



# Canvas

ARLIS/NA Southern California Chapter Newsletter

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 1 / SPRING 2016

## From the Chair

It has been a pleasure to serve as the ARLIS/NA Southern California Chapter Chair. 2015 was an eventful year. With the introduction of the Gagosian Gallery Librarian, Ben Lee Ritchie Handler as our new Chapter Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, our chapter had the opportunity to visit many interesting and never-before-visited venues to learn more about the role of the librarian, the library and the archive in the art and design sphere of Los Angeles.

We kicked off the year with our annual conference mixer/meet-up at the Republic Street Bar in Fort Worth, Texas. At this event, we broadened our professional networks by meeting several ARLISNAP members who joined us for Happy Hour. In our chapter meeting at the conference, we discussed the success of our previous years' fundraising auction at the Baldessari studio raising upwards of \$600 for the chapter.

Another agenda item addressed the possibility and interest of our chapter participating in a mentorship program. Simone Fujita reported on the Diversity Committee plans to apply for an IMLS grant to recruit and re-train a more diverse workforce of art librarians. Additionally, we announced the Travel Award winners. Erin Hurley was awarded the Student Travel Award and Emily Matthews received the Judith A. Hoffberg Travel Award.

Soon after the conference in late March, the Diversity Committee liaison Simone Fujita and Ben Lee coordinated an Archives of Color Meet and Greet event co-hosted with the Los Angeles Archivists Collective (LAAC) at the H.M.S. Bounty Bar in Los Angeles. In May, our chapter once again teamed up with the LAAC to coordinate a tour of the artist Sterling Ruby's studio and ar-



chive in downtown Los Angeles, hosted by Ruby's Archivist and founding member of LAAC, Jennifer Kishi. In June, Ben Lee arranged for our chapter to take a private tour of the Frank Gehry Partners Architectural Studio and Archive. In this tour, hosted by Architect Tae Park, we saw the sketches, models and materials used in the creative process of the architects in the firm. The same month, two of our chapter officers, our Past Chair, Derek Christian Quezada (continued on page 7)

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### See you in Seattle!

The 44th ARLIS/NA Annual Conference and 3rd Joint VRA Conference will be from **March 8-12, 2016** in **Seattle, Washington.**



**ARLIS/NA + VRA**  
3RD JOINT CONFERENCE 2016 | SEATTLE

Visit the conference website to plan your schedule now!  
<http://www.arlisna-vra.org/seattle2016>

## Member Spotlight: Meet the New Treasurer!

**Becka Cooling** is the Assistant Librarian at SCI-Arc.

### **What made you want to become the Treasurer of the Southern California Chapter of ARLIS/NA?**

Being new to LA, I found the group very welcoming after I moved from Chicago in 2014. Now, as a librarian at a small institution, it feels necessary to connect with other information professionals outside of work. And it's also fun. Volunteering for the Treasurer role was a way for me to give service to a group I connect with.



### **Have you always worked in art libraries?**

Well I had a brief stint as a woodworker's apprentice, but yes, I'd say most of my positions have been in art museums or libraries. My passion has always been for art librarianship, but as I am early in my career, I've tried to vary my experience and work in different types and sizes of institutions -- I've been at a large research university, an art museum, an art school library, a rare book gallery-- and now an architecture school library. I've been in technical/metadata departments, reference and user services, even rare book conservation. Having this range has been so useful, especially at now at a small library (staff of 2!), where I need to be able to do instruction, reference, cataloging, circulation-- basically, a little bit of everything.

### **What is it like to work at SCI-Arc?**

SCI-Arc is a very nontraditional environment, intensely focused on architecture studio work. It's a very lively and creative atmosphere. The library supports the studio work as well as the academic curriculum.

The students are great -- very bright and motivated. In terms of using the library, they are most interested in how to do research that connects with their studio work. For example, how to find details, sections, and plans of specific buildings, to study and/or create models from. So I've tried to become really good at that! I've already learned a lot about the nature of architecture information in these last 5 months. They keep me on my toes.

### **What is a typical day like for you?**

Oh you know, I sit around reading and telling people to be quiet. Just kidding! I'm busy helping students, staff, and faculty all day. When I'm not doing that, I'm cataloging, supervising student workers, and working on other projects like research guides and library instruction sessions. My coworkers and the students make the day fun.

### **What projects are you most proud of working on?**

I've only been at my position since August, but I'm continuing the cataloging enhancement project started by my predecessor. Basically this involves going through the entire collection and making sure each book has a quality record, and our holdings are represented in OCLC. I've found ways to streamline the process, uploading and editing records in bulk, but we are talking about 20,000+ books, so it will take a while. However, it's already made an improvement in discovery and access to our collection. I've also been working with AWA+D to host their Wikipedia Edit-a-thons at our library -- I'm hoping to see some ARLIS-SC members at these events, nudge nudge!

# Travel Award Winners

**Erin Hurley** won the **Student Travel Award**.

This year, I attended the ARLIS-NA conference in Fort Worth, Texas, thanks to the ARLIS-SC Student Travel Award. I was excited and a little apprehensive – no one else from my UCLA Information Studies cohort was attending, and I was a bit nervous to attend a conference alone.

It turns out that I knew tons of people there! From other ARLIS-SC members to some of my past and present coworkers, there were plenty of people to talk to. I was also busy attending workshops and trying to get the most out of my conference experience. My three days in Fort Worth were packed with conference panels, happy hours, and museum visits, and I was happy to have a sweet little Air B&B in Fort Worth's Arlington Heights – the “cultural district” that is home to most of the city's museums, from the Kimball Art Museum to the Modern Art Museum. I stayed in a little room above a stranger's garage and took the bus into the downtown Fort Worth. It was nice to have a quiet place to go back to and relax in after a long day of talks and social events. The house I stayed in had a greenhouse and an old black lab that I could see from my window, and was located in a peaceful and quiet, suburban part of the city. It rained most of the weekend, and I enjoyed getting into bed at night and listening to the rain on the roof.

My favorite panels at the ARLIS conference were about fairly technical subjects like image-recognition technology, web archiving, and digital preservation. The speakers were careful to emphasize the importance of human intervention and quality control in all areas – from curating web archives to checking to see if a portrait subject “recognized” by an algorithm matches the identity of the person thought to be depicted. The most fascinating part of the image-recognition talk was the difficulty in training a computer to “recognize” a subject as s/he ages.

It was also fun to meet and socialize with art librarians of all ages and backgrounds from all over the country. Places like the Getty and the Frick were well-represented, as was the Dallas-Fort Worth area. I ate some queso but didn't have a chance to eat any barbecue. Guess I'll just have to go back!



**Emilee Mathews**, Research Librarian for Visual Arts, University of California, Irvine, won the **Judith A. Hoffberg Travel Award**.

I have been attending ARLIS/NA Conferences since 2009, every year (except for 2010), making the 2015 conference my sixth. This year, I not only attended to my service duties, but also was able to participate in workshops and sessions, thanks to the Hoffberg award.

I co-presented a poster based on original research about digital humanities, information science, and new media called “Database-driven: New Media and Libraries.” In speaking to my peers about the project, I made connections, and receive numerous recommendations for further reading and funding opportunities. This was extremely helpful as our team is presenting this poster as a long paper at an upcoming conference, and are also considering options for publication.

I also attended the annual meeting of the Communications and Publications committee, and contributed my thoughts about the upcoming bylaws vote to change the committee to Editorial Board. In further service to my role as co-editor of Multimedia & Technology Reviews, I was able to network with peers to establish interest, gain feedback on the publication, and evaluate future editorial members of the team. In my presentation to the Reference and Information Services Section, I was able to inform my peers about the connection between RISS and M&TR, as well as gather volunteers for the RISS review that is a part of each issue of M&TR.

I led the Academic Libraries Division meeting, by presenting a topic for discussion: the 2014 Ithaka report “Changing Needs of (*continued on page 4*)

**Support the Travel Awards by renewing your membership or becoming an ARLIS/NA Southern California Chapter member!**

To join, simply visit the Join, Renew, or Donate page on our website: [southerncalifornia.arlisna.org/membership](http://southerncalifornia.arlisna.org/membership)

## 43rd Annual ARLIS/NA Conference

ARLIS/NA members gathered in **Fort Worth, Texas** from **March 19—23, 2015** for the 43rd annual conference. Our Southern California chapter members contributed to the program in the following ways:



**Teresa Soleau** (Getty Research Institute ) presented the workshop *Think Big: Considering Large Scale Digitization*

**Claire Kennedy** (Studio of John Baldessari) presented *Artist in the Library: A Case Study* on the panel *Library Services for Working Artists: Beyond Research to the New Frontier of Practice*

**Laurel Bliss** (San Diego State University) present on the panel *Moving the Needle: Advancing the Profession through Publishing*

**Stacy R. Williams** (University of Southern California Libraries) presented *Instagram in Art Librarianship: Sharing a Snapshot and Taking a Shot at Using Instagram as a New Librarian* on the panel *New Voices in the Profession*

**Eumie Imm Stroukoff** (Georgia O’Keeffe Museum) presented the poster *What’s Your Story?: The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Research Center Oral History Project*

**Alyssa Resnick** (Glendale Library) and **Cathy Billings** (Brand Library & Art Center) presented the poster *Brand Library & Art Center Renovation Project*

**Emilee Mathews** (University of California, Irvine) presented the poster *Database-Driven: Exploring the Underlying Symmetry between New Media Theory and Library Science*

### Travel Award Winners (continued from page 3)

Art Historians.” We had a lively discussion about the report and people’s perceptions of its characterizations of and recommendation for the field.

I was able to attend a Digital Humanities workshop, where I was introduced to numerous tools of interest to Digital Art History. Since then, I have presented some of these tools to my colleagues at UCI, which was much appreciated as we are taking on a variety of digital humanities-inspired projects in the library. The panel about Linked Open Data was particularly useful, as I am the creative lead on an NEH-funded project at UCI, where we will be piloting linked open data on enhanced descriptions of our artists’ books.

I also organized a breakfast meetup with the University of California Art and Architecture Bibliographers Group, our annual change to see other and share what’s going on at each campus. With seven out of ten campuses represented, it was a lively breakfast.

All in all, it was a great conference where many networking opportunities, research and inspiration, and service contributions took place. I’m greatly looking forward to the Seattle Conference!

Visit  
[southern.california.arlisna.org](http://southern.california.arlisna.org) for  
details about  
chapter events and  
for business  
meeting minutes.

# From the **ARLIS/NA** Board Chapters Liaison

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

## Hello Southern California Chapter Members!

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am reporting on several items that have kept us busy in 2015 and more recently. Feel free to follow up with me with questions or comments, and if there's anything that needs to be brought to the attention of the Board, do let me know anytime.

### Strategic Planning and Directions

The Board has been thinking about and drafting new versions of our core values, vision, mission and goals to help guide the work of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee is embarking on the next phase of strategic planning at present, which is going to be a more nimble and flexible process than was previously the case. The plan is to cover a two-year, as opposed to a five-year cycle. Executive Board members and the Committee will be determining how and when the greater ARLIS/NA membership can provide feedback, and ultimately, how all ARLIS/NA activities will tie in to the themes of the document.

### Code of Conduct

The ARLIS/NA Board has finalized a permanent Code of Conduct statement, called a Statement of Appropriate Conduct. A code was developed for the Fort Worth conference, but we needed something more permanent to cover all Society transactions. Heather Gendron, the current Vice

President, is working on finalizing and integrating the document into the ARLIS/NA website and official documentation. All chapter websites will ultimately be asked to include it or link to it.

### ARLIS/NA Learning Portal

The Learning Portal was originally created to provide virtual content from ARLIS/NA annual conferences, but has evolved to provide additional programs and sessions. The Board voted last August to provide this content free to members and to all interested parties, as was communicated to Society members in an e-mail that circulated on ARLIS-L. Check out what's there, in any case, if you haven't yet: <https://www.pathlms.com/arlisna>. The Professional Development Committee and its Education Subcommittee will be offering a webinar on using the portal very soon.

### Seattle Conference

The Seattle joint conference with VRA, with some cross-listing of content from the Association of Architecture School Librarians conference, looks to be shaping up to be a super event. 33 sessions are scheduled over three days (versus 28 in Fort Worth). Most chapter, section and division meetings are scheduled to meet very early because it has proven challenging to avoid conflicting with sessions. The Getty and Kress Foundations, respectively, will be funding grants to allow delegates from 17 countries to attend! Thanks to the Southern California Chapter for your generous \$150 donation towards general conference support.

### Chapter Archives

ARLIS/NA formed a Documentation Committee this past year to oversee the policies and procedures regarding Society documentation, including oral histories and electronic records. The group is now attempting to come up



with a retention schedule for the Society, which could include chapter archives. At the moment, chapters deal with records on their own, with the exception of annual reports. (Note: Web archiving for the Society beyond the ARLIS/NA website is not yet being done.)

### Chapter Discussion Lists

All chapters have had the ability to request listservs hosted by ARLIS/NA, but the Board voted at our meeting last September to waive all associated fees for list servs for the chapters. Chapters who had ARLIS-hosted listservs using L-Soft were previously paying \$128 per year for this service.

### Special Interest Groups

The current Executive Board has approved the formation of several new ARLIS/NA SIGs this year: for Exhibitions, Retired Members, Solo Art Information Professionals, and Web Archiving.

I wish you all a very productive and eventful spring and I look forward to seeing you in Seattle.

Rebecca Friedman

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For updates from ARLIS/NA members visit the News and Events page.

[arlisna.org/news/news-events](http://arlisna.org/news/news-events)

For updates from ARLIS/NA local chapters, Sections, and Special Interest Groups visit the Organization page on [arlisna.org](http://arlisna.org).

<https://arlisna.org/organization/organization>

# News and Notes

## Congratulations to the 2016 Travel Award Winners!

### Emily Coxe, MLIS Candidate, UCLA, 2016

Emily is a current MLIS student at UCLA with a background in Studio Art and experience in arts organizations and libraries. In her studies at UCLA, Emily focuses on the tools that are used to organize and display content such as collections management systems, digital libraries and research databases. These interests are combined with an interest in new media art, how it is produced, the potential for study, and integration into collections. Emily works as a Reference Desk Assistant at the UCLA Arts Library and at Blum and Poe Gallery assisting the archivist.

### Rachel Ferensowicz, MLIS Candidate, UCLA, 2016

Rachel is a current MLIS student at UCLA with a background in English Literature and Theater, and experience working in writing, acting, and directing. In her studies at UCLA, Rachel's emphasis is on the importance of narrative and myth in archival description and cataloging practices. Rachel has interned at the Getty Conservation Institute Information Center and is currently interning at the Writers' Guild Foundation Library and Archives. Her work at the Writers' Guild focuses on the implementation of a new cataloging system that includes the affective and ephemeral aspects that accompany writing for the screen.

## Congratulations to Janine Henri who won the 2014 Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL) Distinguished Service Award!

The purpose of the AASL Distinguished Service Award is to recognize individuals who have achieved distinction in the profession and have demonstrated achievements in one or more of the following areas:

1. Outstanding and sustained service to the profession through active participation, advocacy, or leadership in AASL or related organizations.
2. Outstanding and sustained service to a library or resource serving an academic architectural program in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the field. These standards may be met in a variety of ways, including activity that involves exceptional creativity, innovation, leadership, or scholarship.
3. Significant research or publication in any media or format that demonstrates the value of architecture librarians and their profession.
4. Outstanding and sustained performance as a teacher in the field of architecture librarianship or a closely related field.

[Read more about Janine receiving the award!](#)

Stay in touch with  
our affiliated  
organizations!

Visit [southerncalifornia.arlisna.org](http://southerncalifornia.arlisna.org) for  
information on  
SCASCC.

Visit <http://arlisnanc.blogspot.com/>  
for information on  
the Northern  
California Chapter.

**From the Chair** (continued from page 1)

and our Diversity Committee Liaison Simone Fujita, attended the ARLIS/NA study tour to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They represented our chapter as they visited the Brasiliana Library, Mario de Andrade Library and the museum collections of the Museo de Arte de Sao Paulo, the Museu Nacional das Belas Artes and the Afro Brasil Museum, among other culturally rich experiences. In August, Ben Lee coordinated a tour of the Villa Aurora House, former home of the German-Jewish author Lion Feuchtwanger and his wife Marta. Led by Assistant University Librarian and Exile Studies Librarian at USC, Michaela Ullman, we learned about the history of the property and the

resources available for artists and researchers through the non-profit organization “Friends and Supporters of Villa Aurora” and the USC Feuchtwanger Memorial Library. Adding to the theme of our never-before-experienced events, we had the opportunity to tour the non-profit and educational organization, Tom of Finland Foundation Archive in November. As we learned, the Foundation’s aim is to protect, preserve and promote the works of Tom of Finland and his fellow erotic artists. The Permanent Collection houses more than 1,500 original works by Tom and another 2,000 works by hundreds of other artists, and the archives, with well over 100,000 images, documents, and records which together comprise the world’s largest repository of erotic art. In December we co-

hosted an end of the year holiday party with our friends at LAAC at the Red Lion Tavern.

This will be the final year of Nicoletta Beyer’s term as Treasurer and we want to thank her for her tremendous help in keeping our chapter finances in order. She has been an incredible asset and we will sincerely miss her in this position.

I want to give a big thank you to all the ARLIS/NA Southern California Chapter members and especially the board members for their contributions in helping make this a really special year. I can’t wait to see all of you again in the coming months and hope to have a very active and productive term as ARLIS/NA SC Past Chair in 2016.

**Southern California Chapter Executive Committee**



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<http://tinyurl.com/arlisc>



The Southern California Chapter is now on Instagram! Follow us at [arlisc.na.socal](https://www.instagram.com/arlisc)

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