

# 2019 ARLIS/NA Conference Travel Award Report

Bridget Nowlin, MA + MLIS Visual Arts Librarian  
Salt Lake City, Utah March 27-30, 2019

I'd like to begin by thanking the ARLIS/NA NW Chapter for the generous award that enabled me to attend this conference. This conference is always one that has a lasting impact on my librarian practice and I come away having learned more that I can then share with my colleagues and students.

This year I presented at the conference on the *Visual Literacy as Pedagogical Tool* panel and we were amongst the very first panels. This panel was very well attended and the audience was really engaged and asked many questions. I continued to get questions throughout the conference from attendees; this is a topic of great interest to instruction librarians!

From the description:

In this series of presentations, the panelists will examine various ways in which librarians can use different strategies to highlight how photographs and images can be used to promote engagement with collections and instruction. Using various examples drawn from a wide variety of teaching environments, the panelists will delve deeper into the role of visual literacy in the larger framework of instruction.

Margaret Ericson, "Photography and Migration," will discuss how scholars, librarians, students, curators, and community members at Colby College have come together to reflect upon the relationships between the medium of photography, migration and community.

Bridget Nowlin, "Using the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) method developed by Philip Yenawine and Abigail Housen in library instruction," will share the process she uses with theater students to incorporate VTS and will discuss the results of a long-term collaboration with Theater History instructors.

Micki Harrington, "Embedded Literacies in an Art School Photography Program," will share strategies for implementing an embedded information & visual literacy instruction program for photography majors.

Robert Gore, "Photo literacy and undergraduate students," will describe some of the strategies employed over a ten-week credit class to encourage engagement with photographs through historical photo books, contemporary

photo books, photo-based artists' books, the work of individual photographers, and book making.

#### Learning Objective

- Provide examples of photography/images integrated into instruction

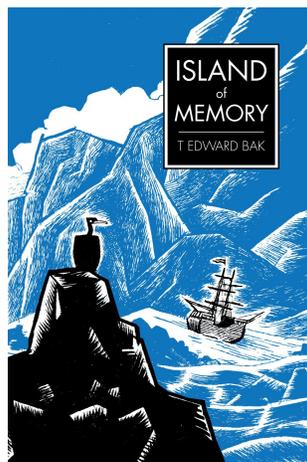
I personally learned much from Robert's presentation as I have a strong interest in photography.

I then attended the *Diversity Forum* and was able to learn about several lists where I could post the open position we were going to have at Cornish College of the Arts. It is difficult to know what, if any, impact this had on our applicants and I wish there were some way to get feedback on this.

I found the presentation *First Year Insight: Disrupting assumptions about research in Art & Design* offered several ideas and approaches to first year sessions that I have since employed at Cornish. These included Mackenzie Salisbury of the Art Institute of Chicago's Exquisite Corpse approach to mind-mapping which I found to be very successful with my students.

This was followed by *Inciting Learning by Doing: Bringing Active Learning into your Classroom* where they introduced tools such as Padlet, Mindmeister, and <https://bubbl.us/> as well as processes such as Sara Quimby's activity *In 6 words or less, name a step in the research process* where you then pass one paper around, take a photo of it, and project it in the moment for discussion and fill in what's missing. I also noticed that several presenters use Oxford Art Online dbase in their classroom workshops and I want to see about adding this to my classroom instruction beyond just showing students the database.

I also spent time at the Graphic Novel SIG where the author T Edward Bak presented their research-heavy and beautiful graphic novel *Island of Memory*.



The remainder of the conference was spent in a multitude of sessions including:

*Assessment in Art Libraries*, where they shared their data [here](#).

*State of Academic Art Libraries 2019 report*

*Digital and Diverse Collections: Creation, Management, and Development*

*Art & Design School Libraries*

*Maps, Lines, Paths: Insights and Art*

*Artstor meeting*

*Photography SIG* where I learned that Photography is going to be classified as a Fine Art per Deidre. But will it keep the TR designation? This is unclear. She may post about this later when it's clarified.

Finally, I wrapped up the conference by attending the *The Spiral Jetty Partnership* presentation where I learned several interesting items including: DIA got artwork and lease for land from Nancy Holt in 1999, the Jetty re-emerged in 2002 and is on state land and they gather visitor stats by using land motion sensors, which is a fascinating method for collecting visitor data.



Thank you once again for this award. It enabled me to further my expertise, deepen professional relationships, and represent the chapter at the national level.

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