

ARLIS Ontario Chapter  
Annual Report, 2008

Website: <http://arlison.ca>

Chapter Executive meetings  
June and October, 2008

Chapter Member meetings  
April 25, 2008, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario  
October 31, 2008, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

### **New Officers**

Our Chairperson has changed as of January 1, 2009. With the Treasurer moving up into the position of Vice Chair, we elected a new Treasurer. This chapter holds two Executive meetings per year, in addition to two all-member business meetings. We believe in financially assisting our members who wish to hold Executive positions but who may not at this time be able to obtain institutional support for membership with ARLIS/NA.

### **ARLIS 2012 Conference**

Toronto Ontario is the site for the 2012 ARLIS/NA Conference, and the Ontario Chapter is hosting this event. Our pitch, in the form of a lengthy and descriptive Letter of Invitation to the Executive Board in January 2008, was accepted. The Local Arrangements Committee set about locating a site for the conference among Toronto's major hotels. They are also making an inventory of institutions in the city core who can offer sites for satellite events.

In 2007, our Chapter established partnerships with the ARLIS MOQ Chapter based in Montreal, Quebec, and with WNY based in Buffalo, New York. Last year, in 2008, we elected two Program Co-Chairs as well as an assistant for each. One Co-Chair and her assistant come from WNY and the other Co-Chair and assistant are from our own Chapter. These members were approved by the Executive Board in October.

We intend to offer invitations to members of WNY to attend our meetings this year and plan to reciprocate in the future as well, in order to keep the lines of communication open.

### **Chapter Archives**

The Chapter began the task of organizing our Chapter archives in 2007. They are housed at a member's institution. In the past year, a member examined the kinds of materials that we have saved and made recommendations at our Fall meeting. This report has been

helpful. We were, in general terms, curious and concerned about issues of privacy, and we now intend to set policy for what is retained and what is not.

### **Student outreach and liaison**

The Past Chair of our Chapter in 2007 had worked hard to establish a liaison with students in the Faculty of Information Science at the University of Toronto. This effort has yielded satisfying rewards in 2008: we have welcomed about six students into our membership. We have expanded our Chapter student membership term from 12 months to 18 months, as well. An annually elected student liaison representative reports to our Executive Committee on most matters, as they concern students. We feel that they can become future career members, and want to involve them in our process as fully as is possible.

We assist our student liaison representative by providing materials about our Chapter and about art librarianship for distribution to other potential student members at an annual fall professional organization information day held at the School. In addition, we are contributing funds to a graduate student conference at the University of Toronto this spring because it would involve not only the students who are our members, but also indicate our involvement to other information professionals.

### **Chapter internal and external communication**

The web site is a ubiquitous feature for any organization. Our web site answers questions about what we do and what we intend to do, posed by visitors, people curious to join and our own members alike. We are also aware that future visitors to our website will seek information about our Chapter, as we draw closer to hosting the annual conference. Our web page showed a critical need for updating. The member who maintained our existing site needed a break, and so this became a good time to plan a new direction.

We have started from the ground up with an entirely new structure. A wordpress blog housed on an independent website is our solution. This site can be easily maintained by non-expert members of the Chapter, in fact, all members may contribute in some way.

### **Liability**

Our Past Chair assumed the project of researching what we need to know about liability insurance for members of the Chapter executive. Initial consultations indicated that this coverage is beyond our financial capability. The Past Chair attended a full-day workshop offered to non-profit organizations about their liability. We are keeping this issue current, as various members of the Chapter have elected to examine certain aspects of risks that were culled from the workshop. From this examination, we hope to present the Chapter with a risk assessment at a later date this year (2009), and let them vote on the best way to proceed.

### **Fundraising**

Our Chapter holds an annual fundraiser that is usually a small mid-winter event. It serves as a social gathering as well as an income. In this past year, several members worked extraordinarily hard to put a fundraiser in place, in late February. The event was hosted by one member at their place of work, an architectural firm. This event was open to non-members. The firm assisted us with its own publicity department to plan the event and coordinate the process of issuing and keeping track of invitations. It was a very full evening of tours, food and beverages that accompanied a silent auction of donated items and sponsored gifts. This evening reaped a rewarding \$1100 intake of funds to assist with our Chapters outreach and membership enhancement.

### **Travel award**

The 2008 \$750.00 travel award was won by a student in the Library and Information Science program at the University of Western Ontario.

Lesley Bell  
Chair, ARLIS Ontario Chapter  
March 2009