I want to thank the members of the Data & Analytics Task Force, OATF2, the Kress Award review panel, and the Strategic Directions Committee for their excellent work this year. It was a pleasure serving as your liaison to the board. I am so impressed with the quality of your work and the collegiality you brought to the process.

Data & Analytics Task Force

Committee members:
- Mar González Palacios (Canadian Centre for Architecture), Chair of task force
- Rebecca Coleman (UVA Library)
- Meredith Hale (Yale Arts Library, Kress Fellow)
- Beth Morris (Yale Center for British Art Library)
- Rina Vecchiola (Washington University Libraries)

Charge:
The ARLIS/NA Data & Analytics Task Force will make recommendations for regular data collection and assessment activities for the Society, with the goals being to:
- regularly provide the ARLIS/NA Executive Board and other society leaders with actionable data and analysis that supports programmatic approaches to decision-making;
- articulate the value of art and design research centers (libraries, archives, visual resources, etc.) to our members and external constituents;
- provide business intelligence and benchmarking that help identify and track trends in the field of art information.

The task force will research and determine what data ARLIS/NA should collect, analyze, and report on a regular or semi-regular basis that would be considered an added value to its members and core constituents (e.g., senior administrators, policy makers, grant agencies).

Activities

The ARLIS/NA Data & Analytics Task Force was convened in late May 2017. It met three times during the summer and prepared an initial report for the Executive Board that was submitted August 9th for discussion during their Mid-Year Meeting held August 10-11, 2017. This document reported on preliminary findings and observations based on information on current practices, existing reports and other publications produced by ARLIS/NA, as well as the environmental scan of peer organizations. Each section of the report included questions that reflected the direction the group intended to take. With the feedback provided by the Executive Board, the Task Force reconvened in September and has been meeting biweekly for the last five months. Further details on current practices within the Society as well as with peer organizations were investigated and reviewed in relation to ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions.

The Task Force will submit its final report to the Executive Board to be discussed at their Pre-Conference meeting in February 2018. The report includes recommendations to improve, enhance, and establish practices that will better support the Society’s Strategic Directions. The report also presents several scenarios for how ARLIS/NA could do data collection and analytics work programmatically.
MLA & Humanities Commons
Samantha Deutsch and I attended a meeting on Humanities Commons at MLA Headquarters in NYC in the fall. We submitted extensive notes from the meeting and submitted questions and considerations for the board. Ultimately, an expression of interest in joining the HC project was sent on behalf of the board. We are currently waiting to hear back from MLA later this year regarding next steps but the plan is to set up an ARLIS/NA instance in Humanities Commons. MLA’s project is being funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Open Access Task Force II (OATF2)
The OATF’s report received final board approval and was posted to the member’s only section of the ARLIS/NA website.

Samuel H. Kress Foundation Award for International Travel
I convened and chaired a review panel that included: Debbie Kempe (IRC chair), Sumitra Duncan, and Walter Schlect, with past-president serving as chair. Sumitra and Walter are former Kress Award recipients. We had a record-breaking number of applicants this year and were thrilled to see an increased interest in the award! We conducted just one call for applicants this year and can probably continue with that approach.

The 2018 award recipients for attendance at the 46th ARLIS/NA conference in New York, NY are:

- Eleanor Gawne, Librarian, Architectural Association School of Architecture, London
- Christopher Jones, Learning & Teaching Librarian, University of the Creative Arts, Farnham
- Spyros Koulouris, Library Assistant, Villa I Tatti Library, Florence
- Maria Pimenova, Librarian of the 2nd Category, The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts Research Library, Moscow
- Anna Pyzik, Librarian, MOCAK – Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow
- Eila Rämö, Senior Librarian, Educational Services, Aalto University Learning Centre
- Anita Vriend, Senior Librarian, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

The 2018 award recipients for attendance at European conferences are listed below. All this year’s recipients will participate in the 2018 ARLIS UK & Ireland conference held in London:

- Kelly Davis, Metadata Specialist I, Getty Research Institute
- Rebecca Price, Architecture, Urban Planning Visual Resources Librarian, University of Michigan
- Sara DeWaay, Art + Architecture Librarian, University of Oregon
- Giana Ricci, Assistant Librarian for Public Services, Frick Art Reference Library

Strategic Directions Committee
I met with the committee over the course of three meetings to fine tune their process as it’s still a relatively new approach for ARLIS/NA. The committee ultimately submitted a report and recommendations that I brought forward for review at the board’s midyear meeting. The report included an extensive environmental scan, of both internal/ARLIS/NA documentation and of external affiliate organizations – along the lines of our strategic directions. The board found this report to be extremely useful in framing strategic discussions. Additionally, the committee recommended slight modifications to the wording of strategic directions for clarity. The following were adopted:
Collections and Access
The Society shall seek opportunities to facilitate collaborations across institutions and cultural organizations in order to promote the informed management, preservation, discovery, and access to collections amid their evolving publishing manifestations.
- The purpose of this change is to clarify that ARLIS/NA’s role is in facilitating, rather than directing, this process.

Leadership and Advocacy
The Society shall speak and act on behalf of its members to advance, validate, sustain, and advocate for the profession and the value of art libraries, as well as train its members to be advocates within their individual context.
- The purpose of this change is to clarify the expanded role of ARLIS/NA in relationship to advocacy. The current strategic direction language only addresses leadership; this clause is designed to acknowledge the work we already do.

Another report will be submitted for the board to review at its midyear meeting in 2018. There was consensus on the board that one report per year of this kind is sufficient for planning purposes.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions
Organizational Advancement
- Exploration of MLA/Humanities Commons partnership

Diversity and Inclusion
- Kress Award for International Travel

Collections and Access
- OATF2 report

Issues for the Executive Board
- As the MLA/Humanities Commons initiative is grant-related, I recommend that the incoming past-president serve as the point person on this project until an advisory committee is formed.
- Please plan to include the report from the Strategic Directions Committee on the agenda for the midyear board meeting.
- Conducting a single call for applicants for the Kress Award seemed to work well this year, so I’d recommend continuing with that practice. A question arose whether this award should be managed by the Awards Committee. The answer given this year was that it should stay with the past-president, as the process was already underway. This could be revisited for 2019 award, but that will be the last year of the six-year award. In 2019, the past-president should prepare a new grant proposal.