

ARLIS/NA New York City Conference Report from the ARLIS/NA-SE Professional Development Travel Award Winner

by Katy Parker, Research and Instruction Librarian, Jen Library, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

After being a member of the Southeast Chapter for five years and serving as treasurer for the past three, I was finally able to attend the Annual Conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America in New York City. This was an excellent professional development and networking experience for me that would not have been possible without the Southeast Chapter's generous travel award.

During the conference, I participated in as many group meetings, sessions, and other conference activities as my schedule would allow. One of my primary reasons for attending the conference was to present a poster session, "Housing Non-traditional Special Collections Materials: A Candle Story," chronicling the preservation journey of a unique object in the Jen Library Archives and Special Collections. Presenting a poster at my first national conference allowed me to meet librarians interested in similar projects and even to build connections with librarians in need of information on preserving these exact same objects. I attended meetings for several Special Interest Groups and Divisions related to my current position and personal interests. In the Book Arts SIG meeting, we discussed innovative ways to promote, arrange, and teach with artist books. I gave a lightning presentation at the Art and Design School Libraries Division meeting on teaching information literacy with materials collections. I was also elected co-moderator of the ADSL Division.

The topics of the sessions I attended ranged from libraries as exhibition spaces to social media use in libraries serving art and design patrons. The session I found most interesting was "The Labor of Curiosity: Expanded Practices of Artists and Librarians." In this session a panel of artists and librarians described a collaborative endeavor undertaken by a network of art librarians and professional artists to explore the processes of helping someone with a question and of receiving help with a question. During the course of the project, each artist wrote to a librarian (via snail mail), and each librarian wrote to an artist—different from the one who had contacted them. Participants were encouraged to send each other not only letters but also images and objects. The results of the project were a wealth of shared knowledge, information, and thought processes, some of which was documented for the attendees during the presentation.

With the help of the Southeast Chapter of ARLIS/NA, I was able to share my research and experience with the national community and to build the connections to become more involved at both the national and chapter levels. I look forward to continuing my professional development in Salt Lake City in 2019 and serving on the 2019 ARLIS/NA-SE Professional Development Travel Award Committee.

Conference Volunteer Activities:

- Pre-Conference Bag Stuffing

Sessions:

- Reaching Out and Showing Off: Exhibitions and Collections in Academic Libraries
- The Labor of Curiosity: Expanded Practices of Artists and Librarians
- Pushing the Boundaries: Teaching and Learning Outside the Classroom
- Accessing Visual Culture: Deconstructing the Intellectual and Physical Challenges of Making Visual Content Accessible for Researchers
- Library Collections and Object-Based Learning in the Art and Design Curriculum
- Libraries Resist

- #artlibraries: Taking the Pulse of Social Media in Art Library Environments
- A Value Proposition: Understanding Distinctive, Special, and Archival Collections

Chapter, SIGs and Divisions:

- ArLiSNAP
- Chapter Leadership Meeting
- Diversity Committee SIG
- Southeast Chapter Business Meeting
- Book Arts SIG
- Art and Design School Division
- LGBTQ+ SIG
- Academic Division SIG

Tours and Workshops:

- Tour of the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Events:

- Exhibit Hall Opening Reception
- Reception for First-time Attendees and New Members
- Opening Reception
- Membership Breakfast and Business Meeting
- ArLiSNAP Night Out
- Convocation and Awards Ceremony