Annual Report 2016
Professional Development Committee

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Chair: Alice Whiteside
Learning Portal Coordinator: Michael Wirtz
Members: Stephanie Grimm, Ian McDermott, Danielle Reay, Karen Stafford
Subcommittee Chairs: Teresa Burk (Education), Jennifer Friedman (Mentoring)

Leadership Update:
Incoming Chair: Karen Stafford
Incoming Learning Portal Coordinator: Ian McDermott

Brief Narrative

In 2016-17, the Professional Development Committee focused on the part of our charge that asks us to "Assemble and distribute information on professional development opportunities in the field of arts and visual resource librarianship." In seeking to improve the ways in which we assemble and distribute this information, we published the quarterly PDC Bulletin and worked to improve relevant sections of the ARLIS/NA website. The ARLIS/NA Learning Portal is also an important tool for collating and distributing professional development materials, and this year the Learning Portal Coordinator assumed responsibility for guiding the development and promotion of this resource, which was developed and launched by the Educational Technology Subcommittee. Additional special Projects for the year included overseeing the Core Competencies Task Force, participating in the Fair Use Instructional Materials Task Force, and supporting the development of the NDSR Art program. Summaries of these efforts and our contributions to the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference are detailed below.

Communications: Projects and Resources

The PDC Bulletin, launched last year, is a quarterly publication highlighting professional development resources and events from ARLIS/NA and beyond. It is distributed via ARLIS-L and on the ARLIS/NA website.

In an ongoing project, we are working on a comprehensive overhaul of the Career Resources section of the ARLIS/NA website with input from individuals across ARLIS/NA. We aim to finalize our Project Charter at the conference.
Two accomplishments this year that improved portions of the Career Resources section of the website include the creation of a page dedicated to **Mentoring Programs** (providing an overview of the Yearlong Mentoring Program, the Conference Guides Program, and the Chapter Mentoring Program) and updates to the **Internship Opportunities** page (previously Internship Roster). PDC received access to edit the Internship Opportunities directly, greatly improving our ability to efficiently make updates and changes as needed. New listings to the Internship Opportunities list, submitted through the web form, are added by ARLIS/NA HQ staff following an existing workflow. Corrections and updates to existing entries are handled by PDC.

**Conference Activity**

PDC members organized and will be moderating the **New Voices in the Profession** panel for the 11th year. This session includes the winners of the Gerd Meuhsam and Sotheby’s Institute of Art Research awards and two additional speakers chosen by members of PDC and ArLiSNAP. This year, New Voices was selected to be one of the four conference sessions to be recorded and added to the Learning Portal.

We are co-sponsoring a conference session with the International Relations Committee titled **“Does the Walker Choose the Path, or the Path the Walker: International Perspectives on Art Librarianship.”**

**ARLIS/NA Learning Portal**

This was the first year of having the **ARLIS/NA Learning Portal** under the supervision of the newly created Learning Portal Coordinator position within the Professional Development Committee. Michael Wirtz served as the coordinator since the 2016 annual conference.

The portal saw a 14 percent increase in user visits this year. User visits from the 2016 conference to date (Jan. 17, 2017) totaled 1,307. This is up from the 1,144 visits during the time between the 2015 and 2016 conferences. This is a significant increase, especially when considering that the previous year’s figure represents nearly 12 months between the 2015 and 2016 conferences, and this year’s figure only represents a little more than 10 months of visitation.

The most visited event since the 2016 conference was the recordings from the conference itself (385 visits), followed by the “Lunchtime Chats” series (216 visits). This was closely followed by the series of NDSR webinars (212 visits).

The most viewed single presentation since the 2016 conference was “Instruction and Assessment in Art and Design School Libraries,” part of the “Lunchtime Chats” series presented by the ARLIS/NA Art & Design School Libraries Division (162 visits). “E-mania!: the present and future of electronic art book publishing,” a presentation at the 2016 annual conference, received the second most visits (133 visits); and the 2015 presentation “Using the ACRL Framework to Incorporate Visual and Digital Literacies into Instruction” received the third most views (86 visits).

Since the 2016 conference, we added 29 presentations in 8 events to the Portal. Two of these presentations were in a new event series, “ARLIS Twitter Chats,” designed to archive mediated Twitter discussions initiated by various ARLIS groups.

We also evaluated the back-end architecture of the Learning Portal. Since the Portal became open access in 2015, much of the infrastructure built into the platform is unnecessary. The architecture is currently designed to split users up by groups, with each allowed access to certain content. The PDC determined that these user groups were no longer necessary and
agreed that they should be removed to simplify the maintenance of the Portal as well as the front-end user experience. The Learning Portal Coordinator was uncomfortable making these changes on his own and sought the assistance of Robert Kopchinski. To date, the changes have not been made, but a workaround is in place to simplify the process. It is not ideal, however, and the coordinator, who is transitioning off the committee at the 2017 annual conference, will recommend the new coordinator follow up with Robert.

Core Competencies Task Force

Under the leadership of Janine Henri, the Core Competencies Task Force has made substantial progress on the revision of the ARLIS/NA Core Competencies for Art Information Professionals. Karen Stafford served as PDC Liaison to the Task Force.

The Task Force conducted an analysis of recent position descriptions in the art library and visual resources fields and a review of relevant core competency literature before creating a draft update. In December 2016, the Task Force shared this draft with an accompanying survey to gather input from professionals in the field. The survey, distributed to ARLIS-L and AASL-L in the US and to ARLIS/UK & Eire and ARCLIB in the UK, received 55 responses. In January 2017, they are conducting follow up interviews with hiring managers and library science faculty.

The Task Force will meet again at the annual conference and aims to finalize the revised Core Competencies draft at that time.

Additional contributions: NDSR Art and Fair Use Instructional Materials Task Force

The Chairs of PDC and the Education Subcommittee participated in formative discussions with the NDSR Art co-PIs and the Education Liaison of the ARLIS/NA Executive Board. We identified support that both the Education Subcommittee and the Mentoring Subcommittee might provide for the program. The ARLIS/NA Learning Portal is hosting recordings of webinars that help applicants understand the requirements and benefits of participating in NDSR Art. We anticipate that Fellows will participate in a webinar series through the course of the program and these presentations will also be added to the Learning Portal.

Danielle Reay represented PDC on the Fair Use Instructional Materials Task Force and is co-facilitating the conference workshop “Teaching Fair Use to Arts Researchers.”

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions

Organizational Advancement

Activity: Conference session “Does the Walker Choose the Path, or the Path the Walker: International Perspectives in Art Librarianship”

Notes: Co-sponsored with the International Relations Committee, this session will strengthen international networks by creating dialogue about global issues in our profession at the 2017 annual conference.

Status: Completed (at the conference).
Art Information Professionals

*Note:* PDC supports the evolving role of art information professionals through efforts to promote and distribute information about professional development opportunities as well as contributing to the development of new opportunities.

**Activity:** PDC Bulletin (quarterly publication)
*Notes:* Highlights ARLIS/NA activities, leadership institutes, skill building workshops, and other professional development events on an ongoing basis.
*Status:* Ongoing.

**Activity:** Maintaining and promoting the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal
*Notes:* An open access repository of presentations and discussions that support professional development and promote innovations in our field. Includes webinars, chats, and recorded conference sessions.
*Status:* Ongoing.

**Activity:** Maintaining and promoting the Internship Roster
*Notes:* Connects students and early career individuals with learning opportunities.
*Status:* Ongoing.

**Activity:** New Voices in the Profession conference panel
*Notes:* Provides a high profile opportunity for new professionals to share their work in a national forum.
*Status:* Annual event.

Diversity and Inclusion

**Activity:** Conference session “Does the Walker Choose the Path, or the Path the Walker: International Perspectives in Art Librarianship”
*Notes:* Co-sponsored with the International Relations Committee, this session will foster intercultural competencies through opportunities for dialogue and discussion.
*Status:* Completed (at conference).

Innovation and Technology

**Activity:** Maintaining and promoting the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal
*Notes:* Leverages technology to create a forum where members can share, via webinars, chats, and recorded conference sessions, innovative approaches to art librarianship. As an open access resource, the Learning Portal allows these presentations and conversations to be available to anyone and extends the life of the discussions.
*Status:* Ongoing.

**Issues for the Executive Board:**

The incoming Learning Portal Coordinator will need to work with Robert Kopchinski and Blue Sky eLearn to make changes to the way the Path LMS is set up for the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal (e.g. removing all mention of payment, now that the Portal is open access). The outgoing Learning Portal Coordinator did not have direct contact with Blue Sky. We would appreciate clarification of whether the Learning Portal Coordinator may communicate directly with Blue Sky for support or if questions should be routed through ARLIS HQ.