



**Art Libraries Society of North America, 34th Annual Conference
Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada, May 5-9, 2006**

Session 11:

**Ask Arlis: Reaching Out: Chapter Links to Local Library Schools
Sunday May 7, 11 am – 12 pm**

Moderators:

- Jonathan Franklin, National Gallery of Canada
- Peggy Keeran, University of Denver

Speakers:

- Sarah Falls, Moderator, ARLIS/NA Student Affairs Discussion Group
- Janine Henri, Chair, ARLIS/NA Membership Committee
- Jennifer Parker, Art & Architecture Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Cheryl Siegel, Secretary, ARLIS/Canada
- Lucie Wall Stylianopoulos, Chair, ARLIS/NA DC-Maryland-Virginia Chapter
- Dr. Anna Altmann, School of Library and Information Sciences, University of Alberta

Recorder: Rachel Resnik

Introduction:

The purpose of this session is to address concerns that were raised at the chapter breakout session of last year's leadership breakfast. The goal is to encourage recruiting of students at the local level.

Summaries:

1. Sarah Falls—

During library school, she and fellow students at UNC Chapel Hill founded AMLISS (Art & Museum Library & Information Student Society - <http://ils.unc.edu/~amliss/>). Because there was no ARLIS student chapter nor were there art library courses offered at the school, students had no resources for learning about art librarianship. The purpose of AMLISS was to fill this void by sponsoring workshops on topics of interest to aspiring art information professionals. Later, as a member of ARLIS she initiated the Student Affairs Discussion Group. This group organizes the student pub socials and runs their own listserv. Now that ARLIS/NA has recognized the value of serving the student population, the question is do we need to work on similar initiatives at the local level? How can we best provide access points for new members and student members? The mentor/mentee program at the conference is very good, but primarily serves local students, as the cost of traveling to the conference is prohibitive for most students. One option is offering free chapter membership to students for a year. Another option is getting ARLIS local chapters to sponsor speakers in library schools.

2. Janine Henri—

Janine feels fortunate being on a campus that has a library school because it opens so many opportunities for collaboration. Those in similar situations—working in a library at an institution with ties to a library school—should work closely with faculty members at the library school. At UT Austin the visual resources librarian Nancy Schuller also taught in the library school. As such, the relationship between the art library and the library school was close. Classes came to the local architecture and fine arts libraries to learn about the libraries, but it was also a good opportunity for recruitment. Students in the library program at UT do a Capstone project, which puts them into a work setting so that they get hands-on experience. The architecture library has had a very positive experience with the Capstone program. Another good way to pair students with libraries is via the ARLIS internship list.

3. Lucie Stylianopoulos—

Lucie was the past chair of the Diversity Committee and a former chair of the DC/MD/VA chapter. The context of her message will be that of inclusion in all forms. Her chapter provides scholarships for diversity and more recently for students. Library schools are self-selecting and markedly not diverse. For this reason recruiting at an earlier stage is very important. You can recruit high school students and undergraduates. One strategy that her library practices is having students working in more interesting positions such as cataloging images and doing reference. Shelving books is not the most compelling experience for students and likely will not inspire many to pursue librarianship as a career.

4. Anna Altmann—

Her library school is geographically isolated. Art institutions in Edmonton are disorganized and inaccessible so there aren't many opportunities for students to learn about art librarianship. It's a small library school with 80 to 90 students, so it's difficult to get a critical mass for any interest groups. There may be one student each year with a fine arts background. As a result the program is very general. Anna suggests that ARLIS/NA make a DVD to send to distant library schools to serve as a lecture or workshop about art librarianship. At the University of Alberta they are increasingly looking at online courses within a consortium so that students can take more specialized courses for free.

5. Cheryl Siegel—

She strongly encourages libraries to offer internships. They are beneficial to both the library and the student. Keeping a notebook of project possibilities is a way to make this process easier and more seamless. Also, chapters should offer free membership to at least a couple of students. On a final note, she encourages librarians to not ignore library tech programs.

6. Jennifer Parker—

Jennifer was pursuing a PhD in art history when she met a librarian, fellow panelist Lucie Stylianopoulos, who made her realize that she wanted to go into art librarianship. Lucie acted as a mentor during this process and encouraged Jennifer to pursue a career in art librarianship. Jennifer is currently the chair of the Recruitment to the Profession Task Force at University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries. Mentoring can increase chapter recruitment. She emphasizes mentoring students in art and art history programs, not just students at library schools. The best internships will be well rounded so that the student has experience working in many

areas of the library. She also feels that libraries should provide internships and practica for all levels of students and not just graduate students.

Questions:

How do you find the time to supervise interns?

Panelists felt you get more than you give.

How do you get access to student listservs at library schools?

If you build a relationship with administrators and faculty at the library school they will help you reach the students.

One person took a 6-week intensive course in art librarianship and asked if ARLIS can get involved in offering workshops and/or courses?

ARLIS is actively pursuing ways to provide online training via the website.

Additional Suggestions/Remarks:

ARLIS members should get involved with career fairs and offer themselves as guest lecturers at library schools.

The careers brochure for art information professionals is being sent to chapters.

Chapter awards for students should be offered to art and art history students, as well as library students.

Recruit students in the humanities, not just art and art history students.