Leadership
The Web Archiving Special Interest Group (SIG) was co-founded and co-moderated in 2016 by Karl-Rainer Blumenthal (Web Archivist, the Internet Archive) and Sumitra Duncan (Head, Web Archiving Program, Frick Art Reference Library). Leadership for 2017 will be determined at the SIG’s annual meeting on February 7, 2017.

Narrative
The Web Archiving SIG was officially chartered and founded in 2016 as a conduit for art information professionals to learn and to advance the means of acquiring, preserving, and providing access to born-digital art information resources from/on the World Wide Web. As such it also aims to be a community of practice, inclusive among various organization types, levels of experience with web technologies, and collecting mandates.

In pursuit of this mission, the SIG convened for the first time at 2016-17 Joint Annual Meeting of ARLIS/NA and VRA, in order to introduce engaged practitioners to one another, discuss foundational web archiving issues, ongoing programs, and priorities for their group moving forward. 29 ARLIS/NA and VRA members attended this initial meeting, and in open discussion guided the group towards 1) mastering the basics of practical web archiving, and 2) closer interrogation in particular of the copyright/intellectual property obstacles that inhibit and licensing paradigms that enable collecting.

To meet these priorities, the SIG’s co-moderators focused on the creation of two resources in 2016: 1) an online portal to web archiving resources and colleagues in the art information sector, and 2) live and in-person guidance through the design and implementation of a practical web archiving program, inclusive of all major collecting, technology, rights, and management decisions. The former, dubbed ART|WARC, launched in July, 2016. The website (artwarc.org) now includes introductory as well as in-depth resources in its library and hosts a discussion forum for SIG members. Towards providing more immediate help to professionals planning their first web archiving activities, the co-moderators concurrently designed a workshop for the 2017 Annual Meeting (Getting Started with Web Archiving: http://sched.co/8koA) that guides attendees through determining and articulating their collecting scopes, rights policies, technological needs, and human resources. We aim to grow the community of practitioners who may in turn educate and advance one another’s collecting priorities by sending attendees home with executable plans and even some hands-on experience with web archiving tools.