



AUGUST 2014

THE IRREGULAR

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CENTRAL PLAINS CHAPTER OF
THE ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Report from the Chair



Hello Central Plains! Is it the dog days yet? Are you thinking about fall? I'm still trying to enjoy summer. I'm halfway through my term as chapter Chair already. Each time we meet I learn more and more about what interesting and effective librarians we have in our chapter. We represent public, academic and museum libraries. We work with instruction, cataloging, programs, collections and so much more. Perhaps the best connections we make are when we share information with each other and get an outside perspective.

As a chapter we have made efforts to fill our local conferences with substantial learning opportunities. We still have fun and see museums and libraries; but attending for some solid professional development gives us tangible knowledge which we can put into use at our own institutions. For instance, in Kansas City we came away with an understanding of research methods for Holocaust-era art and a list of resources. We increased our knowledge of how visitor research is collected and used. We learned how a public librarian assembles 35-40 exhibitions each year. And we got a look into the workings of an award winning public programs department at a major urban library.

I look forward to the unique sites and presentations of each local conference. If you can attend all or part of the events, I encourage you to do so. I would love to see more of you. In fact, one of my goals this year is to increase Chapter membership and broaden attendance at Chapter meeting events. Please think about whom we can share the Central Plains experience with in your area. Remember when you started out? We can offer support and information to those art-loving librarians who may be distant neighbors in our states. So get to know them and bring some along; also some colleagues or library students in your area. There is room for all at the Central Plains table.

Best wishes,
Tracey Boswell, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Report on the 2014 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference

Our Chair Tracey Boswell received the chapter's annual conference travel award this year. The following report fulfills her responsibility to share her experiences with the chapter.

Before I headed to my third ARLIS/NA conference I knew I had already passed rookie status. I studied the program, the maps, and the activities offered and planned my time to maximize my conference experience. I wanted to participate in the informational nature of conference sessions, network with many other librarians, and take in the great museums and libraries of the city. I didn't get to do and see everything but I made a heroic effort. I'd like to share a couple of highlights here.

Sarah Sherman, the Chapters Liaison, joined us for our Central Plains Chapter meeting to give a report on the process of application to host the national conference. The proposal of the Central Plains Chapter to host in 2017 has been submitted for consideration. I was able to report from the Chapter Chairs meeting on some activities of other chapters such as diverse programming at local meetings and seeking attendance by library school students.

From the session *Creative Engagement for Advocacy: Innovative Partnerships between Artists and Librarians*: the Richmond Public Library created "The People's Library." They recycled the pages of discarded books and made new paper from them, rebound the pages and placed them in the book covers. All these activities were done in public programs at the library. The blank books were cataloged and people can check them out to author the book. They plan to digitize the results.

It is a job to leave our daily work to attend a national conference. We plan, prepare and travel. Then we study and take notes in sessions. We talk extensively with colleagues and then view miles of art and architecture. Finally there are wonderful receptions held for us at such grand places as Dumbarton Oaks and the Library of Congress. We come back with fresh ideas, fresh enthusiasm, and a renewed sense of connection.

Spring 2014 Chapter Meeting



Marilyn Carbonell speaks to the group at the Nelson-Atkins

The Chapter held its Fall meeting in Kansas City on June 12-14, 2014. It was organized and hosted by our members Marilyn Carbonell of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and M. J. Poehler of the Kansas City Art Institute. Attendees received packets and nametags at the Thursday evening get-reacquainted dinner, held at the Aixois restaurant. Friday's meeting and presentations were held at the Nelson-Atkins.

At the Business Meeting, future meetings were discussed, including the upcoming Fall meeting in St. Louis, a possible meeting in Tulsa in 2015, and the chapter's proposal to host the annual ARLIS/NA conference in 2017. As the recipient of the chapter's travel award, Tracey Boswell reported on her experiences at the most recent ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, DC. Carmen Orth-Alfie reported as a member of ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee that the committee has issued a Statement decrying staff reductions at museum libraries (http://www.arlisna.org/images/committees/pubpol/sm_staffreductions.pdf) and plans to produce a white paper on the problem. Several attendees volunteered to become part of an ad hoc group that will look into forming a chapter Communications Committee. The group will look into what the goals, duties, and guidelines for such a committee would be.

The first of three panel presentations dealt with Community Engagement. Jennifer Holland, "Visitor Evaluator" at the Nelson, spoke about this new field of visitor studies and motivation. "Visitor Segmentation Theory" tells us that our patrons are not homogenous and have very different expectations when they arrive. Rina Vecchiola reported on Washington University's experience with LibQual+ surveys of library service quality and user satisfaction. Anne Lacey, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, explained how she coordinates her library's art exhibition program at five locations.

The second panel discussed Artists Files. Marilyn Carbonell, Amelia Nelson, and Tracey Boswell of the Nelson-Atkins discussed the museum's initiative to create regional artists files and how it processes these (<http://kansascityartistscoalition.org/artists/library-project>); Suzy Frechette spoke on the ARLIS/NA Artists Files Working Group, its genesis and current somewhat uncertain status. <http://www.arlisna.org/publications/arlis-na-research-reports/146-artist-files-revealed>. Janet Simpson, Executive Director of the Kansas City Artists Coalition, remarked on the importance of art libraries both as sources of inspiration and knowledge, and as repositories of archival information on artists. The Coalition is thrilled to be partnering with the Nelson-Atkins.

After lunch in the museum's Rozzelle Court restaurant, the group reconvened to hear about Nazi-Era provenance research at the Nelson-Atkins from Nicole Myers, Associate Curator, and MacKenzie Mallon, Department Assistant. This is a growing field of research, made especially timely by the recent movie "The Monuments Men". Library resources are heavily used for this research, and there is a standard, formal checklist for each artwork that must be followed and entered into the Nazi Era Internet Portal (<http://www.nepip.org/>), a public website.

Most then carpooled to visit the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College (<http://www.nermanmuseum.org/welcome>). This is a hidden gem of a good small museum, designed by prominent Korean architect Kyu Sung Woo and containing some fine works of art. Bruce Hartman, Director of the museum, showed the group around and told some wonderful stories about the building, donors, and visitors. After returning to the city, the group dined at the Café Sebastienne in the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

Saturday morning's session was held at the main location of the Kansas City (Missouri) Public Library, in the heart of downtown. The Deputy Director and the Director of Public Affairs jointly presented their ALA award-winning Programming efforts. These are robust, imaginative, and routinely attract large crowds. Their professionalism, enthusiasm, and organizational skills were impressive.

After a quick lunch downtown, the group broke up for trips home. This was an unusually packed meeting; it certainly gave us a lot of information to digest.

Fall 2014 Meeting, St. Louis

Planning is well underway for the chapter's Fall meeting, to be held November 6 - 8 in St. Louis. Hotels and restaurants are almost firm, meeting rooms at St. Louis Public Library and St. Louis Art Museum have been reserved, and Other Activities are under consideration. Members will see the spectacular building-wide renovation at the public library, and the new addition to the museum. A panel on reference/ instruction is being assembled, and the head of collections and registrar at the museum will speak about moving the collection. More information and details should be made available very soon.

Message from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison



Hello Central Plains Chapter Members!

I am now half way through my two-year term, as Chapters Liaison on the ARLIS/NA Executive Board. I've enjoyed working with all 17 chapters and I look forward to working with you until the 2015 annual conference in Fort Worth, TX.

At the 2014 annual conference in Washington D.C., the Executive Board had pre- and post-conference meetings and during the conference the Chapter Chairs and I met for a roundtable meeting. I wanted to share few highlights with you:

Conferences

Washington D.C. Conference: It was a record-breaking success (surpassing the success of the 2013 Pasadena conference)! We welcomed 791 registrants, the largest ARLIS/NA conference to date. The fundraising efforts totaled \$77,000. We greatly appreciate the support of the sponsors and the 76 vendors.

Future Conferences: I look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth, TX from March 19-23, 2015. We will meet in Seattle, WA in 2016 for the 3rd joint conference with the Visual Resources Association (VRA). The Executive Board is working with prospective host chapters to select a 2017 location.

— ARKANSAS —

Phil Jones, University of Arkansas, attended two conferences in the spring outside the visual arts: 1) PCA/ACA 2014, the national conference of the Popular Culture and American Culture associations in Chicago, and 2) SALALM 59, the annual conference of the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials in Salt Lake City. He presented a paper at PCA/ACA, “He Is(n’t) One of Us’: Liminality and the Sons-in-Law in *Downton Abbey*.” The full text of the paper is online at <http://hdl.handle.net/10826/941>.

— KANSAS —

Marilyn Russell advises that she is still semi-retired and teaching two classes in the Humanities department at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. The Fall semester begins August 21. Before then, she will be in Wales and Cornwall during the month of July, on a pilgrimage to Tenby, Caldey Island and St. David's in southwest Wales. She will spend two weeks in Hawarden, Wales at the Gladstone Library attending a conference, using the library, and taking day trips from there to Liverpool, the Lake District, Carnarfan, Angelsey Island, Denby, Ruthin and Holyhead in Northern Wales. When she returns, she travels to the Oldfield Plantation in Okatie, South Carolina for her oldest granddaughter's wedding on August 9. From there she flies to Santa Fe to spend time soaking up Indian Market events prior to the Fall Semester beginning at Haskell.

— MISSOURI —

Notes from The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Library, Kansas City. Contributed by Marilyn Carbonell, Head, Library Services. Wonderful to see everyone last month at the Chapter meeting in Kansas City! Update on the new regional Artists File Initiative – many artists are enquiring about how to participate in the project through our partnership with the Kansas City Artists Coalition (KCAC). Amelia Nelson and I hosted a workshop at the Library in late June for KCAC invitees and are scheduled to present again at the KCAC offices at the end of July. The information card we developed has really helped with spreading the word. Tracey Boswell is cataloging the newly-deposited artist files for access to the information in the local LibraryOneSearch online catalog and onWorldcat.org (which is a real selling point for the

Missouri and Kansas artists). Participating area artists are really pleased by the support of the Nelson-Atkins for this archival project in the Library.

New Artists' File Initiative: GOALS
 Documenting Kansas City's Creative Community

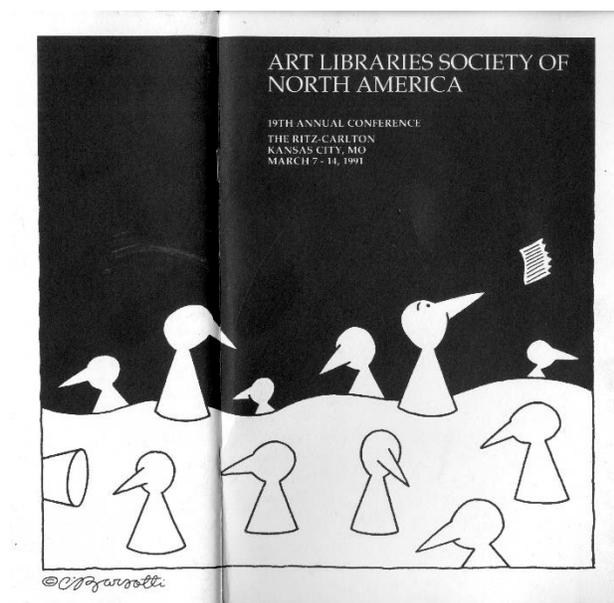
- Documenting the talent in Kansas City
- Connecting with regional visual artists
- Providing international discovery to these files through cataloging in OCLC WorldCat.org
- Alerting artists about available services in the library and in the museum by partnering with organizations and groups
- Creating a library Knowledge base
- "Documenting History for the Future"



6.18.2014

The Nelson-Atkins Library is actively providing links to relevant e-publications through LibraryOneSearch, starting out with the freely-available titles from the Getty Virtual Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art publications. The first two publications linked are: *Supporting the Changing Research Practices of Art Historians* (Matthew Long & Roger C. Schoenfeld, Ithaka S&R, 4/30/2014) and *Looking to Connect with European Paintings: Visual Approaches for Teaching in the Galleries* (Elizabeth Perkins, Metropolitan Museum, 2013).

Historical note: How many conference guides feature cover art from famous American cartoonists? Did you know that our chapter is responsible for the Charles Barsotti cover of the Art Libraries Society of North America cover art for the 19th Annual Conference in Kansas City in March 1991? Charles Barsotti was a regular cartoonist for the New Yorker magazine and many other national and international publications. He lived in Kansas City, just south of the UMKC campus and the Nelson, and died on 16 June 2014, at age 80. Mr. Barsotti graciously gave me a cartoon for the use of ARLIS/NA, when I explained we were art librarians. At that time, a black/white cartoon would suit our purpose because librarians didn't typically have funding for commissioned art by an artist or for color printing. He was most generous and readily agreed to donate a specially-drawn cartoon, but not one with his signature floppy-eared dog. Here's the Barsotti ARLIS/NA cover from 1991, with thanks to Susan Craig for scanning her archival copy.



Amelia Nelson, Public Services Librarian at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, sends this report:

Through a partnership between the Nelson-Atkins, Education Division and Oregon State University, Division of Professional and Continuing Studies, I was able take classes in the Free-Choice Learning Professional Certificate program. In this program I learned about educational theory and its role in free-choice learning environments, like museums. Classes examined how prior experience, sociocultural influences and physical spaces all combine to define a visitor's experience and learning within free-choice learning

environments. In these classes I learned how examining these influences through assessment and through the lens of learning theory can help to make learning in informal environments more effective. This was a great opportunity to explore how museums across the world are developing innovative programs to connect collections to visitors. Programs that are easily adaptable to information literacy sessions as well as reference interactions. For more information on the program, here's the website, <https://pace.oregonstate.edu/free-choice> I'm also happy to answer questions if anyone is interested in the program.

M. J. Poehler, Director of the Jannes Library at the Kansas City Art Institute, reports that staff members are adjusting to the loss of their visual resources assistant position in June. The downsizing is a result of a budget crunch caused by a dip in KCAI's enrollment last year and continuing in the 2014-2015 school year. Decreased enrollment is not unusual among independent colleges of art and design in recent years. A bit unexpectedly, KCAI's enrollment numbers were strong throughout the recession, but now it is experiencing a downturn. Needless to say, KCAI's recruitment and retention efforts are getting a lot of attention.

The plus side of the situation is that the remaining visual resources (VR) staff member will relocate from Baty House to Jannes Library, consolidating all library staff in one building for the first time in many years. The VR position description has been re-written to include an emphasis on digital media services, including a new lecture capture initiative.

KCAI's president of three years, Jacqueline Chanda, resigned effective August 4. Dr. Chanda brought new programs to KCAI, including overseeing the recent gift of the Grand Arts Building at 1819 Grand, which is designed to house a new masters' degree program focused on arts entrepreneurship. Challenges included tension with faculty over the changing academic environment, which culminated in a vote of no confidence last spring. The chairman of KCAI's Board, Steve Metzler, is serving as interim president.

Usually summer is a time to accomplish extra projects (weeding, shifting in the stacks, etc.), but this summer was a little different for Jannes Library staff. Because of vacation time on the books that needed to be used, the library was on a skeleton crew for most of the summer. The staff looks forward to a full crew reporting for duty and welcoming students to the fall semester.



Gerriane Schadd, Director, Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Research Center National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, alerts the membership to the museum's current exhibition, "Making Change", which will run through December, 2014. The exhibit features the stories behind groundbreaking coins designed by sculptors Laura Gardin Fraser and Glenna Goodacre. Fraser (1889-1966) won a contest in 1931 to create a quarter in honor of George Washington's 200th birthday. This made her the first woman chosen to design a coin for national circulation. Unfortunately the political environment of the time stopped her

quarter from being minted. Her design was finally used in 1999 as a commemorative five dollar coin to honor the 200th anniversary of Washington's death. Goodacre (born 1939) also won a competition to design the Sacagawea Millennium Gold Dollar Coin, which was the first circulated coin designed by a woman. The currency, minted in 2000, also was the first to commemorate a Native American and to feature a baby. Fraser and Goodacre are women of different generations, but they made change through their art. The exhibit is presented by the [A. Keith Brodtkin Contemporary Western Artists Project](#). The exhibit's Curator is Kera Newby, Archivist, Dickinson Research Center

The digital component of the exhibit can be found at:

<http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/research/exhibits/making-change/default.aspx>

