ARLIS/NA Research and Information Services Section (RISS)

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Report Text:

Leadership Update
Amanda Meeks served as 2017 RISS Moderator, and Alyssa Vincent served as the Vice-Moderator. Beginning in 2018, Alyssa Vincent will act as Moderator, and nominations for Vice-Moderator are currently taking place. RISS members will vote for an incoming Vice-Moderator at the RISS annual meeting at the ARLIS/NA conference in New York.

Brief Narrative
2017 was a productive year for RISS, beginning with a collaborative shift in the mission and goals of the group. Starting at the annual meeting during the 2017 ARLIS/NA conference in New Orleans, approximately 40 members worked together to refine and refresh “who we are, what we do, and why we do it.” One outcome of this participative session was a name change from Reference and Information Services Section to Research and Information Services Section. For those who couldn’t attend the conference, the meeting and brainstorming process was recapped on the RISS blog. Based off of that session, RISS leadership drafted a revised mission and goals and hosted a Twitter chat to share these drafts as well as the proposed section name change with RISS members for additional feedback.

RISS continued to hold moderated Twitter chats, including a valuable #critlib chat on spatial justice and white supremacy in public art and architecture which included participants outside of the RISS sphere and fostered important dialogue about ways librarians can decenter white supremacy in public (and private) spaces and institutions.

In the coming year, RISS will continue to host Twitter chats, revisit the possibility of hosting an online Journal Club, and encourage members to engage with the ongoing revision of the Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines.

ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions
Art Information Professionals

- Action Item: Forming the ARLIS/NA Project & Service Charter, Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines
A team of ARLIS/NA members are currently working to revise the Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines. Members of this charter are hosting a live editing session at the annual conference in New York to get as much ARLIS/NA member input as possible. From that session, we will also solicit additional volunteers to author discipline-specific sections of the document. This charter is in progress.