2016 IRC MEMBERS

Deborah Kempe, Chair, 2015-2016; member, 2014-
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Christina K. Peter, Chair, 2014-2015; member, 2013- (outgoing)
Head, Acquisitions
The Chair wishes to thank all the members of the IRC for their time and constructive work over the past year. The Committee thanks the Executive Board for its leadership and support of its work in 2016.

2017 IRC MEMBERS

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Jane A Devine Mejia
Chief Librarian
REPORT

I. Leadership:

Deborah Kempe became chair, taking over from Christina Peter. At the request of incoming President Eumie Imm, Deborah will continue as chair in 2017.

II. Activities:

a. IRC Meetings and Communication

At the meeting of the IRC at the 2016 Annual Conference in Seattle (which included 7 observers), the IRC thanked Sylvia Roberts, the outgoing EB Liaison, and member Kathleen Salomon for their service and welcomed Jennifer Garland as the new Liaison along with Beverly Mitchell as a new member. The remaining five members continued on the committee in 2016. The IRC held six online meetings via GoToMeeting (May 5, June 28, Sept. 13, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, 2016, and Jan. 23, 2017). Agendas and minutes of the meetings as well as reports and other relevant documents are posted to the IRC’s Basecamp site. We thank HQ for its support of our online meetings.

The Mid-Year Report of the IRC was submitted to the EB by Deborah Kempe.

b. ARLIS/NA Annual Conferences

1. “Around the World in 80 Minutes: A circumnavigation of art library projects, collections, and services in Latin America and Eastern Europe” was moderated as a lightening round by Christina Peter at the 2016 conference, and gave international attendees the opportunity to introduce themselves and initiatives in their home countries and libraries.
2. IRC members hosted welcome and farewell dinners for international guests in Seattle and served as facilitators and mentors of international attendees throughout the conference.

3. IRC and the Professional Development Committee will co-sponsor a session focusing at the 2017 conference titles "Does the Walker Choose the Path, or the Path the Walker?" Four speakers, including three from abroad, one of which received a Kress Travel Award, will provide an international perspective on professional development of art librarians.

4. The IRC will host a welcome dinner for Kress Award recipients in New Orleans and will serve as mentors and facilitators to the 20+ attendees from outside North America.

c. Study tours:

1. Completed study tour: Netherlands 2016

The highly successful 2016 study tour organized by the IRC took place June 12-15 with the participation of 15 ARLIS/NA members. Tour leaders Rina Vecchiola and Michiel Nijhoff, with additional support from Elisa Hansen and Liv Valmestad, planned and led a wonderful itinerary of visits to libraries, museums, archives, and galleries in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague. As in past years, registration and the collection of deposits were expertly handled by Robert Kopchinski of ARLIS/NA. Many letters of thanks were sent following the tour. A Flickr site documents photographs from the trip. The Final Report was submitted by Rina in November 2016.

2. Upcoming study tour: Paris 2017

The 2017 study tour will visit Paris, with a focus on the activities in celebration of the grand re-opening of the INHA. A full and varied itinerary has been developed with the help of French colleagues at the INHA. Deborah Kempe and Beverly Mitchell have organized the itineraries and will lead the tour. A website announcement and registration form are ready to go and will be publicized prior to the 2017 annual conference. 20 slots are available, first-come, first served.

3. Future study tours: 2018-2020

Planning for the 2018 tour to Cuba or the Caribbean and the 2019 tour to northern Italy is already underway. Soon, a taskforce for the 2018 tour will be appointed. In 2017, the committee will propose a destination for 2020. Holding tours in conjunction with existing relevant meetings such as IFLA Art Libraries Section or ARLIS affiliates will be considered. A trip to Asia is also under discussion, and we hope to meet with Japanese colleagues in New York in 2017 or 2018 to investigate this possible venue.

4. Other tour initiatives

The IRC agreed to be listed as a co-sponsor of a tour organized by Mark Pompelia with an outside tour operator on behalf of the Fashion, Textile and Costume SIG to Northern Italy. The tour has been postponed twice, but is listed as offered in 2017.

The IRC provided encouragement and practical advice to the organizers of the first ever ARLSI/NA Texas/Mexico chapter conference, held in Mexico City, October 12–15th, 2016.

5. Reciprocal tours
A strong interest by Dutch librarians for a reciprocal study tour to the US resulted from the successful tour of the Netherlands. Elisa Hansen is working with a small taskforce to further organize a tour in 2018, possibly in conjunction with the 2018 annual conference in New York.

Although the IRC did not play a formal role in the visit of Flemish art librarians in OKBV, Christina Peter became quite involved in their visit to NYC in April 2016, and as a result, made strong connections for ARLIS/NA. There is discussion of a reciprocal tour to Flanders and of affiliation of OKBV and ARLIS/NA.

d. Travel grants:

1. **ARLIS/NA – Getty International Program**

Twenty arts information professionals from 12 countries in Latin America and Eastern Europe attended the 2016 ARLIS/NA + VRA conference with support from a $75,000 travel grant from the Getty Foundation. 3 members of the IRC served on the grant review panel. IRC assisted with coordination of activities to welcome and mentor the grant recipients in Seattle. Responses from the recipients in their final reports were overwhelmingly positive, and the IRC hopes to support a new proposal to the Getty for international travel to the 2018 conference in New York. Christina Peter submitted a report on the 2016 program to the ARLIS/NA President.

2. **Samuel H. Kress Foundation Award for International Travel**

The Samuel H. Kress Foundation Award for International Travel supports European art librarians to attend the ARLIS/NA Conference, as well as ARLIS/NA members to attend European conference.

Christina Peter submitted a report on the 2016 program to the ARLIS/NA President. IRC members Deborah Kempe and Sandra Brooke joined Kristen Regina and Shannon Roberts to announce the call for applications, review applications, and select winners for Round 1 of the 2017 awards. Four librarians, one each from France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, will attend the conference in New Orleans, and one ARLIS/NA member will present a paper in London. Announcement of the recipients will be made on ARLIS-L and other media outlets prior to the conference. A second round for awards to ARLIS/NA members will be adjudicated by the same group in March 2017.

e. Special funding requests / budget:

1. A special funding request in the amount of $500 was granted by the EB as a donation to OKBN/ARLIS-NL in recognition of their contributions to the 2016 study tour.

2. The EB approved a request to restore a line item in the annual budget for a donation from the ARLIS/NA president to the head of the host organization(s) on behalf of the IRC. $500 was approved for that line in the 2017 budget. The funding request form has been integrated in to the Study Tour checklist.

f. Other accomplishments and initiatives:

1. The IRC was delighted when the EB endorsed its request for reduced membership categories for International members residing outside of the U.S. and created new membership categories for all members residing outside of the U.S. effective in 2017.
2. Following an initiative by the IRC, REDARTE, the Brazilian association of librarians, was approved as an affiliate of ARLIS/NA. The affiliation vote passed with 97.5 approval by the ARLIS/NA membership.

3. Links to presentations at the 2016 Study Tour to the Netherlands were made available on the Open Access ARLIS/NA Learning Portal: https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna/events/630

4. The IRC supported efforts to boost the outreach of ARLIS/NA at the successful IFLA Art Libraries Section Satellite Meeting in Chicago in August 2016. A letter of commendation was sent by the IRC to ARLIS/NA members who organized the meeting. The letter was also posted to ARLIS-L.

5. IRC supported communication about relevant international initiatives through Facebook groups for Arte LA, Eastern European Art Librarians, and IFLA Art Libraries Section, and other social media channels.

6. The Checklist for Study Tours was updated.

7. Suggested updates to Conference Planning Manual to include sending letters to presidents of affiliates regarding the reciprocal benefits of complimentary registration.

8. Updates proposed by IRC to the ARLIS/NA webpage for Affiliated Organizations were approved by the EB.

9. A message of condolence was sent by the IRC to the Flemish Librarians Group and their representative from the Belgian government following the terrorist attacks in Belgium in March 2016.

III. Future plans and goals; issues for the Executive Board:

1. Submit a statement of purpose for study tours to the EB.

2. In view of the acclaimed success and tangible achievements of the recent study tours and of the prominent role they played in supporting the goals and objectives of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan, a request will be submitted to the EB to facilitate participation of an early-career librarian.

3. The IRC supports an effort to seek funding from the Getty Foundation and other organizations or individuals to support international exchange. We will actively partner with the EB and other groups to assist with proposals and any resulting programs.

4. The IRC will assist in efforts to increase membership of librarians from Mexico, Canada, and overseas, especially now that membership rates are more affordable.

5. A taskforce for planning 2018 study tour will be formed.

6. The IRC will consider new methods to magnify its mission to implement the ARLIS/NA vision of partnerships with librarians and institutions both outside and within North America that will support the Society as the leading organization in the arts information field.