The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

Attending: ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs: Carmen Orth-Alfie, Roger Lawson; Executive Board liaison: James Rout; At-large members: Marsha Stevenson, Patrick Tomlin. Absent: At-large members Marilyn Nasserden and Alan Michelson.

Membership: Alan Michelson is leaving the Public Policy Committee following his election as ARLIS/NA Secretary. The committee will identify a replacement candidate from among the names forwarded from Headquarters.

The original agenda, which called for a brief joint meeting followed by individual business meetings, was tabled in order to allow the entire hour for free discussion between both groups. Topics included:

1. Issues of common interest: Copyright and intellectual property; Google Books and Images, orphan works, “fair use” (US) and “fair dealing” (Canada); open access; funding at the state and national levels.

2. Monitoring strategies: The role of liaisons with organizational affiliates as well as between these two committees was discussed. Both groups agreed that stronger liaison with the College Art Association was necessary. The Public Policy Committee will identify an individual from the legal profession to assist with issue review and response and develop a template for assessing issues, presenting information to the membership, and recommending action for ARLIS/NA Executive Board consideration and endorsement.

3. Communications: The Public Policy Committee’s updated Web site is reorganized around issue topics and provides additional links to relevant documentation and organizations active in these topics. [The VRA IPRC prepares a monthly news feature for members using WordPress.] The committee is also using Google Groups and Google Documents to share drafts; quarterly virtual meetings are scheduled through December 2011.

4. Collaboration: The groups agreed on the need to identify and consider endorsement of relevant guidelines and best practices regarding copyright and intellectual property. Since a basic principle of “best practices” is to document a community of praxis’ acceptable “norms,” there is a need to expand the collaboration to other non-profit and commercial organizations.
Development of tutorials on advocacy on copyright and intellectual property issues and of joint statements are areas of potential collaboration.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Roger Lawson and Carmen Orth-Alfie