Annual Report 2018

Name of Chapter/Committee/Division/Section/SIG/Appointment/Executive Board Position

Submitted by: Deborah Kempe
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International Relations Committee (IRC) Annual Report 2018

Leadership Update

IRC 2018 Membership Roster

Deborah Kempe, Chair, 2016-2019
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Suzanne Rackover, ARLIS/NA Board Liaison, 2017-
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-
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Beverly A. Mitchell, 2016-
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Isotta Poggi, 2018-
Assistant Curator, Getty Research Institute, Curatorial Department, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Ste. 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90049 USA
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Gabrielle V. L. Reed, 2016-
Access Services Librarian, Massachusetts College of Art, Morton R. Godine Library, 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 USA
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Abby Stambach, 2019-
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Tad Suzuki, 2019-
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Deborah Kempe will complete her third and final year as chair of IRC. Jane Devine’s term will end in 2019 and we thank her for her contributions. We will welcome new members Abby Stambach and Tad Suzuki to the committee during the IRC meeting at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Salt Lake City in March 2019.

**Brief Narrative**

The IRC had one in person meeting at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in New York City in 2018 and four conference calls using GoToMeeting or zoom since then. Minutes, other documents and communication are supported on a dedicated area of the ARLIS/NA Basecamp site.

The committee reached out to all international attendees at the annual conference in NYC in 2017 to welcome them and invite them to attend the IRC meeting. Several guests attended and made valuable contributions to the committee’s discussions.

With Gabrielle Reed as tour leader, the IRC sponsored the very successful, first ever study tour to Cuba. It was the largest study tour to date, with 25 participants. The tour was cited as a highlight by ARLIS/NA President Kim Collins in her report to the membership, and it received high praise from participants, with comments such as Trudy Jacoby’s: “...the most fantastic trip to Cuba last week. This was my first ARLIS/NA study tour. The entire trip was so beautifully organized with such interesting visits and wonderful arrangements—it was a privilege to be part of this. Gabrielle— you are amazing!” Plans for a study tour to Venice in June are finalized and registration will open within days for a maximum of 20 participants. Verona native Isotta Poggi and Florence resident Spyros Koulouris, together with contacts in Venice, have arranged special visits to the city’s rich archives, libraries, and museums. Scholars’ rooms at the exclusive Cini Foundation will offer affordable accommodation on one of Venice’s famous islands, with multiple site visits each day, and a final day devoted to visiting the Venice Biennale. In addition, plans are well underway for a study tour to Japan in 2020. Due to the complexity of this tour, a small task force reporting to the IRC chair was appointed to take on the planning duties. Deborah Kempe, Tad Suzuki, and Dan Lipcan will liaise with Japanese librarians to finalize an itinerary and serve as tour leaders. The 2021 tour will be either to Greece or to the IFLA conference city (not yet announced).

A long-term goal of the IRC to create a scholarship award to support the participation of an early career member in the study tours was realized in 2017. With the generous support of the EB and individual members, the IRC was proud to inaugurate a scholarship award of $1000 for the 2018 tour to Havana. Lauren Gottlieb-Miller was the first recipient. This year, with the same level of support, another scholarship for $1000 will be awarded to an early career attendee. The IRC will continue to focus on sustaining the scholarship in the future. Donations to the scholarship are now possible during membership renewal and count towards Society Circle level. A letter to past participants soliciting support for the new scholarship went out in early February. To further support this scholarship, funding will be requested in the next proposal for travel awards to the Kress Foundation.

The IRC also helps support the Samuel H. Kress Foundation Award for International Travel that provides funds to European art librarians to attend the ARLIS/NA Conference, as well as ARLIS/NA members to attend European conferences. The 2018 panel to adjudicate this year’s travel grants was chaired by ARLIS/NA Past President Eumie Imm and included IRC Chair Deborah Kempe and the IRC IFLA Liaison Viveca Robichaux. The IRC helped publicize the awards on international FB groups.

As a result of the Study Tour to Havana, a program for sending books from ARLIS/NA member libraries to Cuba has been initiated, seeded with a budget allocation of $500 from
the EB and coordinated by Gabrielle Reed, The Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Cuba, and Cuba Libro in Havana. The first shipments of books left Boston via DHL 2/19/19. Cristina Ruiz, Bellas Artes library director and Connor Gorry of the Cuba Libro team, will receive the books. Included with the Cuba Libro boxes we added necessities due to the tornado that occurred a few weeks ago. Cuba Libro is a community art center and library. We donated office supplies and prenatal vitamins that were on their targeted donation wish list. Art book donations were provided by The Frick, MassArt, Princeton University Press, and anonymous. The Josef and Anni Albers foundation was kind enough to donate art books of which they had translated in Spanish. The members of the Havana Study tour group will be meeting at the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Salt Lake to discuss continuing the book donations. The rudimentary plan of creating rotating donation responsibility will be discussed. We will also discuss varying the libraries and institutions we donate to on a rotating basis. An example of this would be donating books to the Instituto Superior de Arte library (national art school of Cuba) and possible the Fototeca de Cuba library next. We have a long list of libraries to which we can lend support. We will work out a sustainable method of shipping books to Cuba with support from the IRC.

Plans for a webinar to share international trends in art librarianship are in development together with the President and President Elect. A PowerPoint presentation will soon be distributed to the presidents of ARLIS/NA overseas affiliates to gauge interest in this event.

The IRC has been in touch with ReDarte/SP, our Brazilian affiliate, regarding a virtual meeting that ReDarte is planning. They have requested our participation and we hope to arrange greetings and reports from the ARLIS EB and IRC Chair at the virtual meeting.

The IRC wishes to support a Wikipedia project to document artists from regions underrepresented in Wikipedia. Ideally, it will involve members of ARLIS/NA and affiliates with prior Wikipediathon and Wikipedia editing skills. We are reaching out to select ARLIS/NA members for further discussion of implementing this goal.

Following a suggestion from the IRC, the Google Translation plugin was implemented on the AWS. Compliments on this were received from our Brazilian colleagues.

The IRC continued to contribute to Facebook groups for Arte LA, Eastern European Art Librarians, and IFLA Art Libraries Section.

**ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions**

IRC future plans and goals (paired with ARLIS/NA Strategic Goals). Status of goals from 2017 report:

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) COMPLETED

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) COMPLETED

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) PENDING
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) PROGRESS

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) PENDING

f) Consider proposing a program at the 2019 annual conference (Art Information Professionals) COMPLETED (changed to separate event)

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) PENDING

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) PROGRESS

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) IN PROCESS

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

k) Investigate possibility of promoting or applying for an academic workshop or symposium grant from the Terra Foundation: https://www.terraamericanart.org/what-we-offer/grant-fellowship-opportunities/academic-program-grants/ (Organizational Advancement, Art Information Professionals) PENDING

Issues for the Executive Board (concerns, suggestions for additions to Strategic Directions Action Scorecard, etc.)

Nothing at this time. On behalf of the entire IRC, I thank the Executive Board for its extraordinary support and encouragement of our activities to strengthen ties among art information professionals in North America and beyond. Suzanne Rackover has been a very effective EB liaison and we thank her for her advice and service to the IRC.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Kempe, Chair, International Relations Committee