Public Policy Committee (PPC)

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Date submitted: January 25, 2018

Committee Members

Caley Cannon (chair), Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale, CA
Patricia Cossard, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Sara DeWaay (News Alerts editor), University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
Serenity Ibsen, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
Mary Kandiuk, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada
Lynora Williams, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Narrative

Throughout 2017, the PPC continued to monitor governmental activities and policies that impact art information professionals and the communities they serve. The United States presidential election in 2016 resulted in numerous opportunities for ARLIS/NA to advocate for topics related to libraries, with the PPC taking a lead role in the Society’s response to legislative proposals and social justice issues. The PPC drafted position statements for review and action by the Executive Board in response to racist and neo-Nazi rallies and hate-filled rhetoric by white supremacists in Charlottesville, VA. Another statement opposed the proposed elimination of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The PPC also drafted a statement on immigration and international collaboration in response to U.S. presidential executive orders aimed at limiting diversity and inclusion in the United States and restricting immigration and travel. The PPC compared the websites of affiliated organization and advocated to the Board for a more visible location for the position statements on the ARLIS/NA website.

The PPC reviewed advocacy guidelines of peer organizations and drafted an advocacy policy for ARLIS/NA, including procedures for determining when and to what extent ARLIS/NA should become involved. The goal of ARLIS/NA’s advocacy is to raise awareness about topics that affect art information professionals and encourage advocacy in support of libraries and visual arts.

In keeping with the PPC’s focus on advocacy, the committee successfully submitted a conference proposal about advocacy activities in libraries. The session, “Libraries Resist” is scheduled during the 2018 national conference in New York.
The PPC has continued to publish monthly News Alerts to ensure an informed membership. The PPC regularly receives messages of appreciation for the News Alerts from members. In 2017, the committee published two special issues on topics that were particularly timely:

- February issue on Fair Use/Fair Dealing in honor of Fair Use Week
- December issue devoted to the topic of Net Neutrality in response to the Federal Communications Commission decision to discard net neutrality regulations

The Fair Use Instructional Materials Task Force (chaired by Alex Watkins) held the workshop “Teaching Fair Use to Arts Researchers” at the 2017 ARLIS/NA Conference in New Orleans. The task force made significant progress towards publishing *Fair Use in the Visual Arts: Lesson Plans for Librarians*. They held a call for abstracts and lesson plans and conducted editorial reviews while providing in-depth feedback to authors. Final versions of the lesson plans have been received. Anticipated publication date is late February/early March 2018.

At the 2016 Seattle conference, the board voted to form an Open Access Task Force (chaired by Daniel Payne) to research and develop recommendations for the implementation of an ARLIS/NA open access publishing program. Their final report, released June 2017, explores the society’s current publishing activities within the context of open access publishing and includes concrete strategies for the society going forward.

Finally, the PPC looks forward to welcoming two new members in 2018:

- Karly Wildenhaus, UCLA MLIS program
- Michael Wirtz, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar

**Strategic Directions**

**Leadership & Advocacy**

- ARLIS/NA Statement regarding the violence and racism in Charlottesville, VA (completed)
- Open Access Task Force (in progress)
- ARLIS/NA Statement on elimination of funding for the NEA, NEH, and IMLS (completed)
- ARLIS/NA Statement on immigration and international collaboration (completed)
- Advocacy Policy (in progress)

**Art Information Professionals**

- Fair Use Instructional Materials Project (in progress)
- Location of position statements on website (in progress)