Letter from the Chair

By Rebecca Price, ARLIS/NA-Midstates Chapter Chair, 2015

It was great to see so many of you in Grand Rapids. Thanks for attending! I hope you all had a good time at ArtPrize and got home safely. We covered a lot in our business meeting, which I’ll briefly recap here.

The chapter mentoring program is winding down for the year (see more about the program on page 2). Those who participated reported very positive feedback on the program. They enjoyed connecting with colleagues and sharing experiences and challenges. I hope that more of us sign up to participate in the next round (early next year it should start again). Think of it as a great opportunity to learn about other types of libraries and to build your professional network.

Begin making plans for the Seattle Conference. March will be here before you know it! Several of our members will be presenting papers and workshops and, of course, the chapter will be meeting there. Look out for emails about that schedule early next year.

Our big and exciting challenge for the coming year is our participation as host, along with our Ohio Valley Chapter colleagues, of the IFLA Arts Library Section Conference. The conference will be August 9-11 in Chicago. The University of Notre Dame has very generously offered to provide hosting services and...
we have significant support from the Art Institute of Chicago as well. As a chapter we’ll be called upon to do some of the ground work and planning. I expect some of the tasks we’ll need to take on will be related to publicity, tours, local information and logistics, etc. Look out for email from Viveca and Melanie about opportunities to be involved.

We ended our meeting with a lightning round of updates from each library. It was fantastic to hear what our colleagues are up and enlightening to know that we face a lot of the same challenges and puzzles: collection weeding, moving collections, adding services, the perennial ‘doing more with less’ challenge, etc.

Election for new chapter officers is coming up soon – pay attention to email for notification and the vote.

Renewal time for ARLIS/NA and the chapter membership is upon us. Please keep current! You’ll find the renewal form on the chapter webpage. Consider adding a contribution to the Bunce Travel Fund when you make your chapter renewal.

Rebecca Price
Chair, ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter

ARLIS/NA Midstates SEI Travel Award Report

By Dennis Hillers, Library Administrator, Adrian Dominican Sisters Library

I applied for the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter SEI Scholarship by reading about it in the Wayne State news feed, I applied, and after a bit of time, surprise! Chapter chair Rebecca Price wrote me to tell me I had won the chapter scholarship. I had had a rough first semester at WSU, and the scholarship to the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management made an already hectic first semester longer, but I felt very indebted to the chapter for this honor. I expressed in my application how I thought that SEI might help me in my career as a future special collections librarian, especially since my field of choice is medieval manuscripts, and manuscript librarianship in general.

My actual experience at SEI was informative and interesting. I found that I had a friend who also came in Anne McKinney, who works at the School of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which was very nice, and the sessions on Copyright Law, and the general preparation in what I learned to be a flash version of a Digital Humanities intro course were invaluable to me because of my original training as a historian in my BA work, but I had not previously been introduced to the real processes of DH. I enjoyed the small class size, and the general feeling of camaraderie of a group of people who were genuinely interested in the same topics setting down to work on them at the same time. Although I stayed off-campus, I did enjoy the mixer and the sessions. Where the real pay-off was, though, was in my experience afterward. I came back to Michigan to begin an internship with the Adrian Dominican Sisters, to originally simply reclassify their "small" theology library from Dewey to Library of Congress classification system. My SEI training helped me identify this 8000 item collection as a unique special collection that deserved serious care and conservation. As I progressed though the first internship, I identified issues of access and decided with my supervisor and the Information Department that the entire collection should be put online for the public to access on the Michigan e-Library (MeL). This lead to a short second internship, then resulted in my hiring as the Library Administrator for the community. My SEI sessions and library science training made this transition possible, both for the credibility of SEI attendance, especially on scholarship, on my resume and the session content that I can bring to my work. Thanks to the Midstates Chapter for the assistance...it was much appreciated.

Midwestern Art Cataloging Discussion Group

By Karen Stafford, MACDG Chair and Catalog/Reference Librarian, Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, The Art Institute of Chicago

The fall 2015 meeting of the Midwestern Art Cataloging Discussion Group (MACDG) convened on Friday, October 16 at the Art Institute of Chicago. This meeting was our largest yet, hosting 30 librarians and library students from Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

In the morning Sarah Guernsey spoke about the Art Institute’s Digital Scholarly Catalogues and Gary Strawn of Northwestern University discussed preparing data for migration to a new ILS. At the business meeting attendees discussed their intern programs, plans for linked data, and involvement with ARLIS. Next year the fall meeting will be held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Minutes for our most recent and past meetings can be found on the MACDG website, https://artcataloging.wordpress.com.

After lunch, the group visited the Ryerson & Burnham Libraries to hear from Doug Litts, Autumn Mather, and Nathaniel Parks about highlights from the collection, the archives, and digital collections. The featured materials included The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer Now Newly Imprinted from the Kelmscott Press, the Nuremberg Chronicle, the “tunnel book” Areaorama: A View in the Regent’s Park, and photographs and souvenir books from the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. The day closed with Jeff Nigro’s tour of the exhibition Dionysos Unmasked: Ancient Sculpture and Early Prints.

Please contact Karen Stafford at kstafford2@artic.edu if you would like to be added to our mailing list. I also welcome you to contact me if you are interested in contributing a cataloging-themed blog post to the new website (or even if you just have an idea for a post that you would like somebody else to write!).

ARLIS/NA Midstates Mentoring Program Update

By Katie Greer, Asst. Professor, Kresge Library, Oakland University

The ARLIS/NA Midstates chapter just graduated its first cohort of mentors and mentees! Four art librarians from across the region participated in our six-month long program, with all reporting positively on the process! One participant commented that "it was really terrific to spend one hour a month having a conversation with a colleague," with others adding that the ability to speak to someone not affiliated with the same employer about career goals allowed for really open and honest conversations.

We are hoping to start another group this coming January, and it will again be a six-month program. If you would enjoy the opportunity to build a relationship with a colleague in the region--whether you're just starting out or counting the days to retirement--please fill out the application form at http://goo.gl/forms/GnM8VnHLf1 by January 4, 2016. If you have questions about mentoring or being a mentee, please contact Katie Greer, greer@oakland.edu.
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts’ Mary and Edwin Meader Fine Art Library serves three purposes: exciting and sustaining an interest in art among the institute’s members and the general public, supporting classes in the institute’s school, and satisfying the research needs of the institute’s staff. To those ends, it offers programs for adults and children that foster an interest in visual art, and it collects resources that support art instruction, mirror the institute’s art collection and collection goals, and focus on artists working in Southwest Michigan.

History
The Mary and Edwin Meader Library was established in 1954 as a small book corner and eventually grew into a library that holds about 11,000 items. The library is situated in a 1,550-square-foot space on the main level of the institute, contiguous to the museum’s four main art galleries. Until 2013, it was staffed by at least one full-time librarian supported by several volunteers; when the former librarian left for a new job that year, the librarian position was reduced to 20 hours per week. The library itself is open 16 hours per week, four hours per day Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays.

Adult and children’s programs
The Meader Library’s premiere outreach program is a monthly event called Art Detectives that caters to children age 4 to 8. During a typical Art Detectives, children hear a story about art, visit a gallery in the museum to see how the art concept being taught that day plays out in actual artwork, and do an art activity in the institute’s school in which they put the art concept into practice. Since its inception in September 2014, Art Detectives has drawn between 35 and 70 adults and children per event. A tie-in with the local public schools’ early-childhood literacy program has helped boost attendance and also has drawn people in to the museum who would never have entered the building otherwise. Art Detectives is planned and led by a committee of former teachers who are excited about reaching children through art.

The library also runs a monthly book discussion for adults that draws from six to a dozen people and is usually led by a guest leader. Recent books include The House Girl, The American Painter Emma Dial, and Steal Like an Artist. Ahead are The Painter and Rendez-vous with Art.

- Continued on page 5 -
What we're working on

Weeding the library’s collection, which has many outdated and duplicate items, has been a priority for the past couple of years and will probably take another year or two, given the amount of librarian time available. We’ve also embarked on cataloging our more than 4,000 artist files, which previously were only discoverable through a spreadsheet of artist names posted online. The project uses an artist-files cataloging schema developed by ARLIS and is done completely by volunteers. When it’s finished, all our files will be discoverable in our catalog and will include such niceties as content descriptions, cross-references, and subject headings. We’re digging through a collection of 9,000 slides to determine which can and need to be digitized. We also are investigating where to post the digitized versions so that they’re accessible.

Visitors often are amazed that a museum the size of the KIA has such an extensive library, much less that it’s open to the public during regular hours and is on the museum’s main floor. The trust implicit in the institute’s commitment to the library is something the library’s staff, both paid and volunteer, strive daily to live up to.

Thanks to Wayne State University library-and-information-science intern Ellyssa Seager for the historical detail in this article.

Call for 2016 Bunce Travel Award Applications

On behalf of the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter, the Travel Awards Committee is pleased to offer the William C. Bunce Travel Award of $300 for travel to the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, March 8-12, 2016.

This award is given in honor of William C. Bunce, who served as the Director of the Kohler Art Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1966 to 1999. The William C. Bunce ARLIS/NA-Midstates Travel Award is intended to support a Midstates chapter member’s professional development by providing funding to attend the ARLIS/NA annual conference. Only ARLIS/NA-Midstates Chapter members are eligible. Information about becoming a member of ARLIS/NA and the regional chapter is available at the ARLIS/NA website (www.arlisna.org/join.taf) and the ARLIS/NA-Midstates website (midstates.arlisna.org/membership.html).

This Travel Award will be granted based on one or more of the following criteria: financial need; level of chapter participation; first-time attendance; and contribution to the conference.

To apply for this award please submit a letter of application, addressing relevant award criteria and how you will benefit from attending ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Seattle. You must also indicate the level of funding you expect to receive from your institution and include a current resume or CV. Please send applications via email to Karen Stafford (kstafford2@artic.edu) and Karyn Hinkle (karyn.hinkle@northwestern.edu).

We hope that these funds will help to offset a Midstates member’s expenses to attend the ARLIS/NA annual conference. The application deadline is Monday, December 7. Recipients will be notified by December 14, 2015. The recipient must confirm in writing that they will be able to use the award for conference attendance and will not be eligible to apply again for three years. After receiving the award, the recipient must submit a short report indicating the value of the award to their professional development activities.
Hello Midstates Chapter Members!

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am reporting on several items that have kept us busy these last few months. Feel free to follow up with me via e-mail 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 and vision statements 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 as before. The Board and the Committee will be determining how best to solicit feedback from the greater ARLIS membership in this process.

**Code of Conduct**

ARLIS has devised a draft of a more 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 ARLIS transactions. Heather Gendron, the current Vice President of ARLIS, is working on finalizing and integrating the document into the ARLIS website and into official documentation. It may be that all chapter sites link to it and it becomes the Code for the entire Society.

**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 in August to provide this content free to members and to all interested parties. The Educational Technology Subcommittee of the Professional Development Committee will be sending out an announcement very soon regarding the portal’s new open access status. Check out what’s there, in any case, if you haven’t yet: [https://www.arlisna.org/career-resources/arlis-na-learning-portal](https://www.arlisna.org/career-resources/arlis-na-learning-portal).

**Seattle Conference**

It turns out that it was not possible to schedule these meetings without conflicting with sessions, so they are very early. Some or all of ARLIS Section and Division meetings are also scheduled to meet very early. The joint conference—with AASL at the end—has proven to be quite a scheduling challenge this year!

**Chapter Archives**

ARLIS/NA formed a Documentation Committee in recent months 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 chapter annual reports. (Note: Web archiving for the Society beyond the ARLIS 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 September meeting to waive all associated fees for chapters. Chapters who had ARLIS-hosted listservs were previously paying $128 per year for this service.

I imagine that many of you are as busy as I am at the moment. I wish you all a successful fall, a temperate winter, and all good things to you in the new year.

Rebecca Friedman
ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison
Assistant Librarian, Marquand Library of Art & Archaeology
Acting Librarian, School of Architecture Library
Princeton University
rfriedma@princeton.edu
**ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter Financial Report**

Melanie Emerson, Secretary/Treasurer  
memerson@illinois.edu

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**Midstates Chapter Account:**

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**Members**

As of October 30, 2015 the ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter has 27 members in good standing.

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**Member News**

**Welcome New Members!**

ARLIS/NA Midstates invited our two new member to share brief introductions.

**Stephanie Fletcher** is the E-Resources/Reference Librarian at the Ryerson & Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago. She holds an MLIS from Dominican University and an MA in art history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she wrote her thesis on Jesuit architecture in Rome. Stephanie comes to the Art Institute after three years as the Collection Management Librarian at Trinity International University, so she is excited to finally combine her passions for art history and librarianship in her new job.

**Cara List** joined Northwestern University Libraries as the Head of the Art Library in 2014. Cara received her master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Michigan and her MFA from the School of Visual Arts. She comes to the Midstates Chapter from Eugene, Oregon where she was the Art Librarian at the University of Oregon from 1999 to 2014, and the Collection Manager for the Humanities from 2007 to 2014. Cara is working to build an instruction program for Art History, plan the Art Library space as Northwestern approaches a remodel of the Deering Library, and to connect with regional partners through ARLIS/Midstates. Cara is excited to be working with her new colleague in the Art Library, Karyn Hinkle.

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Send news items and articles for the next ARLIS/NA Midstates Newsletter to Amy Trendler at aetrendler@bsu.edu