Art Libraries Society of North America, 33rd Annual Conference
Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, April 1-6, 2005

Academic Library Division Meeting
Sunday April 3, 2005, 8:00 – 9:30 AM

Current Officers:
Rebecca Price, Moderator, University of Michigan
Ann Shincovich, Vice-Moderator, Pocono Mt. Public Library
K.C. Elhard, Update Editor, UIUC

Attendees:

Recorder: Ann Shincovich, Pocono Mt. Public Library

Minutes:
Rebecca Price opened the meeting with a general introduction of the current officers.

Professional Development and Mentoring were first on the Agenda:
The ALD is interested in issues of professional development and mentoring, and began discussing the possibility of coordinating a mentoring initiative with the Professional Development Committee (PDC).

Heidi Hass (Pierpont Morgan Library) came as a representative of the PDC and began with discussion based on the PDC report on professional development resources. She also participated in the general discussion of the potential for mentoring programs between the ALD and PDC.

Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos, University of Virginia, contributed information based on the ARLIS/NA environmental scan, which supports the need for professional development and mentoring in the academic community based on changes in academic librarianship. She believes that ALD can work on professional issues in academic librarianship. It was proposed that the ALD should perhaps create a panel to define the purpose of ALD based in conjunction with the results of the environmental scan report.

Mentoring will continue to be an area of investigation for ALD.

Margaret Webster and Ann Whiteside visited the meeting:
They wanted to remind ALD participants that May 7, 2005 is the deadline to submit conference proceedings to John Taormina. Also that May 14, 2005 is the deadline for conference proposals for the 2006 ARLIS/NA conference in Banff, and May 31, 2005 is the deadline for special funding proposals. Ann Whiteside also discussed the work being done on the Strategic Plan and core competencies for ARLIS/NA. She wanted the ALD to consider how the overall Strategic Plan and core competencies for ARLIS/NA fit into the mission of ALD. Ann also informed the ALD that division goals should be e-mailed to her after the conference, and that any issues needing attention should be sent to the conference post committee by 5:00 pm March 4, 2005. ALD members should also send information to Carol Graney, University of the Arts, to be posted on the ARLIS/NA website.

**Election of New Officers for ALD:**

At this time, when enough ALD members were present, Rebecca Price broke for the election of new officers. Paul Glassman, Hofstra University, and Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos were interested in the position of Vice-Moderator. K.C. Elhard wished to continue as Update Editor. A vote by raised hand elected Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos as the new Vice-Moderator for ALD. Officers for the ARLIS/NA 2006 conference in Banff are: Ann Shincovich, Moderator; Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos, Vice-Moderator; K.C. Elhard, Update Editor.

**The next issue on the Agenda was the potential for outreach initiatives from ALD to other library communities:**

A general discussion was held to investigate potential interest in outreach to other library communities, including public libraries, art school libraries, and K-12 school libraries, in order to educate other librarians and instructors on the proper use of digital images, art resources, and the usefulness of ARLIS/NA as a professional resource. Poor understanding of digital images, art resources, copyright, and misuse of the Internet by students prior to their enrollment at the university level is of concern. ALD will consider if there are ways ARLIS/NA can contribute to outreach and education so students are better equipped before reaching the university level.

Nedda Ahmed, Denison University, believes that the ARLIS/NA website or new ALD website can be useful for PR and resources to other librarians and educators, and also that ALD needs to make a concerted effort to educate faculty and students at the university level as well. Nedda mentioned that learning how to negotiate different arts related resources, including digital images and databases, is a concern for many users.

At the University of Buffalo, there is a workshop for local schools called “Teach the Teacher” that emphasizes library skills, and perhaps ARLIS/NA can create similar forums for instruction on art resources and digital images.

Barbara Prior, Oberlin College, said that there may be interest for High School teachers to come to the universities to get instruction and perhaps we have a responsibility to assist them to help their students. Often students are instructed to produce assignments using poor library and database skills—only focusing on the Internet.

Jeanne Brown, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, emphasized the potential relationship between ARLIS/NA and art educators, and that we should try and provide professional services and outreach to those instructors and students.
Ellen Corrigan, UC Santa Barbara, suggested that our website is should be promoted as an excellent resource for instructors, students, and librarians to get good information about the use of arts resources and digital images.

Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos believes that potential outreach/education dovetails with our mission statement, environmental scan issues, and support for arts education.

**A general discussion of the need for an ALD website followed:**

Nedda Ahmed volunteered to be the ALD Web-liaison. The discussion of the usefulness and pros and cons of a blog for ALD followed, with many suggestions about investigating this option. Nothing conclusive was decided.

**Issues related to ARTstor were next on the Agenda:**

At the 2004 ARLIS/NA conference in NYC, ARTstor was the primary topic of interest for the ALD, especially after the new pricing structure for ARTstor had just been released and institutions were struggling with obtaining or supporting ARTstor subscriptions. Discussion in 2005 is a follow up of many of the issues brought to light, and the discussion on this topic was fast and energetic. (I apologize for the omissions of names of ALD contributors to this topic).

Overall, many institutions are still struggling with the price of an ARTstor subscription, which is based on university population size, and believe it is an unfair price guide since many art libraries serve a relatively smaller population of academic users. The price structure of ARTstor has priced out some libraries and departments who might otherwise be interested.

The issues regarding start-up costs for technology infrastructure and long “roll-out” time was something that came as a surprise to some of the institutions who subscribed to ARTstor.

Some mentioned that ARTstor was not strong in certain areas of study in the twentieth century. Some faculty complain that ARTstor does not have enough content. The ARTstor pilot program for building local collections also was discussed. Some institutions were able to successfully afford ARTstor based on consortial agreements, but this will not work for all institutions.

A general poll of ALD attendees was taken: about half of institutions of the attendees have ARTstor, and half do not. (About fifty individuals attended the ALD meeting.) Evaluations on the performance and functionality of ARTstor are important right now as institutions are either assessing their current subscription or contemplating subscribing to it. One issue for many art libraries is that they may have to shoulder the financial burden of ARTstor when professors and students from other departments are using it as well.

Another member pointed out that the criteria for the technology infrastructure to support ARTstor was underemphasized in the original sales pitch, and that needs to be addressed, perhaps by a standards sub-committee. However, ARTstor has good tech support people to assist with installation and trouble-shooting once an institution has it.
ARTstor issues for further discussion: can ARTstor subscriptions at the institutional level be supported by a broader base of departments? How can ARTstor really be evaluated as very important to collections if only a small percentage of institutions can afford the subscription? Can art librarians get faculty and students to commit to using it when so much work and money goes into obtaining the subscription? Who really are ARTstor users, and do they really want it? Can ARLIS/NA members influence ARTstor as a group to re-assess or change its pricing structure?

ALD members contemplated whether there should be a panel or workshop at an upcoming ARLIS/NA conference on ARTstor and the issues surrounding it, as well as how ARTstor compares to similar projects from RLG and Amico and what those two vendors are currently providing.

Paul Glassman suggested that a formal liaison from ARLIS/NA be established to represent en-masse the concerns of ARLIS/NA members to ARTstor, and that this may be part of the role of the Standards Committee.

Lucy Wall Stylianopoulos expressed interest in the development of a working group to address ARTstor issues within ALD.

A new issue came up regarding online content and collections:

Someone suggested that a workshop at the 2007 Banff conference on user education and online content might be useful.

Barbara Prior discussed issues concerning how websites are cataloged, as well as the “Ask Clarence” project at Oberlin College. “Ask Clarence” is a program designed to implement arts research that is supported by the library staff and focuses on the content of the Oberlin library holdings.

ALD members emphasized that in arts libraries electronic, print, and “other” materials are still viable resources and this makes art library collections unique for collection management and research.

Jeanne Brown noted that a statement on print resources in the digital world may be useful for ALD and arts librarians who do collection development.

The topic of research methods in the Arts and Humanities was mentioned. It was noted that art history, fine arts, graphic design, architecture (etc.) students and faculty all do research differently based on their proposed outcomes, and this is greatly influential on the wide variety of collections supported by art libraries.

Lucy Wall Stylianopoulos suggested that education and collection development sub-groups be designated to work in ALD.

At the end of the meeting, Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos took names of those individuals who wished to participate in four subgroups of ALD:

The four working groups of ALD are: Education/Teaching Working Group, Collections Working Group, Web/Communications Working Group, and ARTstor Working Group.
The meeting adjourned.