

# Arts Newsletter

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Association of College and Research Libraries Art Section v.3 no. 1 Fall 1987

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## IMAGE AND IMAGINATION: ADAPTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR SCHOLARSHIP IN THE ARTS-- A report from the ACRL Art Section program June 29, 1987

IMAGE AND IMAGINATION, the ACRL Art Section program for 1987, set out to present some of the advances in technology which are helping to, literally, change the picture of research in the arts. The visual image is primary to much of art scholarship, and as such, practitioners of art librarianship have long wrestled with the difficulties of access to this fundamental resource. Fortunately, computer and optical disk technologies are creating new paths for access to these visual images and in doing so, are opening avenues of scholarship that might never before have been imagined.

In addressing this theme, David C. Miller described the new optical technologies, their role and function; Brian O'Connor presented his ideas on a new way to browse images with computer technology; and as proof that the future is now, Ching-chih Chen demonstrated her innovative interactive videodisc, PROJECT EMPEROR-I.

David Miller's talk was entitled "Access to Images: the New Optical Media." Miller, the founder and managing partner of DCM Associates in Benecia, California, is a nationally recognized information resources management consultant and during the 1970s was a founding member of the modern futures studies movement. He is the author of many articles and reports on CD-ROM library applications, several of which were sponsored by the Fred Meyer Trust's Library and Information Resources for the Northwest. One of his current projects is a book on establishing CD-ROM reference

collections in libraries. His presentation began with a poem and in so doing, introduced the new optical media as simply an extension of more traditional forms of communication. He described some crucial advantages of optical disc technology, such as high density, durability, access, and economy. He explained the difference between analog and digital recording, and how the laser beams track the data stored on the disc. One of the optical media described was the standard 12-inch, double-sided, analog laser disc, most often used for still or moving images. This kind of disc can hold up to 54,000 frames per side. In terms of compact disc technology, he outlined three implementations: read-only, write-once read-many, and erasable. The first translates into CD-ROM which is now on the market; the second into CD-WORM; the third, however, will probably not be readily available until the 1990s. Compact discs are 4 and 3/4 inch, single-sided discs which are digitally encoded. These can hold 540 million ASCII characters or 3,000 to 5,000 images. He noted that the now familiar compact music disc had paved the way for current compact disc development. A development for the future is CDI, compact disc interactive, which is particularly promising for instructional use. One area yet to be resolved is the problem of copyright restriction, especially for image duplication. He emphasized that these new media have not yet reached their full application potential and that libraries, especially art libraries, are in an excellent position to take on a leadership role.

Next, Brian O'Connor delivered his paper on "Machine Augmented Browsing of Image Documents." An independent film  
(continued page 6)

## GENERAL BUSINESS AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Art Section annual General Business and Membership Meeting was held in San Francisco on June 28, 1987. The general business meeting included reports on various activities of the section, the status of work among the ad hoc committees, and plans for the upcoming meetings in San Antonio in January and New Orleans in July.

Officers and chairs present were Janice Woo, Nancy Allen, Roland Hansen, Charles Smith, Stephen Patrick, Darryl Barrett, Stephen Bloom, Paula Murphy, and Micheline Nilsen. Others in attendance were Alice Loranth, Hikmet Dogu, Howard Besser, Nancy Goldman, Anna Mancini, Allen Cohen, Curt Jerde, Floyd Zula, Timothy Shipe, Susan Bernard, Monica Moseley, Clare Dudley, and Sandra Mooney.

The minutes of the midwinter meeting in Chicago were approved as recorded in the Spring 1987 issue of Arts Newsletter. Woo briefly reported on the actions of the first Executive Meeting on Saturday. She then outlined the plans for newsletter editor. A new editor will be appointed to serve for a three-year term: as co-editor

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for the first year, and full editor for the next two years with selection of a new co-editor in the third year. The idea of co-editors allows for a transition period between the two editors.

As Chair-elect, Allen reported that she is very optimistic about the future of the Art Section. New life is evident from the response with affiliate organizations. The plans for the 1988 program have been enthusiastically received and high attendance is expected. Allen wants ARTS to keep connections with our non-academic arts librarians counterparts as well.

Woo reported on the Activity Sections Council. A new ACRL nominating schedule has been approved, and a plan for a special programs fund was established. ACRL is encouraging a reduction of the number of meetings at conferences, and the Art Section has responded by combining various committee meetings into one general business meeting.

Reports of the Mission & Goals, Publications, and Membership ad hoc Committees were then presented.

Murphy, Chair of the 1988 Program Planning Committee, reported on the plans for the annual meeting in New Orleans. The theme is centered around jazz in the visual and performing arts. Tentative speakers include: Curtis Jerde, Curator of the Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University, who will speak on the photography, film, poster, and recorded sound holdings of the Archive; Edward Manney, Assistant Curator, Vivian G. Harsch Collection of Afro-American History and Literature, Chicago Public Library, who will speak on visual materials with a jazz orientation in the Harsch Collection; Don Roberts, Independent Media, Minneapolis, who will speak on the collection of jazz and jazz dance films and videotapes from the distributors' point of view. The Music Library Association is considering co-sponsoring this program.

(continued page 5)

ARTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AT ALA ANNUAL 1987

The Art Section Executive Committee held the first of two meetings in San Francisco on June 27, 1987. The scheduled agenda included reports, discussion and/or action by the Executive Committee on the budgets for 1986-87 and 1987-88, Nominating Committee, orientation manual, the three ad hoc committees: Mission & Goals, Publications, and Membership, and new committee proposals.

Officers and chairs present were Janice Woo, Nancy Allen, Darryl Barrett, Stephen Bloom, Micheline Nilsen, Stephen Patrick, and Charles Smith. Others in attendance were Allen Cohen, John Larsen, and Floyd Zula. Sharon Hogan, Chair of ACRL, was also present. Fred Blum and Roland Hansen were absent.

Woo reported on the budget for 1986-87. Of the \$200 allotted, only \$30 was spent. As incoming chair, Allen then reported that the budget for 1987-88 was pending due to decisions that will be made at this conference. There were some problems with the program budget concerning speakers and honoraria, but she was confident that the problem would be resolved.

Bloom, Chair of the 1988-89 Nominating Committee, was pleased to announce that Alice Loranth of the Cleveland Public Library and Paula Murphy of Columbia College in Chicago had graciously accepted the nomination of Vice-chair/Chair-elect for 1988-89.

Discussion on the orientation manual was postponed until the second Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, pending attendance of Hansen.

Patrick, Chair of the Mission & Goals Committee, distributed copies of the draft document to the committee. Patrick reported that the statement was adapted from suggestions made at midwinter meeting. No additional comments were received after notice in Arts Newsletter. The plan was derived goal by goal from the ACRL Strategic Planning Task Force mission and goals for ACRL. Discussion followed and action was postponed until the second Executive Committee meeting which would

allow for the committee to go over the document in greater detail.

As Publications Committee Chair, Nilsen recommended that the ad hoc committee be approved as a standing committee of the Section. The new committee would have jurisdiction over the publishing program of the Section, including the Arts Newsletter, a directory of arts-related library associations and archives (work-in-progress). Nilsen also expressed interest in the publishing of an occasional papers series. Further discussion centered around the appointment of an editor or co-editors of the newsletter, the use of regular reporters of specific activities and organizations, expansion of the Arts Newsletter and making it more timely.

Allen, Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that she contacted chairs of related organizations, as well as their publications editors. The future of some of the organizations is in doubt, especially the Picture Division of SIA. The Museums, Archives and Humanities Division expressed interest in hosting jointly sponsored programs with regional groups in years the central organization does not meet. Allen recommended that the Past-chair of ARTS serve as membership liaison coordinator. Motion was made that the ad hoc Membership Committee dissolve and the duties be transferred to the Past-chair. Bloom seconded, and the motion carried.

Woo brought proposals for new committees before the Executive Committee. They included an ad hoc Bylaws Committee, and standing committees for Publications and Technology in the Arts. Discussion followed. Woo submitted the Bylaws and Publications Committees; both were approved. Allen submitted the Committee on Technology in the Arts: committee approved.

The ACRL Section review for the San Antonio agenda, Group 3 is due September 1, 1989. The Executive Committee will begin discussing this review at midwinter.

The second Art Section Executive Committee meeting took place in San  
(continued page 7)

ART SECTION (ARTS)  
ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MISSION-----

The Art Section (ARTS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) provides a forum for librarians and others working in or interested in the visual and 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.

GOALS-----

The following goals and objectives have been developed in accordance to guidelines set forth by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) to support and enhance the overall mission and plans of the organization.

**GOAL I.** To promote and speak for the interests of arts librarianship.

**Subgoal A.** To enhance awareness of the role of arts libraries among non-library professionals and organizations and to develop effective working relationships with them.

**Objective 1.** Create opportunities for arts librarians to interact with other professionals in the academic community and the arts.

**Objective 2.** Develop and maintain new alliances with other professional arts organizations.

**Objective 3.** Develop public relations activities to enhance understanding of arts libraries.

**Subgoal B.** To monitor and speak out on government and private sector activities likely to affect arts librarianship.

**Objective 1.** Bring relevant issues to the attention of ACRL.

**Subgoal C.** To support and participate in the recruitment and retention of outstanding persons to the field of academic and research librarianship in the arts.

**Objective 1.** Support ACRL in their efforts of recruitment.

**Subgoal D.** To help shape library education programs in accordance with the needs of arts librarianship.

**Objective 1.** Assist ACRL in describing how library schools might address the changing needs of arts libraries.

**Objective 2.** Advise, encourage, and assist library schools in offering specialized courses, workshops, and independent studies for arts librarianship.

**GOAL II.** To enhance the capability of arts libraries to serve the needs of their users.

**Subgoal A.** To adopt and support standards and guidelines needed by the field.

**Objective 1.** Identify, develop, and promote standards and guidelines for arts librarians.

**Subgoal B.** To identify, explore, and act on problems and issues facing arts libraries.

**GOAL III.** To promote study, research, and publication relevant to arts librarianship.

**Subgoal A.** To identify research topics and to encourage improvement in research.

**Objective 1.** Develop research priorities related to arts libraries.

**Objective 2.** Support incentives for research in the arts.

**Objective 3.** Support research projects, report works-in-progress, and disseminate research results in the arts.

**Subgoal B.** To advance the professional knowledge of arts librarians through an effective publishing program.

**Objective 1.** Review the arts publication program to ensure that it supports section mission, goals, and objectives.

**Objective 2.** Publish the Arts Newsletter on a regular basis.

**GOAL IV.** To contribute to the total professional development of arts librarians.

**Subgoal A.** To sponsor and encourage opportunities for arts librarians to update existing competencies, learn requisite new skills, and gain awareness of the state of the art, based on member needs assessment.

**Objective 1.** Develop programming for annual conference meetings.

**Objective 2.** Provide a forum for discussion at section meetings.

**Objective 3.** Co-ordinate programs and projects with related organizations and associations.

**Objective 4.** Disseminate results and items of interest to the membership through an active publications program.

**Subgoal B.** To encourage and promote active membership participation in all section activities.

**Objective 1.** Plan for ongoing recruitment of members.

**Objective 2.** Develop projects that utilize members areas of expertise.

**Subgoal C.** To provide career placement information regarding arts librarianship.

**Objective 1.** Encourage members and their home institutions to advertise available arts positions in College & Research Libraries News.

#### General Business continued

Monica Burdex of the MLA Jazz and Pop Section is serving as liaison with the ARTS Program Planning Committee. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the audiovisual budget request, possible tours of special jazz collections in the New Orleans area, and possible cinema nightcap co-sponsor with PLA of a classic jazz film.

New business centered around a brief discussion of a possible unofficial program at Midwinter in San Antonio sponsored by the newly created Technology in the Arts Committee.

Stephen Allan Patrick  
ARTS Secretary, 1987-89

## Conference Program continued

maker, O'Connor is currently associated with IDOX in Berkeley, California, where he does consulting on image-based systems. His dissertation and subsequent publications have explored various facets of the moving image as document. His presentation provided the foundation and development for an electronic browser of video documents that can be likened to the physical browsing of print documents. The foundation of his research deals with three types of meaning: the author's meaning, the user's or reader's meaning, and the document's meaning. Since situational variables can significantly affect the overlap between author meaning and user meaning, he posited that the document meaning or document structure stands as an objective link among the three. Unlike print documents, the video document is a matrix of multi-sequential phenomena, like picture tracks, narration tracks, music tracks, etc. It can also be distinguished by its logical or iconographic picture vs. its physical picture or structural attributes. As a corollary to meaning, he then explored the idea and function of an abstract. From the Latin "ab" and "traho", the abstract extracts some original units of data, generalizes the units, combines and highlights them. An abstract of the author's meaning is created by an agency based on a set of assumptions about the wants of the user. Again, however, this can differ significantly from the actual user's needs. O'Connor therefore has developed a model for the abstraction or pulling from the physical document itself. Four ways of abstracting a moving-image document are 1) to describe the thing being portrayed in terms of its iconographic value, 2) to describe where this thing appears in the document, i.e. location within a frame, 3) relationship of the recording devices to the thing being portrayed, and 4) the temporal relationships between the various elements associated with the thing. This abstracting creates a mode of browsing for the user, which alleviates the need for correspondence with author meaning or

agency-derived abstract, and allows the user to fashion his own personal meaning through his browsing of the document itself.

Ching-chih Chen then presented her demonstration of PROJECT EMPEROR-I entitled "Interactive Videodisc Technology and Access to Multi-media Information Sources for Scholarly Research in the Arts." Chen is Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, Boston. She is also the Principal Investigator and Project Director of the PROJECT EMPEROR-I: China's Treasure Revealed Via Videodisc Technology, which began in 1984. Her investigatory work has culminated in the production of two 12-inch analog videodiscs which present and interpret a major historical and archaeological period of China's past, the Qin dynasty. One disc contains over 4,000 still-frame slides and 200 segments from film and videotape recordings. The second disc contains interviews with ten experts in the field and in itself has become a valuable oral history for China's research. Narration on the discs can be heard in both English and Chinese. Additional textual and reference sources are stored on a microcomputer database which is linked, interactively, with the two discs. The two discs are arranged in thematic chapters so that linear browsing is one mode of access. Search software, moreover, accommodates random access with boolean logic, and up to 25 subject terms can be searched simultaneously. Chen demonstrated how any image can be accessed in three seconds, and how the entire set of still-images could be browsed in about three minutes. It is this kind of access and organization that shows the real innovation of PROJECT EMPEROR-I, and that points the way to our further development of optical technologies for research and scholarship in the arts.

## Executive Committee continued

Francisco on June 28, 1987. The agenda included discussion and action by the Executive Committee on the draft mission and goals statement/plan and the orientation manual.

Those present were Janice Woo, Nancy Allen, Charles Smith, Stephen Patrick, Darryl Barrett, Roland Hansen, Stephen Bloom, Paula Murphy, Micheline Nilsen, and Alice Loranth.

The meeting began with a discussion of the draft mission and goals statement prepared by Stephen Patrick, Chair of the Mission & Goals Committee, and distributed at the first committee meeting on Saturday. The Executive Committee approved the rewrite of the mission statement based on the draft which appeared in the Spring 1987 issue of the Arts Newsletter. The revised statement reads, "the Art Section (ARTS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) provides a forum for librarians and others working in or interested in the visual and performing arts." After reviewing the goals portion of the document, it was decided to rearrange and revise sections of the draft plan. A complete revised version of the ARTS Mission & Goals Statement will appear in the Fall issue of the Arts Newsletter so that all ARTS members will be able to review it prior to adoption at the Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio next January 1988.

A discussion on the orientation manual followed. It was decided that Barrett, Hansen, and Woo would take portions of the manual for revision and would send the final version to Allen who would edit and publish the manual by August 15th.

Stephen Allan Patrick  
ARTS Secretary, 1987-89

## New Members Wanted for New Committees

Technology in the Arts is one of the new Art Section committees established at annual conference 1987. The charge of this committee is a) to keep informed of the uses of technology applicable to libraries and archives of the visual and performing arts; and b) to act as a resource and information sharing vehicle for those involved in the uses of technology for arts-related library and information service. The committee is to be composed of six members and a chair, who will all be appointed following Midwinter 1988. Any Art Section member who wishes to be considered should send a letter explaining areas of interest and experience to Nancy Allen, Art Section Chair, Purdy Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

The ad hoc Publications Committee has now been established as an Art Section standing committee. Its charge is to coordinate all publications associated with the Section. Serving as an advisory unit to the Section executive committee, the committee is to identify publication needs; stimulate research and writing; and oversee development and production of selected projects. Anyone wishing to serve on this committee should contact Charles Smith, Art Section Vice-chair, Sterling Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

## New Art Section Officers

The Art Section Vice-chair/Chair-elect 1987-88 is Charles R. Smith of Sterling Evans Library at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Elected as the Art Section Secretary 1987-89 is Stephen Allan Patrick of Sherrod Library at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614.

Nancy Allen of Wayne State University has assumed the position of Section Chair, while Janice Woo of Columbia University is now serving as Past-chair.

Next year's candidates for Vice-chair/Chair-elect are Alice Loranth of the Cleveland Public Library and Paula Murphy of Columbia College in Chicago.

New Co-editor for Arts Newsletter is Joan F. Cheverie of Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057.

## Midwinter Meetings

Saturday, January 9 9:30-11:00  
Meeting for all Art Section Committees  
(Program Planning, Publications, etc.)

Saturday, January 9 11:30-12:30  
Art Section Executive Committee

Sunday, January 10 9:30-11:00  
General Business and Membership  
meeting

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