

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference Indianapolis, IN, April 16-21

This year's Circle City Convergence in Indianapolis was my first ARLIS conference experience, and it proved to be a great introduction to the organization and the professionals behind it. Through a combination of sessions, meetings, and social events, I was able to learn about the most current issues in art librarianship and meet and connect with a number of art and architecture librarians and visual resources professionals from across Canada and the U.S.

My conference experience began with the First Time Attendees Orientation, which provided a really useful overview of ARLIS structure and gave me a clearer picture of the way the different sections, chapters, committees, and working groups function. The convocation and awards ceremony was next, and I was very happy to accept the 2008-9 ARLIS Internship Award in person. Rina Vecchiola, the incoming Chair of the ARLIS Internship Award Sub-Committee, gave me a very thoughtful introduction and took care to ensure that everyone knew who I was. In addition, Max Anderson, the CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, gave a really interesting presentation on the Museum and its website.

The main themes of this year's conference were change, evolution, and revolution, no doubt influenced by both the effects of the ongoing digitalization of all forms of information and the recent global economic implosion. From the Opening Plenary presentation by Jim Neal of Columbia University to the numerous sessions on the transforming landscape of collection development, reference service, and technologies, there was a consistent emphasis on continuous change and an increasing need to reach beyond traditional library roles.

My favourite session at this year's conference was *Visual Literacy: What? Why? How?* presented by Barbara Rockenbach, Carole Ann Fabian, and Ian McDermott. The session opened my eyes to a number of new possibilities for partnering with faculty in facilitating instruction and critical skill development. The panel articulated some ideas I have been considering about the pedagogical use of images in all subject disciplines and provided me with many new and exciting research avenues.

The big Circle City Celebration took place at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. We conference-goers were lucky to get the run of the *European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century* exhibition, and I ogled many amazing examples of contemporary furniture and industrial design. The exhibition also meant that there were some great additions to the museum shop!

I was also able to get away from the conference for a couple of hours to explore a few of Indianapolis' unique neighbourhoods and architecture. There were many examples of beautiful Art Deco facades in and around the downtown core, but I think my favourite examples of public art were the bears holding up the lampposts around Monument Square.

Unfortunately, there was no Northwest Chapter meeting at the conference this year (although I did attend the Canada Chapter meeting), so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Northwest Chapter for its assistance in making my first trip to the ARLIS/NA conference possible. My conference experience was truly invigorating and both confirmed and strengthened my ultimate career goal of becoming an art librarian.

[Coca Cola Bottling Co.](#)

[Statue of bears on the Monument Circle in Indianapolis, Indiana.](#)