

The Newsletter of the  
Art Libraries Society of  
North America /  
New York Metro Chapter

ISSN 2150 - 8534

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Published and archived at  
the ARLIS/NY website,  
[www.arlisny.org](http://www.arlisny.org)

Two issues per year

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# ARLIS/NY News

Vol. 30, No. 2

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012

## Letter from the Editor

by Karyn Hinkle, Bard Graduate Center

Greetings, ARLIS/NY!

This issue of ARLIS/NY News takes a long look back to events of this past winter and spring that represent some of the highlights, to my mind, of the chapter's year. I was away from my library and from the executive board on maternity leave during the ARLIS/NY holiday party, the annual ARLIS/NA conference in Toronto, and the time when a group of art librarians from Germany visited New York, so I am particularly glad to include in this issue a few reminiscences of the party and great pieces by Meg Donabedian and Janis Ekdahl on Toronto and the German visit. If you were lucky enough to participate, I hope you enjoy the look back, and if you missed these events like I did, you won't want to miss their re-caps here.

I'm also using this space on the front cover, usually occupied by a Letter from the Chair, to bring greetings from our current chair, Sarah Falls, who has begun a maternity leave of her own this summer, and who will be back with a full slate of ARLIS/NY programs in the fall. The board is so pleased for Sarah and her family and we're looking forward to a great fall.

Finally, I am pleased to announce here that as my three-year stint as the editor of ARLIS/NY News comes to an end, the time has come for the board to appoint a new Editor! The newsletter editor is one of three board-appointed, non-voting members of the executive board. If you'd like to be considered for the position, please let the board know: our currently elected and amazing, tireless board members are Sarah Falls, Suz Massen, Samantha Deutch, Maggie Portis, Ian McDermott, Rebecca Friedman, and Holly Hatheway. Their contact information is all found on the ARLIS/NY website at [arlisny.org](http://arlisny.org).

It has been a pleasure to serve as your newsletter editor for the past three years. As I always mention during our annual chapter business meetings, I appreciate the reflective, analog nature of a published newsletter, which feels a bit different from the immediacy of listserv and social media posts. With the guidance of our board-appointed social media coordinator, Elizabeth Lane,

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*(Letter from the Editor continued from page 1)*

ARLIS/NY has recently made great strides in the latter area, and the board has even more improvements planned for the coming year under the tutelage of our board-appointed web editor, Lily Pregill. I'm very much looking forward to those as well as to the new editor's version of ARLIS/NY News. Maybe it will be your version! ❖

## The Guggenheim Museum Archives

by Francine Snyder, Guggenheim Museum

(Originally posted to the arlisny listserv and others.)

The Guggenheim Museum Archives is pleased to announce the completion of a two-year National Historical Publications and Records Commission-funded project to arrange, describe, and digitize collections that address the administrative and exhibition history of the first 50 years of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1937-1987). For the first time, the public have full access to the Hilla Rebay records, the James Johnson Sweeney records, the Thomas M. Messer records, and the Guggenheim Museum Exhibition records. Collectively, these collections document the evolution of the museum, from its founding as the Museum of Non-Objective painting, a small museum with a particular focus on non-objective (abstract) painting, to its later manifestation as a museum broadly collecting and exhibiting modern and contemporary art.

Finding aids for these collections (and others) are found on the Guggenheim Museum Archives' website: <http://www.guggenheim.org/archives>.

The Guggenheim is an internationally renowned art museum that has played a significant role in the history of art and cultural life in the United States since 1937. The records within these collections contain previously unseen documentation of the museum's directors' and curators' contributions to the development of modern and contemporary art. At the same time, the collections include records of broader-based appeal, such as visually striking artist correspondence, a quirky booklet of cartoons produced by the Turkish Information Office, a contact sheet documenting museum staff setting up shop in the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building, and a sketch of first director Hilla Rebay's residence in Connecticut. Many of these can be seen online as a project finding, a highlighted document of interest found in the collections.

A complete list of findings (digitized highlights) can be viewed online: <http://www.guggenheim.org/nhprcfindings>.

Additionally, the grant allowed digitization of the museum's Reel to Reel collection, which documents lectures, symposia and radio shows produced at the museum between 1952 and 1990. Selections are available as streaming audio online via the collections folder list.

Streaming audio can be found in the Reel to Reel collection finding aid: <http://www.guggenheim.org/new-york/collections/library-and-archives/archive-collections/A0004/> To listen to audio, click on URL above, scroll down, and toggle open folder list. Lectures with red links can be streamed. Remaining lectures can be heard by visiting the Guggenheim Museum Archives.

For additional information or to schedule a visit, please contact [archives@guggenheim.org](mailto:archives@guggenheim.org). ❖

# “A Little Exhausting But All the Time Great”: Hosting Colleagues from Abroad

by Janis Ekdahl, Bard Graduate Center

This past April the New York chapter had the pleasure of hosting ten art and museum library colleagues from Germany and Austria who were participating in the first-ever ARLIS/NA-hosted study tour. Organized by the Society’s International Relations Committee, the week-long tour included in-depth visits to seven NYC research libraries and ARTstor, and an all-day trip to New Haven to see the art libraries of Yale University. The tour’s educational component was balanced by an array of social occasions including the chapter’s welcome party at the Goethe-Institut’s new Soho location, hosted by Brigitte Goellgast.

Rodica Krauss worked diligently to place the participants with local hosts in order to further enrich their New York experience. I was fortunate to have Andrea Joosten, art librarian at the Hamburger Kunsthalle, as my guest. We enjoyed sharing tales from our profession lives and Andrea eagerly absorbed everything I imparted about the joys and challenges of living in New York City. She took full advantage of all opportunities to experience the big apple—from walking the High Line to taking the Staten Island ferry late one evening.

Afterward she summarized: “During our study tour, I learned more than in ten years of my work in Hamburg. It was very interesting to see that our problems seem to be alike. It was exciting, overwhelming, and a little exhausting but all the time great. It was great to live in an apartment in New York and not in a hotel. It made me feeling quickly at home in your city. New York was exciting, lively, and full of very nice and helpful people. The whole tour was a great gift for me and now that I am back in Hamburg it seems as if it was a big dream.”

While April’s study tour to New York-New Haven-Washington, D.C. was the first that the International Relations Committee has hosted for colleagues from abroad, the Committee has been organizing annual tours for ARLIS/NA members since 2008 with trips to the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Mexico. The 2012 study tour is headed to Helsinki and Stockholm in August. Seven members of the New York chapter will be participating: Deborah Kempe, Rodica Krauss, Holly Hatheway, Lori Salmon, Christina Peter, Maggie Long, and Sandy Brooke. Future trips to Russia and Vienna, Austria are also in the works. ❖



Touring Avery Library.  
Photo courtesy Andrea Joosten



Visiting colleagues from Germany and Austria, pictured above in Brooklyn during their International Relations Committee study trip to New York-New Haven-Washington, D.C.

From left to right:

- Katharina Koop (Aachen University)
- Andrea Joosten (Hamburger Kunsthalle)
- Suzanne Haendschke (Landes Museum)
- Sybille Hentze (Albertina)
- Laura Held (Brandes Kunsthalle)
- Claudia Dansch (Kunsthalle Mannheim)
- Petra Hinck (documenta)
- Birgit Fernengel (International Design Museum, Munich)
- Karin Stengel (documenta)
- Evelin Morgenstern (Initiative Fortbildung)

Photo courtesy Andrea Joosten

# ARLIS/NA 2012 Toronto Conference Report

by Meg Donabedian, Celine Palatsky Travel Award Recipient

I recently had the privilege of attending the 2012 40th Annual ARLIS/NA Conference in Toronto as a recipient of the New York Chapter's Celine Palatsky Travel Award. As both a recent GSLIS graduate of Queens College, CUNY, and a new librarian working within a design school environment, it was very exciting to have the opportunity to experience my first large-scale professional librarian conference with ARLIS/NA.

## Friday – March 30

I arrived in Toronto on Friday morning, and began the process of choosing between the many sessions that I wanted to attend. With so many topics of such great interest, and time being so limited, this was a challenging task! Friday's schedule allowed some initial downtime for settling in and exploring the local area, which for me included lunch with a colleague and a visit to the nearby Textile Museum of Canada. My first conference activity began later that afternoon with a SIG on "Materials" led by Mark Pompelia, Visual Resources Librarian at RISD. As a librarian at the New York School of Interior Design, I was particularly interested in attending Mark's session, as it was a great opportunity to hear about his experience and advice on building and organizing an innovative and sustainable circulating materials collection on a shoestring budget. Especially useful were his suggestions for maintaining outreach through promotional activities such as materials talks, tours, and vendor lunch and learn presentations, along with many other helpful resources for exploring sustainable materials.

Later that evening, the First-Time Attendees reception served as a comforting ice breaker for my first conference experience. Everyone was made to feel very welcomed and valued as members of the ARLIS community. It was a great chance to meet the leaders of ARLIS/NA, learn more about the various committee activities and initiatives, and connect with other new attendees.

The following Plenary Session and 40th Anniversary Celebration (Welcome Party) featured Plenary Speaker Diana Thorneycroft, a Canadian artist who provided a very memorable presentation that really captured the "coloring outside the lines" theme of the conference. Her scenic tableaux incorporating action figures and dolls form a haunting body of work that results in powerful imagery ranging from the humorous and twisted to the deeply disturbing or strangely macabre. Her work has the capacity to push the viewer outside their comfort zone but in a way that is both thought-provoking and meaningful. The Plenary Session concluded with a very engaging and informative talk on the history of ARLIS, which, for a new member like myself, provided interesting context and gave me a true appreciation for the organization's distinguished 40-year history and the amazing professionals who have contributed to its success.

The evening ended on a high note with a celebratory combination of cupcakes and champagne (conference nutrition!) and the wonderful opportunity to mingle and network among fellow art librarians late into the evening. My first day at the conference was a wonderful day of camaraderie and community.

## Saturday – March 31

I began my second day of the conference with an early morning visit to the Exhibit Hall. It was great to meet in person some of the vendors and reps I have only communicated with by phone or email, and get a sense of industry trends, current technologies, databases, and publications important to art librarianship. The Poster Sessions presented some really interesting topics

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that left me inspired to learn more about subjects such as copyright and fair use, creative strategies for outreach and visibility, embedded librarianship, and the use of digital images in pedagogy.

My first session of the day was “Colouring With Artists: Librarians Coordinating and Facilitating Information Creation and Appropriation in the Studio,” which provided a very engaging look at the relationship between the information seeking needs and behaviors of visual artists and the increasingly interactive role we as librarians play in helping this community access a variety of dynamic, multiple resources through a unique understanding of our collections and curriculum. The session highlighted some of the important ways in which librarians remain vital in serving professional practice, emphasizing the value of the brick and mortar space/environment (e.g. physical browsing/serendipity) and the importance of human interaction through embedded librarianship activities that make us visible, available, and part of the design community and their research process. Included was a very interesting presentation on “JeopARTy” from the Massachusetts College of Art. This “game show” teaching format provides a really creative way in which to engage students in an active dialogue and better understanding of issues surrounding copyright, appropriation, plagiarism, and fair use.

The afternoon featured a delightful ARTstor Usergroup Lunch (a welcome treat during a busy conference!) during which time I learned about several exciting and recent updates to their collection, various platform features, and more about Shared Shelf. My handy ARTstor tote bag continues to be appreciated!

Following lunch, I participated in the Art & Design School Division meeting, which was a great opportunity to learn about projects and initiatives happening at other academic institutions across the country. I was particularly interested to hear about Susan and Jonah Severtson’s non-profit Design Information Alliance (DIA) project. I have since enjoyed perusing their website’s “Visits & Discoveries” section and look forward to utilizing their upcoming searchable database of multi-disciplinary design-related content. The group closed with an inspired discussion on the ways in which students are utilizing their libraries and interacting with their library environments. We shared collaborative methods librarians can use to engage more interest, including student art exhibitions, performance art, space planning/redesign projects, library-related product design, and special workshops.

Later in the afternoon, I enjoyed attending “Marketing Librarians, Practice, and Spaces in the 21st Century,” a fascinating session that addressed the ever-changing nature of our profession in an increasingly digital age. Lilli Schestag gave a thought-provoking talk focusing on the identity of the 21st century librarian, which is being radically redefined by rapidly evolving technology, “big data,” and social media. Her paper highlighted the ways in which our profession is moving far beyond the boundaries of the traditional brick and mortar library and physical book, to new ways of preserving, storing, and accessing content. I found inspiration in her message that we as librarians need to stay progressive, focused, and innovative with our skills and leadership in this rapidly changing landscape.

Technology’s effect on the world of materials is equally exciting. Mark Pompelia of RISD spoke on the design industry’s increasingly innovative use of sustainable materials such as woven metals, holographic textiles, and LED wallpapers, along with the resulting need to consider new forms of metadata and taxonomies. I was able to learn more about RISD’s Material Resource Center and their innovative project with Harvard’s Graduate School of Design to create a collaborative database that will allow other colleges and universities with materials collections to participate. The interactive nature of the database will seek to enable users to contribute their personal experiences using various materials, and incorporate such innovative statistics as geospatial tagging.

Also fascinating was hearing from Marilyn Nasserden about the New Taylor Family Digital Library

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(TFDL) at the University of Calgary, whose amazing resources include the creation of a state-of-the-art Digital Media Commons that offers such cutting edge technologies as touch tables, a digital globe, and a Visualization Lab, resulting in a multifaceted digital media experience that is integral, user-focused, interactive, and learner-driven.

The following session “Promotion of and Teaching with Visual Special Collections” offered a fascinating window into the ways in which visual special collections such as rare books and archival photographs (resources which are typically underutilized, difficult to access, hidden, or largely unknown within an academic community) can be creatively incorporated into a wide variety of academic subject areas (e.g. art history, science, medicine, and area studies) to support research and visual literacy. The session presented strategic methods of outreach practiced by three institutions that successfully served to break down barriers by bringing their special collections in the form of digital, print, and visual primary resources to students and faculty across their campuses. Emphasized was the importance of collaborating in advance with faculty members to view collections that might enhance their syllabi/teaching, utilizing both information and visual literacy standards. I was left feeling very inspired about the limitless possibilities of visual primary resources to enhance scholarly research.

The evening concluded with a Convocation Ceremony, which was a very meaningful opportunity to witness the many important contributions being made by both new and established members of our profession. Their wide-ranging achievements made me feel proud to be a part of the ARLIS/NA community. The Convocation was followed by an evening reception at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in their new Frank Gehry building which was truly a spectacular venue! The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to mingle with fellow ARLISians and the opportunity to view the museum galleries. Before heading back to the hotel, I joined several of my colleagues for a very enjoyable group dinner at the Queen Mother Cafe.

### **Sunday – April 1**

Attending the session “New Voices in the Profession” was particularly inspiring for me as a librarian just entering the field. The topics were all very timely and interesting, such as the ephemeral nature of web pages and the related challenges of web archiving (e.g. databases, Flash, JavaScript); cataloging museum art objects and the issues surrounding comprehensive documentation and access (e.g. vocabularies and standards); the crisis in scholarly communication and how libraries are responding; and the competing agendas surrounding the documentation of enduring vs. ephemeral works of art.

My conference experience came to a close with “Provoking Change: Creativity, Leadership, and Planning for the Future,” an uplifting session about new ways of thinking in the profession. I was particularly inspired by the concept of “thought leadership” and the role of the librarian within society, which emphasized the importance of having the confidence to share ideas and partner with public discourse in order to maintain our relevance and create the future we’d like to see.

Attending the 2012 conference proved to be an unparalleled way in which to see how the “theory” of library science coursework translates into “real world” art library environments, offering a window into the many kinds of challenges that art libraries face, the benchmarks for success, and the skill sets I will need to be an effective practitioner both in my current role, and as I move forward in my career. The experience offered a dynamic opportunity to both contribute and benefit from sharing knowledge and best practices with fellow colleagues while forging meaningful professional relationships.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the ARLIS/NY Chapter for this opportunity, and I look forward to becoming more involved with ARLIS at the regional and national levels in the coming months. ❖

# The Annual Holiday Party, This Year at MoMA

invitation from Holly Hatheway, Yale University, 2011 chair of the executive board

**December 14, 2011**

The Board of ARLIS/NY is happy to announce our annual Holiday Party!

**When:** Wednesday, December 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Remarks at 7:00 p.m.)

**Where:** MoMA Library: Cullman Education & Research Bldg., 4 West 54th Street, 6th floor

Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served.

Please send RSVP to Holly Hatheway by Friday, December 9.

Thank you very much to MoMA for hosting and looking forward to seeing everyone! ❖



Happy holidays from ARLIS/NY!  
Photo by Suz Massen

More party photos and photos from other ARLIS/NY events can be found on our website ([www.arlisny.org](http://www.arlisny.org)), and on our flickr page ([www.flickr.com/photos/arlisny](http://www.flickr.com/photos/arlisny)). Check them out!



Holly speaks at the holiday party.  
Photo by Suz Massen



# The Whitney's Move to Chelsea

by Carol Rusk, Whitney Museum

I would like to inform fellow members of ARLIS/NY about the recent changes that took place at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Due to the sale of the Whitney's Annex and adjacent brownstones on Madison Avenue, all staff offices were moved to various locations around Manhattan. The Frances Mulhall Achilles Library completed its recent transition from the basement of the Annex on East 74th Street to a bright new home in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan.

The Library and four other departments—Registration, Publications, Exhibitions, and Collections Management—now occupy approximately one-half of the 8th floor of the Bulwark Building at 610 West 26th Street (11th Avenue). The administration and other departmental offices are currently located on Park Avenue. Once construction of the “future Whitney Museum” is completed (estimated c. 2015), staff will move into the new museum designed by Renzo Piano, located at the base of the High Line on Gansevoort and Washington Streets.

In addition, the Whitney's Board of Trustees approved a multi-year collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art that will begin in 2015 when the new building is opened downtown. For the next few years, however, the Whitney will continue presenting exhibitions and programs at the Breuer building on 75th Street and Madison Avenue. For more information, please read the press announcement: <http://whitney.org/MetCollaboration>.

The Library has been officially “closed” to outside patrons in order to carry out the move and then throughout the Whitney's annual “Summer Internship Program.” On September 1st, we will resume accepting appointments from outside researchers. Patrons are required to please state their request in the body of an email, in advance, and send the message to [library@whitney.org](mailto:library@whitney.org). ❖

## Reach ARLIS/NY members through ARLIS/NY News

Contact board member Rebecca Friedman, ARLIS/NY Development Coordinator ([rfriedma@princeton.edu](mailto:rfriedma@princeton.edu)), if you'd like to place a newsletter ad with us.

## See your byline in ARLIS/NY News

Contact news editor Karyn Hinkle ([hinkle@bgc.bard.edu](mailto:hinkle@bgc.bard.edu)) to submit a photo, write up a program, suggest a topic, or request an article assignment. Your pieces are welcomed!