Annual Report 2017

International Relations Committee

Submitted by: Deborah Kempe
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ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee
2017 Membership Roster

Deborah Kempe, Chair; member, 2014-
Chief, Collections Management & Access
Frick Art Reference Library
New York NY, USA

Jennifer Garland, ARLIS/NA Executive Board Liaison, 2016-2017
Associate Librarian
McGill University
Montreal QC, Canada

Sandra Ludig Brooke, IFLA Liaison, 2014-, Ex Officio
Librarian
Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University
Princeton NJ, USA

Elisa M. Hansen, 2015-
Head of Library Services
The Ringling Art Library Art Library
The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art/Florida State University
Sarasota FL, USA

Jane A Devine Mejia, 2017-
Chief Librarian
Vancouver Art Gallery
Library & Archives
Vancouver BC, Canada

Beverly A. Mitchell, 2016-
Assistant Director
Southern Methodist University
Jake And Nancy Hamon Arts Library
Elisa Hansen and Liv Valmestad each completed the maximum service of three years’ service and will rotate off the committee. The Chair would like to recognize and 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 during 2017.

**ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee 2018 Membership Roster**

Deborah Kempe, Chair, 2016-
Chief, Collections Management & Access, The Frick Art Reference Library of The Frick Collection, 10 East 71st Street, New York, NY 10021 USA
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Suzanne Rackover, ARLIS/NA Board Liaison, 2018-
Emily Carr University of Art & Design, Library, 520 1 Ave E, Vancouver, BC V5T 0H2, Canada
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Viveca Pattison Robichaud, IFLA Liaison, (Ex Officio), 2017-
Special Collections Librarian, University of Notre Dame, Architecture Library, Hesburgh Libraries, 117 Bond Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556 USA
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Spyros Koulouris, 2018-
Villa I Tatti, Berenson Library, Via Di Vincigliata 22, Florence 50135, Italy
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Jane A Devine Mejia, 2017-
Chief Librarian, Vancouver Art Gallery, Library & Archives, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2H7 Canada
jdevine@vanartgallery.bc.ca Phone: 604 662-4709

Beverly A. Mitchell, 2016-
Interim Director, Jake And Nancy Hamon Arts Library, Southern Methodist University, PO Box 750356, Dallas, TX 75275 USA
bmitchel@smu.edu Phone: 214-768-2796

Isotta Poggi, 2018-
Assistant Curator, Getty Research Institute, Curatorial Department, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Ste. 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90049 USA
ipoggi@getty.edu Phone: 310-440-7396

Gabrielle V. L. Reed, 2016-
Access Services Librarian, Massachusetts College of Art, Morton R. Godine Library, 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 USA
Sandra Brooke completed her term as IFLA liaison and stepped down as ex officio member in December 2017. Viveca Robichaud was elected as a member of the IFLA Arts Section Committee in August 2017 and joined the IRC as ex officio member in September 2017. The committee welcomes new members Isotta Poggi and Spyros Koulouris. A transition to the new membership of IRC will take place at the meeting of the IRC to be held in New York during the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference.

**NARRATIVE**

I. Leadership:

At the request of ARLIS/NA’s President and VP/President Elect, Deborah Kempe will continue to serve a third and final year as chair of the IRC in 2018.

II. Activities:

a) IRC Meetings and Communication

1. At the meeting of the IRC at the 2017 Annual Conference in New Orleans, the committee expressed thanks to the outgoing members Christina Peter (Chair) and Rina Vecchiola, and to Jennifer Garland, our EB Liaison, for their excellent service to the committee and the ARLIS/NA membership. Jane Devine Mejia and Gabrielle Reed were welcomed as new members. The IRC also held five online meetings in 2017 via GoToMeeting (March 17, April 24, August 31, November 6, and December 11). Agendas and minutes of the meetings, along with discussions, reports, and other relevant documents are posted to the IRC’s Basecamp site. We thank HQ for its support of our online meetings.

b) ARLIS/NA Annual Conferences

1. IRC members attended welcome receptions and served as facilitators and mentors of international attendees throughout the 2017 conference.

2. IRC and the Professional Development Committee co-sponsored a session at the 2017 conference in New Orleans titled “Does the Walker Choose the Path, or the Path the Walker?” Four speakers, including three from abroad, one of whom received a Kress Travel Award, provided an international perspective on professional development of art librarians.

3. The IRC will attend the reception for international attendees at the 2018 annual conference in New York City and will serve as mentors and facilitators to attendees from outside North America.

4. This year, the IRC is working with the local conference team to recruit attendees who are fluent in languages other than English to be conference guides for our international guests. If this initiative is successful, we hope it will become a regular feature of our conferences.

c) IRC Study Tours:

1. Completed study tour: Paris 2017

The highly successful 2017 study tour to Paris organized by the IRC took place June 12-16 with the participation of 20 ARLIS/NA members, including those from the US, Canada, and Hungary. The tour filled up in less than 24 hours. IRC members Deborah Kempe and
Beverly Mitchell, with support from Christine Ferret of the INHA in Paris, planned and led an itinerary of focused visits to world-renowned libraries, museums, archives, and art galleries in Paris. As in past years, registration and the collection of deposits were expertly handled by Robert Kopchinski, Executive Director of ARLIS/NA. More than 25 personal letters of thanks were sent by the organizers following the tour. Postings on Facebook and Instagram were a new feature of the 2017 tour. A personal report by Catherine Robertson was published on the AWS, and Julie Mellby wrote about it on her Princeton Graphic Arts blog. Two presentations from the tour were shared on the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal: [https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna/events/1025](https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna/events/1025). Attendees responded to questions from Christine Ferret about their experiences and impressions for a blog she wrote for the INHA. The Final Report on the tour was submitted by Deborah and Beverly on August 30, 2017. ARLIS/NA President Eumie Imm Stroukoff's December 14, 2017, President's Report on ARLIS-l included a special mention of the IRC Study Tour:

"Among the many activities held by the International Relations Committee [...] was the successful study tour to Paris in June of 2017. The IRC Study Tours are a wonderful way to reach out to our global community, share our mutual experiences and knowledge, and engage with our international colleagues. Kudos to all involved and a special thanks to Christine Ferret and our French colleagues."

2. Upcoming study tour: Cuba 2018

The 2018 study tour will visit Cuba from June 2-8, organized with [Cuba Explorer](https://www.cubaeplorer.com/). The IRC devoted a special call and discussion regarding whether to go forward with travel to Cuba given the change in politics and travel advisory on US State Dept. and Government of Canada websites. Cuban experts were consulted and the committee came to the conclusion that the trip IRC should not be put off—to the contrary this year is an excellent year to travel to Cuba. The EB agreed and approved the tour to proceed. Over the past year, IRC members Gabrielle Reed and Elisa Hansen, in conjunction with the cultural tour operator Cuba Explorer have developed an exceptionally customized itinerary to explore a wide range of art and architecture resources in this rich country, with a focus on Havana. This year’s study tour will be different in that it will be managed and accompanied by a tour company, which is a requirement for group travel to Cuba. A website announcement and registration form are almost ready to go and will be publicized prior to and during the 2018 annual conference. 25 slots are available. This year, with the support of the EB and member donors, we will offer a $1000.00 scholarship to an early to mid-career member of ARLIS/NA. Criteria for selection are under development.

3. Future study tours

Planning for the 2019 tour to northern Italy is already underway, with incoming IRC member Isotta Poggi as coordinator. In 2018, the committee will propose destinations for 2020 and 2021. Holding tours in conjunction with existing relevant meetings such as IFLA Art Libraries Section or ARLIS/NA affiliates will be considered. A trip to Asia is under discussion, and we hope to connect with Japanese colleagues to further investigate this possible venue.

4. Reciprocal tours

Dutch librarians continue to indicate interest in a reciprocal study tour to North America. While a tentative plan to organize a U.S. tour in conjunction with the 2018 annual conference in NYC did not materialize, the IRC will continue to offer assistance with this idea and with any other international groups and affiliates that would like to partner with ARLIS/NA to organize study tours or other educational activities.
d) Travel grants:

1. ARLIS/NA – Getty International Program

Following the successful 2016 Getty Foundation grant that funded participation of twenty arts information professionals from Latin America and Eastern Europe in the 2016 ARLIS/NA + VRA conference, there was hope to apply again to the Getty, but ARLIS/NA was not invited to apply in 2018. However, the possibility remains for a future submission. The IRC has been deeply involved with the most recent two Getty international programs and remains ready to offer support and assistance to the EB with any future applications.

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. The 2017 panel to adjudicate this year’s travel grants was chaired by ARLIS/NA Past President Kristen Regina and included IRC Chair Deborah Kempe, in addition to two ARLIS/NA members. The IRC helped publicize the awards on international FB groups and has offered to facilitate communication with the recipients who will attend the 2018 conference.

III. Other accomplishments and initiatives:

a) A statement of purpose for study tours was approved by the EB and added to appropriate Society documents and the AWS. Revisions to the web pages for the IRC were made to unclutter the screens and update the content. We thank Liv Valmestad for shepherding this process.

b) A revised charge for the IRC was submitted to and approved by the Executive Board. The AWS and relevant documents were updated to reflect the new charge. We thank Jane Devine Mejia for spearheading this action to express a more forceful mission statement about the strong commitment of ARLIS/NA to international dialogue, professional exchanges and formal affiliations, particularly in the current climate.

c) In view of the tangible achievements of the recent IRC study tours and of the prominent role they play in supporting the goals and objectives of the ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan, a request to create a new annual travel award/scholarship to support the participation of a deserving early-career ARLIS/NA member in an IRC-sponsored study tour was submitted to the EB by the IRC. The board responded with $500 to establish the first scholarship and encouraged the IRC to work together with other committees to arrive at a plan for sustaining this new award. The EB funding was matched by the IRC Chair and a $1000 scholarship will be offered. A constructive call between chairs and EB liaisons of the Awards (+ Travel Awards), Development, Education, and International Relations Committees was held, and a set of recommendations will follow.

d) Links to presentations during the 2017 Study Tour to Paris were made available on the Open Access ARLIS/NA Learning Portal: https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna/events/1025

e) Following a suggestion from the IRC, the Google Translation plugin will be implemented on the AWS.
f) IRC supported communication about relevant international initiatives through Facebook groups for Arte LA, Eastern European Art Librarians, and IFLA Art Libraries Section, as well as Instagram and Twitter.

g) The Checklist for Study Tours was updated to incorporate suggestions from tour leaders and participants.

h) Judy Dyki, Art Doc Editor, was thanked by the IRC for publishing articles resulting from an IRC-sponsored session at the 2016 Annual ARLIS/NA Conference.

i) Drafted a message of sympathy and support for residents of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Florida, and other areas who experienced catastrophic earthquakes and hurricanes, including ways to help recovery through donations to library relief funds. The President and EB posted the message to ARLIS-L.

j) Assisted ARLIS/NA President with sending letters to presidents of affiliates inviting them to the annual conference and reminding them of our affiliate relationship that offers reciprocal complimentary registration to the presidents of affiliates or their designated representatives. In past years, this has increased the participation of affiliate presidents (or official representatives) in our annual conferences.

IV. IRC future plans and goals (paired with ARLIS/NA Strategic Goals):

a) To announce, manage, and carry out a successful Study Tour to Cuba in 2018 and to form a taskforce to plan the 2019 study tour. (Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion, Collections and Access)

b) Consult with chairs of Awards and Professional Development Committees to issue a set of recommendations to the EB for supporting an ongoing annual scholarship for an early-careers ARLIS/NA member that provides financial assistance for travel and a special role in the IRC Study Tours. (Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion)

c) Assist ARLIS/NA Vice-President and Travel Awards Committee Chair to prepare a funding request to the Kress Foundation to support above-mentioned scholarship (may or may not be rolled into the Kress Travel Awards). (Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion)

d) Organize a Wikipedia-Editathon that brings together ARLIS members, affiliates, and international colleagues for adding/updating artist records or other globally relevant subjects, with a focus on art by women or artists in underrepresented countries (Organizational Advancement, Diversity and Inclusion, Innovation and Technology, Collections and Access)

e) Support 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. (Leadership and Advocacy, Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion)

f) Consider proposing a program at the 2019 annual conference (Art Information Professionals)
g) Assist in efforts to increase membership of librarians from Mexico, Canada, and overseas, especially now that membership rates are more affordable. (Leadership and Advocacy, Art Information Professionals, Diversity and Inclusion)

h) Appoint an IRC member or recruit a taskforce to improve social media communication with international members and Awards, and Professional Development committees. (Leadership and Advocacy, Innovation and Technology)

i) Consider new methods to magnify the Society’s mission to implement or strengthen partnerships with librarians and institutions both outside and within North America that will support the Society as a leading organization in the arts information field. These could include assistance with promoting existing international collaborations that include ARLIS/NA members or EB support, such as the Digital Cicognara Library, the Art Discovery Group Catalog, the Getty Research Portal, and others. (Organizational Advancement, Innovation and Technology, Collections and Access)

j) Seek ways to facilitate job exchanges between ARLIS/NA members and staff of international institutions. (Art Information Professionals, Collections and Access)

k) Investigate possibility of promoting or applying for an academic workshop or symposium grant from the Terra Foundation:

l) https://www.terraamericanart.org/what-we-offer/grant-fellowship-opportunities/academic-program-grants/ (Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals)

ISSUES FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

a) $500 was budgeted for our practice of providing a token of thanks to study tour hosts. Because there is no longer an official professional organization for French art librarians, it was recommended by our hosts to give it to Comité français international bibliothèques et documentation (CFIBD), for the use of scholarships to assist francophone colleagues from outside of France to attend IFLA and other conferences. Despite repeated attempts to finalize the donation, the funds were not used. This should be noted to the ARLIS/NA President and Treasurer. For the 2018 study tour to Cuba a proper recipient of the $500 gift should be determined in advance.

b) Ex officio members of IRC need to be clarified in Society documents. To the Chair’s knowledge the Awards Committee Chair has not be recognized as an ex officio member of IRC, yet it was recently noticed by the Chair that the ARLIS/NA Policy Manual states that it is. On the other hand, it has long been a practice that the ARLIS/NA liaison to the IFLA Arts Section (an ARLIS/NA affiliate) serves as an ex officio member of IRC, but this is not in the policy manual. The IRC would like this representation to continue and to be formalized in society documents. The Incoming President has been notified of these discrepancies and is working to resolve them.

c) There is always heavy interest by ARLIS/NA members to serve on the IRC. While the committee will reach out to more interested members to involve them in international initiatives, the EB may want to consider changing the maximum number of years that members can serve on the IRC from three to two in order to provide an opportunity for more members to serve.