

VRA + ARLIS/NA 2011, Minneapolis, Minnesota

2011 Conference Adventures – Hillary Veeder, Assistant Librarian, Louisiana State University

3/23 Wednesday – 3/27 Sunday

First, an enthusiastic “Thank You!” to all of the members of the ARLIS/NA Southeast Chapter – without the generosity of the chapter my trip to Minneapolis would have been a difficult feat to accomplish.

The Minneapolis conference was my second ARLIS/NA conference, and what a treat that it was the second time that ARLIS/NA and VRA joined forces! I was able to attend the 2009 conference in Indianapolis, but missed out on the happenings of the 2010 Boston conference. I can’t say enough about the warmth, kindness, and professionalism that permeated from the conference attendees on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Hilton Hotel.

I was very glad that I participated in the Conference Networking/Mentoring program and I must give a shout-out to Cara List from the University of Oregon for sharing her conference time with me. We attended the First Time Attendees’ and New Members’ Breakfast where she shared her tips and personal experiences about how to get the most out of my time at the conference. Once I am a more seasoned ARLIS/NA member I will participate in the program as a mentor in hopes of giving guidance and support similar to what I received as a new member and professional.

Thank you for an über fabulous Minneapolis Conference ARLIS/NA and VRA!

Meetings – Highlights

Aside from the obvious excitement of attending our Chapter Meeting, being introduced to our members, and discussing the plans for our upcoming chapter meeting, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the Future of Art Bibliography session (actually the reason I arrived on Wednesday to make sure I would not miss it!) I found Kathleen and Carole Ann’s discussions of the initiatives of the FAB group extremely fascinating on a personal level, due to its relation to my own research interests of our periodical literature. I also attended the Cataloging Section meeting. Cataloging has always been a guilty pleasure of mine, although I currently do not get to indulge, but I was interested to hear from the librarians who participated in the RDA testing. The ARLIS/NA Annual Membership Meeting was also very informative – as a newer member it was helpful to learn about the make-up of the Executive Board and hear the comments of our past and future ARLIS/NA Presidents.

Collection Development Special Interest Group (Thursday) - Avery Index Users Group (Thursday/Cancelled) - Future of Art Bibliography Meeting (Thursday) - First Time Attendees’ and New Members’ Breakfast (Friday) - ARLIS/NA Annual Membership Meeting (Saturday) - ARLIS/Southeast Chapter Meeting (Saturday) - ARLIS/NA Cataloging Section (Sunday)

Sessions - Highlights

I do not recall the Case Studies sessions from the conference in Indianapolis, but I really enjoyed both of the CS sessions that I attended (I and III) in Minneapolis. The pace of the presentation was fast, yet informative and I felt that I left each session with a “grab bag” of

new information and ideas. The session on e-books made my must see list especially since my institution has just begun to order titles from ebrary. This is one session in which I will definitely review the slide presentations because I thought the presenters addressed issues of evaluation, ordering, user expectations, etc. very well and touched on unique factors that I had not taken into consideration in my own exploration into e-books.

I am a little biased since I presented a poster, but I found the poster session to be a great means of learning and interacting with my fellow conference attendees. The informal set-up made it easy to discuss my poster, but at the same time, receive feedback and identify colleagues who have similar interests.

Case Studies I (Friday) - Open Plenary (Friday) - Beyond the Silos of the Lams (Friday) - Inside Out: Examining Studio Artists' Perceptions, Representations, and Actual Use of the Fine Arts Library (Friday) - Case Studies III (Saturday) - How do we shelve it? The Place for vendor provided electronic titles in art and architecture collections (Saturday) - Poster Sessions (Sunday) - Transforming Publishing Practices in the Arts (Sunday)

Special Events - Highlights

I love free goodies as much as the next person, but what I enjoyed most about the Exhibits Hall was discovering new vendors (well, new to me) such as Ram Publications (www.rampub.com). I came home with a pile of publisher catalogs that I will be browsing and marking in anticipation for the start of the new fiscal year. The "BetterWorldBooks" booth also caught my attention (BetterWorldBooks.com/aboutus) and I look forward to exploring the programs they have set in place for college campuses.

The Convocation Ceremony was an extra special event for me because I had the honor of being one of two people to receive the H.W. Wilson Research Award to support my upcoming research endeavor "Title Histories of the Periodical Literature for Art & Design." What was even more rewarding (ha!) was having ARLIS/NA and VRA members approaching me afterwards and engaging me in conversations about my project. As someone who is just stepping out into the world of research within our profession it was so lovely to receive well wishes, questions, and even constructive criticisms from colleagues.

Exhibits Hall - Convocation Ceremony (Friday) - Welcome Party – Walker Art Center (Friday)