

ARLIS/NA Ontario 2016 Travel Award
ARLIS/NA + VRA Conference, Seattle, Report, March 2016
Prepared by Angelique Roy, June 3, 2016

The joint ARLIS/NA + VRA Conference took place from March 8th-13th and was an excellent networking and professional development opportunity. This was a jam-packed week full of illuminating sessions, social activities and workshops. I began my first conference day at the ArLisSNAP and VREPS Career Development session for emerging professionals. This four-hour workshop was an excellent discussion of tips for resumes, cover letters, interviews and networking delivered by professionals who underwent the same apprehension and struggle of beginning their career in the field upon graduation. I also learned more about the VRA and opportunities available to become involved.

I attended sessions dealing with education partnerships for museum libraries, supporting creative research in the art library through serendipitous browsing, Art and Design instruction within the Information Literacy Framework, using media-rich software to alter the way resources are used, and artists' books as vehicles for social change, amongst others. These sessions were extremely interesting and informative and helped shape ideas for my final semester of coursework at the iSchool! I also attended the poster sessions, where there were numerous posters on a variety of subjects, and enjoyed the opportunity to speak with others about digitization, emerging technologies and creative outreach.

Events such as the First Time Attendees and New Members Reception, the Welcome Reception at the Seattle Art Museum, and the Convocation Reception at the Seattle Public Library were wonderful opportunities to meet fellow emerging professionals, network with seasoned professionals from across Canada and the United States, and explore the beautiful city of Seattle. I attended the Annual Membership meeting which discussed the changing executive roles and highlighted what has been achieved within the organization over the past year and what changes will be made for the coming year. At this meeting I was also presented with the Wolfgang M. Freitag Award so it was great to be present for this.

I would highly recommend that students apply for this travel award because attending this conference is a wonderful experience. This was an amazing opportunity for me, especially being the joint ARLIS and VRA conference, as I prepare to begin my career in the field of Art Librarianship. It is a valuable learning opportunity that can inspire new ideas and connections with librarians and other information professionals who are always willing to help.