ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee Meeting

Saturday, 3 May 2008, 9:30-11:00 A.M.

Recorded by Timothy Shipe

Present: Martha González Palacios (continuing member), Roger Lawson (continuing member), Marilyn Russell (incoming Chair), Timothy Shipe (outgoing Chair), Rijn Templeton (outgoing member), Amy Trendler (outgoing Executive Board Liaison), Liv Valmestad (incoming Executive Board Liaison)

Absent: Marc Gartler (continuing member), Dennis Kreps (continuing member), Ray Anne Lockard (outgoing member)

Guests: Ursula Kolmstetter (for the Indianapolis conference), Marsha Stevenson

Introductions and Updates

Kolmstetter made a brief announcement about the 2009 Indianapolis conference.

Section 108 Developments

Lawson summarized the contents of the final report of the Section 108 Study Group. The committee agreed that we should recommend that ARLIS/NA endorse the report’s recommendations. Lawson agreed to draft a statement of endorsement to forward to the Executive Board. The committee also agreed that it should monitor any legislation that emerges from the Study Group’s recommendations, and be prepared to quickly decide whether to recommend endorsement of such legislation by the Executive Board. Finally, the committee agreed that it should examine whether to make any recommendations concerning those issues about which the Study Group did not reach conclusions.

Orphan Works Developments

Lawson reported that the Senate version of the Orphan Works Act was formally introduced on 24 April. ARLIS/NA endorsed the 2006 version, which never reached a vote, and we presume that we will want to do the same with the current version unless a comparison of the two reveals significant differences.
that would warrant a change in our position. Lawson agreed to compare the two versions and report to the committee. The committee also discussed whether it should attempt some sort of outreach to visual artists’ groups which may oppose the legislation based on misconceptions about its contents. This does not seem feasible. However, the committee agreed that ARLIS/NA membership should be educated about the Orphan Works Act, and that an explanatory page should be placed on the committee’s website. Being so educated would provide art librarians with an opportunity to reach out to some of their patrons who may have misgivings about the Orphan Works Act on the basis of faulty information. Lawson agreed to write such an explanation, and the committee charged Gartler and Kreps with assisting Lawson in this task.

**Committee Goals for 2007/2008.**

The following goals were approved:

Develop position statements on behalf of ARLIS/NA regarding emerging intellectual property and other public policy issues of relevance to the profession, and forward such statements to the Executive Board for endorsement; make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning position statements developed by other groups seeking ARLIS/NA endorsement. (Strategic Plan Goal III)

Maintain the content of committee website in order to provide a forum for educating ARLIS members about intellectual property, intellectual freedom, and other public policy issues. Find ways to make the website more visible and accessible to librarians looking for information on copyright and other issues covered by the committee. (Strategic Plan Goals I.A. and IV.C)

Monitor public policy discussion lists of relevance to art librarians, and disseminate information from these as warranted. (Strategic Plan Goal I.A)

Consider the possibility of finding a new name for the committee that would be more descriptive of its mission; if such a name is found, recommend the name-change to the Executive Board. (Goal IV)

Develop and propose programming related to public policy for the 2009 Indianapolis conference. (Goal I.B)

**Committee Website**

González agreed to be the website editor for 2008/09.

**Monitoring Assignments**

Members were assigned to monitor the following issues, lists, organizations, etc.:
CAA-CIP (Russell will try to identify a CAA member who might take this assignment)
Canadian issues in general (González)
Digital Copyright List (Russell)
Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (Kreps)
Liblicense (Shipe)
Library of Congress (Lawson)
Orphan Works (Lawson, Krebs, Gartler)
Section 108 (Gartler and Lawson)
U.S. Copyright Office (Lawson)

The committee would like to find a way to monitor Mexican issues as well.

**Program Ideas for the Indianapolis Conference**

The committee agreed that it would propose a pre-conference on image copyright issues and a poster session on new copyright developments in 2008/09.

**New Committee Members**

Lockard, Shipe, and Templeton are rotating off of the committee. Russell asked members for assistance in identifying individuals to fill these slots.

Respectfully submitted
Timothy Shipe, University of Iowa