su Chinese Garden in the morning, followed by lunch in the garden’s tea room. We then took mass transit to the Multnomah County Public Library for a general tour of the facility. After this, many members went on to Powell's bookstore, while others caught trains or flights home.

The business meeting consisted of discussing new chapter officers for ARLIS/NW. Bronwyn Dorhofer was selected as the incoming chair, with Paula Farrar and Sarah Seymore continuing in their capacities. Sarah Seymore, current Communications Officer, brought up the idea of moving our list-serv from a server at Simon Fraser University to one at TEI headquarters. Members of ARLIS/NW brought up the idea of having TEI making chapter membership a part of its general ARLIS/NA membership form. The chapter...
thought that there were a number of members of ARLIS/NA living in the Pacific Northwest who were not members of ARLIS/NW; they wanted a way to keep track of who was a member of the national organization to enable local recruiting. Serenity Ibsen of the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland and Tatiana Bryant at the University of Oregon indicated plans for a symposium, funded by the VRAF, to stage a training opportunity on Intellectual property rights and visual media in Portland in late March 2017.

Jane Carlin, a longtime member of ARLIS/NA and currently the University Librarian of the University of Puget Sound offered to hold the next joint ARLIS/NW-VRA Pacific Rim Chapter Fall Meeting in Tacoma, WA. She sent a proposal for the Fall 2017 meeting in which she outlined possible activities: “A meeting could focus on a ‘letterpress crawl’ and could feature visiting Springtide Press, Arts & Crafts Press and then end up at Archives & Special Collections at Collins. Next fall I will be hosting an exhibit of local artist Mare Blocker all fall so if you are interested in the fall 2017 meeting being here – that would be amazing. We could also do a presentation on our Artstor Shared shelf project and some information literacy discussions and roundtables.”

Chapter Activities:

We hosted the Third Joint ARLIS/NA-VRA Joint Conference in Seattle in 2016, with about 800 attendees. We also welcomed members of the Association of School Librarians (AASL) to our joint event, making it the first held concurrently among the three. We were originally unsure how many would be willing to travel all the way to Seattle, and planned for hotel room block for about 500. This figure had to be increased three times to accommodate about 750. The conference went smoothly, in large part due to great planning teamwork between the local chapters and the efforts exerted by the TEI staff, most notably the invaluable Robert Kopchinski. Response was overwhelmingly positive, a gratifying result for nearly two years of meetings and phone calls.

The chapter awarded two travel fellowships during 2016, a $250 award for the Portland meeting, and a $500 award for the New Orleans conference. The $250 award was presented to Bridget Nowlin, Visual Arts Librarian of the Cornish College of the Arts. The $500 award was given to Sylvia Roberts, Liaison Librarian for Communication & Contemporary Arts, at Simon Fraser University.

Membership Statistics:

We currently have 19 members, down from the 28 members we had in 2016. With the annual conference happening in Seattle last year, however, I think that’s probably the reason for the higher numbers last year, particularly with students. Last year we had 7 student members, this year we have only 2. (One more regular member and one more student joined in the last month.)

Treasurer’s Report:

PayPal (U.S. Funds)  
$764.36 USD

VanCity Account (Canadian Funds)  
$23.28 CAD 
$3,000 CAD (Term deposits)
$925.72 USD

Total Assets: $3,023.28 CAD ($2303.20 USD) + $1,717 USD = $4,020 USD, programs, etc.) Expenses (photocopying, postage, fees, supplies, speaker honoraria, etc.)

Alan Michelson
2016 ARLIS/NW Chair