

# ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2014: 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference  
Washington, D.C. | May 1-5

Urban & Regional Planning Librarian SIG Meeting  
May 2, 2014  
Submitted by Rebecca Price

Greetings to all Urban & Regional Planning Librarian SIG members,

As usual, our annual ARLIS/NA conference presented a full schedule; nonetheless several of us met together to discuss issues we all face. It was great to see everyone. After this message, I'll be passing the baton back to Marsha Taichman, who's back at work.

Our conversation focused on the breadth of resources we're all trying to provide and master for our students and faculty: from real estate resources like DataQuick to statistical/mapping resources like SimplyMap; as well as the myriad of resources to address questions on business development, public policy, public health, legal aspects of planning, environmental planning and sustainability, community and neighborhood development, transportation planning, etc., etc.

We also talked about reinvigorating our attempts to compile a list of core Urban & Regional Planning journal titles. The hope is that once we determine a core list, we can post it to our blog and to the AASL (Assoc. of Architecture School Librarians) site, as well as anywhere else that's appropriate. To that end, we have the list that we worked on 2010 (an initiative in which we prepared a list for JSTOR as part of an effort to increase their urban planning content). There was discussion of including online resources as well this time, though perhaps that's a different, parallel list. Anyone who's interested in working on this, please contact Marsha Taichman, our SIG coordinator at met228 at cornell.edu.

The group also talked about proposing a workshop for the ARLIS/NA meeting next year in Fort Worth. The proposed title was "I didn't know urban planning was about...," with the idea being to address the vast breadth of subject areas and disciplines that we need to understand, not to mention the resources that support research in those areas. This is a particularly difficult area for new librarians and librarians who work in smaller libraries and don't have the option to refer their students and faculty to other librarians with other expertise.

Fortuitously, the Academic Library Division was also interested in proposing a workshop on urban planning resources in their "Postcards from the Edge" series, in which the workshop focuses on something that's often just outside the realm or focus of our jobs. So, with their buy-in, we have proposed a workshop called "Postcards from the Edge: I didn't know Urban Planning was about... ." As proposed, the 3 hour workshop would include a panel discussion

component with a local (Fort Worth) planner, a local (UT-Arlington) professor and a librarian, as well as an in-depth workshop session going over a wide variety of databases and resources. The workshop would be an opportunity to reach out to new librarians just taking on the role of urban & regional planning librarian, as well to renew the expertise and knowledge of veteran librarians. The proposal is now in the hands of the conference planning committee and we hope to hear later this summer whether it's been accepted.

That brings us up to date on recent discussions. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me. If you want to work on any of these ideas or have other ideas for projects that our SIG should work on, please contact Marsha.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer,  
Rebecca Price