

Arts Newsletter

Association of College and Research Libraries Art Section v.2. no.2 Spring 1987

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

June 27-July 2, 1987

The ACRL Art Section presents

IMAGE AND IMAGINATION: ADAPTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ARTS

Set for Monday, June 29, 9:30-12:30, in the Crystal Ballroom of the San Franciscan Hotel this panel presentation with demonstrations will focus on the applications of CD-ROM, microcomputers, and interactive videodisc for image storage, retrieval, manipulation, and scholarly use.

"Access to Images: the New Optical Media"

David C. Miller, founder and managing partner of DCM Associates, Benecia, California, will present a layperson's introduction to videodisc, CD-ROM, CDI, Lasercard, optical tapes, and other optical disc formats. Mr. Miller will explain how they are recorded and how they work, and outline the impact of these technologies for the work of scholars and librarians alike.

"Machine Augmented Browsing of Image Documents"

Brian O'Connor, filmmaker and visiting faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Library and Information Studies, will discuss the implications of video and microcomputer technologies as analogues to printed materials. He will address the issues of relevance and meaning, as well as analysis of image attributes and approaches to structure description.

"Interactive Videodisc Technology and Access to Multi-media Information Sources for Scholarly Research in the Arts"

Ching-chih Chen, professor and associate dean of the Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Simmons College, will demonstrate her PROJECT EMPEROR-I: China's treasure revealed via videodisc technology. Two double-sided NTSC CAV videodiscs entitled "The First Emperor of China" will be used to demonstrate the enormous potential of interactive videodisc for fast, random and online access to a large multi-media information bank. In addition, Dr. Chen will discuss the construction of an image database and the development of interactive courseware.

The Art Section program is being cosponsored by the Audiovisual Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

OTHER MEETINGS OF THE ACRL ART SECTION

ARTS Executive Committee

Saturday, June 27, 11:30-12:30
Ramada Renaissance, Verona Room

ARTS Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 28, 2:00-5:30
Civic Auditorium, Room 301

The Membership Meeting will incorporate the meetings of the Conference Program Planning Committee, the Mission and Goals Committee, the Membership Committee, the Publications Committee, and provide a forum for other general section business and reporting.

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR ART SECTION CANDIDATES...

FOR VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT:

Richard Friedman

The main areas of focus that I will concentrate on if I am elected Vice-Chair/Chair-elect of the ART Section of ACRL are: (1) idea-sharing and networking among art librarians; (2) continuing education that will enable us to be more effective and aware of new technologies and sources; and (3) continuing to emphasize the value of art librarianship within ACRL and to the general community at large.

For those of us from smaller libraries and libraries situated in rural areas idea-sharing and networking among art librarians is an excellent and necessary source of new ideas and inspiration. Continuing education courses offered by ACRL regionally or at national conferences are very important and a basic way to attain personal and professional growth. According to a recent survey in the Wall Street Journal librarians are rated first on a scale of civility to the public which is of course very positive. What is less encouraging is that a recent survey of undergraduates show that 0% were considering librarianship as a career. I believe an attempt must be made to educate the

public about librarianship, its achievements, and its positive factors.

My own professional interests are primarily in the areas of research and reference work and ongoing student and faculty bibliographical instruction. As a former museum curator, art gallery employee, and fine arts appraiser I know the value of a librarian with a strong background in research who can ferret out needed information. I also have several years of useful experience as a board member and as an administrator of a fine arts organization.

I believe that ACRL is a first-rate organization and serving it and the Art Section would be satisfying and educational. It would also be an honor and pleasure to meet more of my colleagues and work with them.

Charles R. Smith

ARTS is alive and well; thank you. The activities for next two annual conferences should attract members and many other interested in any area of the arts. "New Technologies" in San Francisco and "Jazz" in New Orleans promises to get our attention, teach us something, and be entertaining at the same time. Surely we can keep up what the Aggies at Texas A&M say, "After two times, it is a tradition," and make Dallas (1989) and Chicago (1990) just as exciting.

In recent years, ARTS has been redefining its role within ALA. It cannot be all things to all people, but it is a challenge and fun working in an area you enjoy and enticing others to become involved. Membership from all types of libraries may be difficult to achieve, but there are those whom I believe would become active members if we continue our membership efforts. Work already done towards attracting librarians representing all of the arts has paid off and as a consequence our conferencing is much more beneficial.

Now I would like to toss around a few ARTS activity ideas for your consideration 1) an annual write-up in American Libraries (similar to the places to eat column) which would list the city's art events during our conferences, with costs, hours, how to get tickets, how to get there from the conference hotels, etc.; 2) a handout of a walking tour of the conference city, with some history and points of interest notes; 3) a

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Editor: Janice Woo, c/o Avery Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 (212) 280-8404

Production and circulation office:
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 944-6780

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listing of out-of-the-way cultural events, galleries, museums, foreign film theaters, locations of local and special theater groups, concerts, recitals -- I for one all too often miss these and such activities would help make all conference goers discover more of what that city has to offer. I like the idea that came out of the last midwinter meeting, that of having the conference city itself suggest the program--New Orleans--Jazz.

RUNNING FOR SECRETARY:

Micheline Nilsen

The ACRL Art Section encourages communication about professional issues and professional activities among librarians in academic libraries which document the arts in a very broad acceptance of the term: it can encompass all the areas which might otherwise fall between the traditional established disciplines but which are nonetheless part of the cultural context we attempt to document and provide information about.

ALA is the major professional organization for librarians, and it provides a broader forum for concerns, issues and needs than specialized professional associations. We share with librarians in other disciplines the need to address professional development, status, access to information and new technologies.

The office of Secretary to the ACRL Art Section implies communication between the section members and officers. In this position, I would like to encourage the expansion of existing channels of communication as well as wider recognition of the section's activities.

Stephen Allan Patrick

With the reaffirmation and continuing revitalization of the ACRL Art Section as a viable organization within ALA, our goals should focus on strengthening the active membership and supporting a broader scope of cooperation with other arts-related organizations. The ACRL Art Section is the only professional forum that brings together librarians from all branches of the arts. This is a valuable asset that gives us the poten-

tial for informative research, as well as entertaining programs and publications. Because the arts are often neglected in our libraries, we need to band together and support each other through various planned activities and projects as a way to provide better service for our specialized and discriminating users.

I have been a member of various professional library associations since 1976 and have actively participated by serving as an officer or committee member. My educational background has always focused on the arts with a personal interest in art, architecture, music, and the cinema. I personally believe that everyone should have pride in their chosen profession and this pride should be reflected in their active involvement. If I am elected as Secretary, I am willing to work for the continual growth and strength of the ACRL Art Section and to serve in other capacities as needed.

DEJA VU: THE ACRL ART SECTION: 1976

For the past few years, the Art Section has been actively working towards the formation of an organization that will serve librarians of both the visual and performing arts. At times it seems that we are charting unexplored territory, but a look at Art Section activities of the past shows us that we are really trying to carry out the ideas encountered by our predecessors. What follows is an excerpt of the ACRL Art Section 1976 conference report published in the ARLIS/NA Newsletter, v.4, no.6, October 1976. It describes a panel discussion held on July 21, 1976, at ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.1

"Common Concerns of Art and Music Librarians" was something of a historic event. For the first time art and music librarians met in a formal context. This session, which was sponsored jointly the ACRL Art Section and Music Library Association, arose from the January 1975 issue of Library Trends on art and music libraries, but focused on topics which had received less attention in that issue. The meeting was preceded by a luncheon at which David Tatham, Syracuse University, gave a slide talk on musical subjects in American painting and graphic arts. Thereafter, an audience (con't p.7)

**ACRL ART SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
MIDWINTER MEETING REPORT**

The Art Section Executive Committee convened in Chicago on January 17, 1987. Present were Janice Woo, Chair; Nancy Allen, Vice-chair/Chair-elect; and Fred Blum, Secretary. Others in attendance were Roland Hansen, Charles Smith, Floyd Zula, and Allen Cohen. ACRL President Sharon Hogan was also present as the designated representative from the ACRL Board of Directors. Each ACRL Section Executive Committee, as well as standing committee, was being visited by a member of the ACRL Board in order to help strengthen communications within the Division. Hogan's presence did prove to be very instrumental in helping to direct the Section's improvement of some organizational and planning matters.

Woo reported on the budget that had been approved for 1986-87. As requested, \$200 had been allocated for general operating expenses; an additional \$772 had been allocated for the publication of the newsletter; and a tentative amount of \$114 had been set aside for the production of the Section's orientation manual. Although the cost of standard audiovisual equipment for conference programs is included in the general ACRL budget, Woo had requested an additional \$830 from ALA Special Allocation funds to cover the cost of a videocassette player, projector, and technician. Only \$400 of this request had been granted, however.

Allen reported on the budget which she had submitted for 1987-88. She had requested a total of \$800, excluding the amount already allocated for the newsletter and for standard audiovisual equipment for the 1988 program. Allen had prepared a larger budget than for the previous year in order to carry out activities which will promote Section membership and visibility. She had also requested money to establish ALANET electronic mail accounts for the Section Executive Committee. This would greatly expedite Section communication and its operation.

The next order of business was the production of the Section's orientation manual which had been budgeted for 1986-87. The Section had only become aware of the allocation for this project upon receipt of the budget approval in August 1986. It therefore became necessary to prepare this document

between the midwinter meeting and annual conference. Past Art Section Chair Roland Hansen agreed to lend his expertise in writing and producing the manual. He will have a draft ready for Executive Committee approval at annual conference in San Francisco.

Woo reported on the program being planned for the 1987 conference. Since the reduced ALA Special Allocation funds did not cover the anticipated expenses, the Program Planning Committee was in the process of reformulating their plans. She indicated that the Program Planning Committee hoped to work out a new plan at their meeting later that afternoon.

Woo presented the Art Section Review document which she had submitted to Sharon Rogers, Chair of the ACRL Planning Committee. There was one important segment of the review document that had not been completed, the Section's charge. The charge was considered dependent upon the outcome of the Mission and Goals Committee's final proposal. The Executive Committee then reviewed two versions of a new mission statement. It approved, with revisions, the mission which encompassed a broader constituency for the Section. (See p.7.) After the mission and goals statement is completed, the Section will prepare its charge.

Items relating to the Section's representation within ACRL were then discussed. The importance of representation on the Activity Sections Council was stressed. It was decided that the Section Chair would be responsible for attending the Activity Sections Council meetings at both midwinter and annual. Further, it was decided that the Vice-chair/Chair-elect would be responsible for attending meetings of the ACRL Conference Program Planning Committee. The question as to who should be the Section Liaison to the ACRL Board was resolved by assigning this responsibility to the Past-chair, who would be well aware of all of the Section's activities.

Lastly, Sharon Hogan discussed the fiscal situation of the Division within ALA. She emphasized the importance of ACRL's role within ALA and explained how members of the Art Section could help develop this role.

**ACRL ART SECTION GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING:
MIDWINTER MEETING REPORT**

The Art Section General Business Meeting was held in Chicago on January 17, 1987. Included within this general meeting were the meetings of the two Conference Program Planning Committees and the three ad hoc committees: Mission and Goals, Publications, and Membership. This arrangement helped to minimize the number of meeting times and spaces required and also made it possible for more members of the Section to be involved in all the areas of planning and implementation.

Officers and chairs present were Janice Woo, Nancy Allen, Fred Blum, Darryl Barrett, Paula Murphy, Stephen Patrick, Micheline Nilsen, and Stephen Bloom. Others in attendance were Russ Clement, Allen Cohen, Kim Fisher, Roland Hansen, Alice Loranth, Charles Smith, and Floyd Zula. Brenda Chasen Golden was also present as a representative from the Music Library Association.

Woo reported on the discussions and decisions that had taken place at the Section Executive Committee meeting earlier that day.

As Vice-chair, Allen discussed the plans she had been developing for her term of office as chair. These included the 1988 program, membership development, better communications within and outside of the Section, and a request for an increased budget.

As editor of the section newsletter, Woo reported that the third issue of Arts Newsletter had been published and that the call for a new editor was still underway. She encouraged members to apply for the appointment which is to be made at annual conference 1987.

In the absence of 1987 Conference Program Planning Committee Co-chair Mary Ashe, Woo announced that the Art Section would be cosponsoring the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section program on book arts in the San Francisco Bay area.

The meeting of the 1987 Conference Program Planning Committee was the next item on the agenda. Woo and Bloom discussed the funding problems and proposed a revised program with alternate speakers. This plan was tentatively agreed upon, pending confirmation from the proposed speakers.

As the 1988 Conference Program Planning Chair, Murphy led a discussion on what

direction the next program should take. After input from many members, it was decided that the program should take place at one of the assigned conference sites and that it should be related to the conference city. An obvious theme was jazz, and a focus on collection development, with a possible title of "Jazz up your collection," was approved. In keeping with the expanded definition of the Art Section's constituency, the program will try to cover several types of jazz art forms, such as jazz film, visual resources for jazz research, jazz dance, and jazz music.

Music Library Association representative Brenda Chasen Goldman told the Section that this theme was very fortuitous because the MLA was in the process of developing liaisons and cooperative projects with other associations. She felt that the MLA might be able to assist with the planning of this program, and Murphy was assigned to be the MLA liaison in this regard.

As chair of the Mission and Goals Committee, Patrick distributed the mission statement which had been prepared by Sherman Clarke. Woo informed Patrick that a revised version had been approved by the Executive Committee. Patrick reported that with this approval his committee could now go on with the formation of the goals statement. All agreed that the Section's goals should be closely related to the overall Division goals which are outlined in the strategic planning document. As per his committee's charge, the goals statement will be ready at annual conference in San Francisco.

Nilsen, Publications Committee Chair, reported that the newsletter continues to be the Section's primary publication. Committee member Fisher described his preliminary work on a directory of organizations that serve arts librarianship. Everyone agreed that such a publication would be valuable, but that it should not replicate already existing publications. He hopes to have sample pages for presentation at annual conference. Other possible publication projects were discussed. It was suggested that papers delivered at some of the Art Section's conference programs might be suitable for inclusion in an occasional papers series.

As Membership Committee Chair, Allen reported that she was in the (con't p.7)

The 15th Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America took place in Washington, DC, February 13-19.

Critic Peter Blake entertained attendees of the Membership Luncheon with his witty proposal that theme parks should become the model for planning our postmodern American cities. Following the luncheon, the membership discussed the schedule and potential sites for future conferences; the formation of new Special Interest Groups and Type of Library sections and the nature of their role; and plans for a new fundraising drive.

A theme which emerged from the conference was the increasing efficacy of mainstream library technologies for visual resources collections. One of the sessions was on MARC-ing the Visual Document and a workshop was held on Non-Book Database Design. (See Micheline Nilsen's impressions below.)

Report on AAT User Group Meeting

An open meeting of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus User Group took place at the ARLIS/NA conference on February 17, 1987. The group, sponsored by the AAT Advisory Committee of ARLIS/NA, includes current pilot users of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus and several new projects anticipating using the thesaurus for subject access. Reports were heard from: The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals; AVIADOR (Avery Videodisc Index of Architectural Drawings on RLIN); the Critical Inventory of Art on Film (a Getty project housed at the Metropolitan Museum); the Renesselaer Polytech Institute slide library; the Boston Architecture slide project at MIT (part of the Rotch Visual Collections); the Canadian Centre for Architecture; and ADAG (the Architectura Drawings Advisory Group, housed at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC). Discussion centered on the need for usage protocols, which is countered by the wide variety of possible applications. AAT wants to be flexible enough to serve both visual and printed collections, through cataloging or indexing, as was clear from the variety of projects represented. It was noted that name and geographic authority sources had to be found outside of the AAT.

-- Virginia Kerr

WHY ARE SLIDE CURATORS LOOKING AT THE MARC FORMAT?

Slide collections have traditionally been isolated from the main library collections and they have usually been organized in a manner which had little in common with book classification. In many cases, they are not part of the library system. Even if they are part of the library system, slides have usually not been considered worth including in an institution's on-line records either because of their restricted circulation or because they do not seem to be a good use of data storage and searching capabilities.

On the other hand, slide collections can grow very fast and are very good candidates for in-house database management programs. Many collections have developed records for their collections on pcs, small systems, or even mainframes. These collections have developed their own software or adapted a commercially available package. These database management systems have often been combined with label printing capability. Circulation has also been a common application of automated collection management. Indeed, the circulation count for a slide collection can easily amount to an equivalent or greater figure compared to the book collection in the same subject area.

The diversity between automated systems in slide collections seems to become less acceptable now that the Visual Materials MARC format is available and is being adopted by major collections. The ability to communicate between slide collections through a standardized cataloging format is gaining popularity with slide curators for a number of reasons: the potential ability to share resources, cataloging and provenance information as well as the ability to direct patrons to the resources they need. The adoption of the MARC format for visual materials is therefore gaining favor among visual resources collections which are automated or considering automation.

Most collections that have adapted the MARC format have published or are willing to share their interpretation. A comparative study of sample work forms is a very helpful first step in making decisions on the organization of your own collection.

--Micheline Nilsen

A NEW DANCE JOURNAL

An annual journal called American Dance made its first appearance in January 1986. It is being edited and produced by Northwestern University and the American Dance Guild. This well illustrated magazine was created to fill a gap between the commercial photo-journalistic and the esoteric research publications presently available in the dance field. Instead of being a vehicle for current events and news, it is one for communication within the dance world as well as for documentation of the art form. It is a refereed journal which provides dance scholars and faculty members with a place to express their thoughts and ideas.

American Dance aims to publish readable articles that appeal to a diverse readership of dancers, educators, writers, and choreographers. According to editor Susan Lee, members of dance organizations, professional dancers, choreographers and teachers in schools, private studios and colleges would find the publication of interest.

The first two issues of this periodical contain six articles each. Some of these address such subjects as dance faculty tenure criteria, teaching dancers body anatomy, Martha Graham technique in its early years, the dynamics of the ballet image, modern dance in Cuba, and a history of dance in Chicago. Biographies, histories, interviews, essays, research reports, position papers, proposals and book reviews are planned for future issues.

For further information contact:

The American Dance Guild, Inc.
33 West 21st Street 3rd floor
New York, NY 10010

-- Paula Murphy

Deja Vu con't

of over 200 people heard Wolfgang Freitag, Harvard University, the moderator, and the three panelists, Bill Bunce, University of Wisconsin, Bill Dane, Newark Public Library, and Barbara Greener, Queens College.

With this history of cooperation between the Art Section and the Music Library Association behind us, let's forge ahead in our development of more active alliances with all of colleagues in the visual and performing arts.

A MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE ART SECTION

The Art Section provides a forum for the arts with ALA. It represents librarians and others working in or interested in the visual and/or performing arts.

While there are associations for specific types of arts librarianship, such as the Music Library Association, Art Libraries Society of North America, or the Theatre Library Association; the ACRL Art Section is an umbrella group for librarians who work in any of the fields of art, music, theater, dance, film and video, architecture, design, etc. Although the Section is a part of the Association of College and Research Libraries, its programs and projects are aimed at all types of arts librarians. It also serves those who are interested in the subject whether or not it is a part of their job. The overlapping of membership with other library associations results in a greater sharing of information; the Art Section attempts to encourage this cooperation through its activities.

Any Art Section member who would like to comment on this mission statement should contact:

Stephen Allan Patrick, Chair
ARTS Mission and Goals Committee
Sherrod Library Box 22450A
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37614.

General Business Meeting con't

process of identifying related organizations and to make them aware of the activities of the Art Section. In doing so, she hopes to elicit additional membership from these groups. She also discussed producing an Art Section promotional item that could also serve as a fundraiser.

Since a liaison function with other associations had come up several times during the meeting, it was decided that the Section should have a liaison coordinator. As a last item of business, the members of the Art Section Executive Board therefore voted that the Past-chair shall be responsible for coordinating all liaison activities within the Section.

A CALL FOR PAPERS

The Program Planning Committee for the 1988 New Orleans Conference is looking for speakers on the subject of developing collections of visual and performing arts materials with a jazz orientation. This could include slide and picture collections of paintings or photographs inspired by or having to do with jazz music; collections of jazz musicians or jazz dancers on film; recording collections on disc, tape or CD; or book collections having to do with any aspect of jazz.

Those persons who are interested should submit papers to the Committee by November 1, 1987. Papers should be sent to:

Paula Murphy, Chair
ARTS Program Planning Committee
Columbia College Library
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

EDITOR NEEDED FOR ARTS NEWSLETTER

- o Want to get involved in the Art Section?
- o Need another publication for your resume?
- o Want to attend conferences free as a member of the press?

The Arts Newsletter needs someone to act as co-editor for the next two issues, Fall 1987 and Spring 1988. This person would then continue on as the full editor for the next two years. Requirements include good writing and editing skills, ability to meet deadlines, willingness to keep in contact with potential news sources, and access to a word processing system and a letter quality printer. A feel for layout and design would also be helpful.

At present the newsletter is published semi-annually in the Spring and Fall. Each issue is eight pages. Up until now the newsletter has been printed and mailed by ACRL headquarters, but it may also be produced by another institution or vendor. The ACRL person in charge of the section newsletters is George Eberhart.

Anyone interested in becoming the new Arts Newsletter Editor, should send a brief writing sample and a description of any pertinent experience to:

Janice Woo, ACRL Art Section Chair
c/o Avery Library
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

The Art Section Executive Committee will be selecting the new editor at its meeting on June 27, 1987. If you're interested, please let us know by then.

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