

Newsletter

ASSOCIATION OF
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& RESEARCH
LIBRARIES
A DIVISION OF THE
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association of college and research librarian arts section, vol. 15, no. 1, spring 2000

Visual Literacy Interpreted in Chicago

Welcome to Chicago and to the programs that are being offered by the ARTS Section. This year a series of serendipitous events have produced an unusual array of linked programming related to visual literacy. From July 5-7, 2000, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section will be presenting a preconference with the title "Beyond Words; Visual Information in Special Collections"

(www.ala.org/acrl/confhp.html). On Saturday afternoon, July 8th, at 2 p.m. the ARTS Section is sponsoring the program "Is Seeing Understanding?" in conjunction with the Technology in ARTS Committee's offering "Visual Literacy: What It is - Teaching Strategies" organized by Sylvia Curtis on Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Please check the Conference Schedule elsewhere in this issue for locations.

As usual, we shall be having the ARTS All Committee Meetings at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, July 8. That will be followed on Sunday July 9th by the ARTS Section Member/Executive Committee Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Art Institute of Chicago. A light breakfast will be served at the ART Institute: all of these arrangements are courtesy of the Institute and ARTS Section member Roland Hansen to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

I hope to see all of you in Chicago for this very unusual series of offerings by the ARTS Section.

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Breaking News!

Mary Strow has been elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the ARTS Section for 2000-2001. ACRL has just released the results of the 2000 Election, announcing officers of the organization for 2000-2001. Mary assumes her new position following the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July 2000. At the same time, Lorelei Tanji becomes Chair of the ARTS Section.

The new Chair-Elect has been active in the ARTS Section as member and chair of the Dance Librarians Discussion Group, member of the Dance Librarians Committee, and chair of the 1995 Program Committee for the Section. Mary is Acting Head of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) Library at Indiana University, Bloomington where she is also head of Reference Services at the Undergraduate Library and Bibliographer for Dance, Theatre and Drama. She has published *Research in Dance: A Guide to Resources* (G. K. Hall, 1994) and several articles.

For complete election results for the Division and ACRL Sections visit ACRL's website <http://www.ala.org/acrl>

ACRL ARTS NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Here's a golden opportunity to become more involved in the ARTS Section, to gain editorial experience, and to become a joint member of the ARTS Section Publications Committee and the ARTS Section Executive Board!

We are looking for a person to begin editing the Newsletter with the Fall 2000 issue. The guest editor of the current Spring issue will act as advisor to the incoming editor.

In 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 the new editor will produce the Fall 2000, Spring 2001, and Fall 2001 issues. In 2001-2002 a co-editor will be appointed who will work with the editor on the Spring 2002 issue and assume full editorial duties in the Fall of 2002. Thus, the term of office for this appointment is just two years. Of course, the appointment is renewable for another term!

The Executive Board and the Committee Chairs are dedicated to keeping the Newsletter editor supplied with a steady stream of "copy", and we hope that the ARTS Section membership will also contribute material for this important publication that reaches 800+ members and 25+ affiliated arts organization and societies.

If you are interested in becoming the next Newsletter Editor, please contact Lorelei Tanji ARTS Section Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect (949) 824-5216: Ltanji@uci.edu

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

As we look towards ALA Annual in Chicago and the year beyond, I see a great deal of collaboration and new developments in store. We have submitted a request for funding for an ARTS section brochure. Assuming funding is approved, I believe the brochure will help our existing membership learn more about committee opportunities and it will be an effective public relations and recruitment tool that we can distribute to prospective new members. The Publications, Membership, and Liaison Committees will play an important role in this area.

I would like to thank all of you for helping in the ongoing activity to update our records on committee membership and terms. And I would like to encourage people to contact me if you still wish to be assigned to a committee. Special thanks to Ann Lindell for keeping the ARTS section website up-to-date: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/arts/>

The upcoming annual conference in San Francisco 2001 will be the first year of the new tracking system for scheduling programs. All of us will need to be flexible and prepared to adjust our long-standing meeting dates/times as the need arises. We all hope that this new system will help to alleviate the travel distance between programs and the simultaneous scheduling of programs on related topics.

The Conference Program Planning Committee 2001 (Nadine Flores, chair; Mary Edsall, Nancy Friedland, Mary Strow, Dena Thomas, Lorelei Tanji, ex-officio) has been working closely with its EALS counterpart. They have submitted a program proposal: "Collaboration and Community in the Beat Generation", which promises to be an exciting confluence of the arts & literature. Proposed post-program activities will be poetry readings at city Lights Bookstore and visits to the Beat bars nearby.

I also anticipate activity from the other committees (Planning, Publications, Dance, Government & Private Sector Activities, Technology in the Arts) and discussion groups: (Dance Librarians, Film & Broadcast Studies, and Performing Arts) that will keep the ARTS Section vibrant and will contribute to the ACRL Strategic Plan. I hope you join me in looking forward to the real start of the millennium according to the Gregorian Calendar.

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COME ONE, COME ALL!

The ARTS Section General Membership/Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, July 9, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., will be held on the 6th floor of the Flaxman Library of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. For those who have always associated the Art Institute with the lions on Michigan Avenue, take note! The Flaxman Library is located at 37 S. Wabash at the northeast corner of the intersection of Wabash and Monroe. (Wabash) is located one block east of State Street and one block west of Michigan Avenue).

ARTS member Roland Hansen, Readers' Services Librarian at the Flaxman Library, has kindly arranged for the Art Institute to provide attendees with a light breakfast that morning; so plan accordingly. An added visual treat will be a special display of current acquisitions in the Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection. Our great appreciation goes to Roland Hansen for his generous hospitality!

Greetings From the Chair: On the Arts Section Program in Chicago

"Is Seeing Understanding? Approaches to Visual/Media Literacy in an Information Age." A Program of the ARTS Section, Saturday, July 8, at 2 p.m.

A recent ALA Presidential Committee (1989) discussed what it means to be literate: "... A person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information." The implication of this quote seems to be that the manipulation of text-based information resources will somehow be sufficient. But is this definition broad enough to encompass the bundling of visual images into complex textural and aural media packages? How do users interpret and understand visual images?

With the growth of access to all kinds of electronic imagery, not to mention the heightened public interest and concern with developments in the film and television industries, it is obvious that we librarians and information specialists need to have skills beyond those focused on the handling of text-based information. As new media packages are created, deconstructed, and enhanced, our institutions in order to remain engaged with this discourse must focus more training and instruction resources on our users to help them maximize what they can acquire from these sources.

This task will demand the collaborative expertise of those who have developed more than a superficial familiarity with the substance of dance, film, theater, and the visual arts. A large cast of librarians, system specialists, actors, artists (performance and visual), choreographers, dancers, and film and theater directors, along with art historians and dance and film critics, will be called upon to bring

these new media-rich information packages to fruition.

These are some of the issues that Mary Keelan, Director of Development, Advocacy, and Media, Mid-Hudson Library System, Poughkeepsie, NY; Sally Mason-Robinson, Director of Library Projects, National Video Resources, Chicago; Paula Murphy, Librarian, Research Services, Chicago Historical Society; and Peter Neal, Director, Education Corporation of Public Broadcasting, Washington, DC, will be addressing. As always, it is hoped that these presentations will appeal not only to the members of the ARTS Section, but also to those who see visual/media literacy as important an issue in the next decade as information literacy has been and still is.

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of ways, or who have an interest in a broad range of performance disciplines including, but not limited to : theatre, dance, music, performance, art, popular entertainment, mine, puppetry and circus. This forum provides an opportunity for these individuals to discuss issues and exchange ideas which would improve access to and the organization of performing arts materials in libraries and archives; inform, educate and encourage cooperation through activities and programs; and encourage, develop and support projects that expand the knowledge of these performance disciplines and their relations with librarianship.

Questions? Address them to Nancy L. Stokes, Performing and Visual Arts Bibliographer, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-1707, (330) 972-6011; nstokes@uakron.edu

NEW GROUP MEETS

Be a pioneer! Join like-minded colleagues at the inaugural meeting of the Performing Arts Librarians Discussion Group on Sunday, July 9 from 8-9 a.m., Hilton Chicago and Towers, Boulevard B. The discussion group was recognized officially by the ARTS Section Executive Committee at the June 1999 ALA Conference in New Orleans.

The Performing Arts Librarian Discussion Group encourages the participation of those library professionals who provide reference service, who select materials, who catalog materials in all formats, who provide access services in a variety

Join the Dutch Treat Lunch! Don't forget to reserve lunch time on Sunday, July 9 for the traditional get-together following the Membership/Executive Committee Meeting, 9:30-12:30. The location for this fun event will be announced at the meeting. It is guaranteed to be near the Flaxman Library, Wabash and Monroe. Please join your old and new friends for lunch on Sunday.

LIBRARIANS TO SPEAK AT DANCE CONFERENCE

Three ARTS Section members, all active in the wider Dance community, will present a panel during the *Dancing in the Millennium* Conference in Washington, July 19-23, 2000. Meeting organizers expect at least twenty major dance organizations and associations in the nation to be represented at this major international conference.

With the title "Marketing Dance to the World Community—It is Free and in Your Backyard", the panel will address the role of the library as a grassroots supporter of dance which can facilitate the distribution of dance information worldwide. It will explore how any dance organization can work with libraries to connect themselves to their community and beyond. Included will be information on how to work with all kinds of libraries to publicize dance events, obtain performance or meeting space, present lecture demonstrations, distribute performance videos or other information on a national and international level, preserve and document performances and company information in the community where it is produced, and generally become connected to any community.

Also addressed will be how libraries and dance companies can work together as partners in getting grant funding from local arts organizations. There will be a look at what the importance of these marketing activities are to the dance research community. Finally it will address how dancers can become informally and formally involved.

Speakers will include, Mary Edsall, Past-Chair of ACRL ARTS Dance Committee and Consulting Archivist for the Dance Heritage Coalition; Paula Murphy, Research Service Librarian, Chicago Historical Society; Nancy Stokes, University of Akron, Mary Strow, Bibliographer for Dance, Theatre and Drama, Indiana University.

Dancing in the Millennium is an international conference that promotes collaboration among organizations concerned with dance, dance studies, and other dance-related professions and pursuits. The conference will bring together archivists, choreographers, critics, dancers, educators, ethnographers, historians, movement analysts, notators, performers, physicians, researchers, scholars, therapists, and others to encourage dialogue and growth in dance and related areas of study and interest, and promote the visibility of dance in our time. The conference will feature not only individual presentations of work across a broad spectrum of dance studies, but exhibitions, lecture-demonstrations, performances, and workshops.

For details about the panel participants, please telephone or email Mary Edsall, (215) 204-8710, medsall@astro.temple.edu. For more information and registration details for *Dancing in the Millennium*, phone (301) 657-2883 or ndea@erols.com.

DEATH SADDENS SECTION

Shortly before ARTS Section members gathered in January for the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, the unexpected and sorrowful news of Kim Fisher's tragic death by accident reached us. Kim and his golden retriever Laika were hit and killed by an automobile while on an evening walk, January 7, 2000 in Lemont, Pennsylvania.

Kim Fisher, 51 had been active in the ARTS Section as Section Vice Chair and Chair, 1991-93, committee member, and mentor to many. He was serving as chair of the planning committee at the time of his death. He received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in library science, both from the University of Kentucky.

He received a master's degree in English from Virginia Commonwealth University. After holding positions in Virginia and Oklahoma he joined the Penn State University Libraries in 1984. In 1990, he became a humanities librarian, where he developed and managed the collections in English and American literature, theatre, and film. He was widely respected at Penn State for the depth of his knowledge in the humanities, and his outstanding service to both students and faculty.

In 1999, he was named the first Paterno Family Librarian in Literature in the Penn State University Libraries. This is an endowed professorship that recognizes academic excellence within the area of literature. He authored *On the Screen*, a film and television reference book that received recognition as an outstanding reference work, as well as a variety of articles and papers.

He was an excellent photographer and took many trips to different parts of the United States and Europe, where he combined his love of travel with his enjoyment of photography. He was involved with the Acoustic Brew Coffeehouse series, and served in a range of roles, from emcee to host for out-of-town performers. As a long-time president of Lemont, he participated in a variety of village activities.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to either the Paterno Libraries Endowment, Office of the Dean, The Pennsylvania State University Libraries, 510 Paterno, University Park, PA 16802 or to the Acoustic Brew Coffeehouse, Box 1090, Lemont, PA 16851.

(Ed. Note: Much of the information on Kim Fisher was provided by the Pennsylvania State University Libraries.)

ARTS AT IFLA, 1999 BANGKOK

The 65th IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Council and General Conference was held August 20-28 in Bangkok, Thailand. Under the gracious patronage of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, the conference was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn who presided over the Opening Ceremony and presented the Keynote Speech. Her Royal Highness stressed that it is necessary for library and information professionals from all parts of the world to take up the challenge to scrutinize every relevant aspect of the theme: *On the Threshold of the 21st Century: Libraries as Gateways to an Enlightened World*.

I am privileged to have been appointed as the American Library Association representative to the IFLA section of Art Libraries. This is a 4-year appointment. For me, the most impressive part of my first IFLA experience was the action and commitment of librarians and information specialists to the freedom of access to information and intellectual freedom. This commitment being carried out on a global level is truly inspiring.

It is IFLA's aim to become a truly global organization representing the interests and catering to the needs of librarians and libraries of all kinds throughout the world. Holding the conference in Thailand is one concrete piece of evidence that IFLA is seriously pursuing that aim. The 65th IFLA Conference in Thailand proposes that the international library community commit itself to meet the challenges of building a more enlightened world by focusing on the quality of its collections, contents and services, reaching out to all levels and groups of society, ensuring equitable access to knowledge, and strengthening its position in the dynamic global information market place. As agents of change, librarians have a role to play in converting data into information, information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom. We do this by providing the means by

which our patrons seek a better future. It is important that we, as librarians, recognize that quantity and availability do not necessarily guarantee quality and desirable information.

The IFLA Section for Art Libraries is comprised of 20 appointed members from 17 different countries. General membership in the Art Section numbers 98, representing 32 countries. This is one of the best geographic coverage's of any of the IFLA Sections. During the conference the Section had 2 Standing Committee meetings, one session of presented papers on the theme *Electronic Art Information: Creating It, Disseminating It, Archiving It - Is It Worth the Cost?*, and one workshop entitled *Blurring the Boundaries: Should Art Librarians Work with Archivists, Curators, Educators, or Become More Specialized?*.

The Section endeavors to represent libraries and organizations concerned with all formats of textual and visual documentation for the visual arts, including fine arts, applied arts, design and architecture. The Section strives to improve access to information about these subjects for users of independent research libraries, museum libraries, art libraries attached to educational institutions art departments within national, college, university and public libraries, government departments and agencies, libraries in cultural centers and other collections of art information. The Section is also concerned with the creation, study and enjoyment of the visual arts through these libraries and with the encouragement of activities of national and regional societies of art librarians and visual resources curators. It provides an international forum for the free exchange of information and materials on art and furthers the aims of the Core Program of IFLA.

I also attended sessions of the Copyright and Legal Matters (CLM) Committee, and sessions of the Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee. These were of particular interest because the issues were addressed on an international level. One of my first meetings was the USA Caucus meeting in which voting processes, discussion of candidates and resolutions and key issues were discussed.

On the social scene, I attended a reception jointly hosted by the Library of Congress and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

Registration for IFLA includes library tours and cultural tours. My library tour package was to Silpakorn University (the art and architecture university) which houses the National Gallery and several other Museum Galleries. My cultural tour package was to Ayuthaya, an area north of Bangkok where the ruins of the ancient Thai Kingdom are located.

A very pleasant consequence of attending a conference in Bangkok was the opportunity to reconnect with many of the Thai librarians who have visited us at The University of Akron. I was happy to have the chance to spend some time with Nooj, Boontah, Samporn, Porntep, and Yee.

Next year IFLA will meet in Jerusalem, Israel and in 2001 in Boston.

Nancy Stokes
University of Akron

SCHEDULE FOR THE ARTS SECTION; ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, July 8, 9:30 -12:30 p.m. All-Committee; Meeting, Sheraton Chicago, Michigan A

Saturday, July 8, 10:00 -12:00 noon *Visual Literacy: What It Is: -Teaching Strategies* a program at the McCormick Convention Center S505B

Saturday, July 8, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Is Seeing Understanding? Approaches to Visual/Media Literacy* in an Information Age, a program at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Ballroom E

Sunday, July 9, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Performing Arts Librarians Discussion Group, Hilton Chicago and Towers, Boulevard B

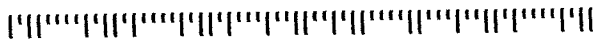
Sunday, July 9, 9:30 -12:30 p.m. Membership/Executive Committee Meeting, 6th floor, Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash

Sunday, July 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Dance Librarians Discussion Group, Hilton Chicago and Towers, Waldorf

Sunday, July 9, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Film/Broadcast Librarians Discussion Group, Hilton Chicago and Towers, PDR 3

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