

2015 ARLIS/NA and VRA Distinguished Service Award Introduction
Ann Baird Whiteside, Recipient

Presented at the ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference, Seattle, WA, March 11, 2016

Joint remarks from VRA award nominator Mark Pompelia and ARLIS/NA award nominators Jolene de Vergs and Sherman Clarke (not present at ceremony).

We are here to honor Ann Baird Whiteside as the recipient of this year's VRA and ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Awards. Few recipients have been as deserving of this award as our colleague Ann.

Ann has the distinction of being the only person to have served as president of both organizations: as VRA President from 2000-2001 and President of ARLIS/NA from 2006-2007. A partial list of her accomplishments and achievements to our professions includes service on committees and task forces to ARLIS/NA and VRA for the past two decades, including: the ARLIS/NA Strategic Planning Task Force in 1999; the VRA Data Standards Committee, where she contributed to the development of the VRA Core metadata standard; the ARLIS/NA Standards Committee, as chair from 2004-2005; and as co-chair, the ARLIS/NA Conference Planning committee in 2010 in Boston. Most recently, Ann served as co-chair of the ARLIS/NA - VRA Joint Conference Task Force.

It is no exaggeration to say that Ann has contributed in a leadership capacity to nearly every important trailblazing initiative over the past two decades benefiting the cultural heritage community whose mission is collection discoverability. We have all benefited from her far-sightedness, intelligence, and creativity.

One supporter wrote that "Ann asks not only the difficult questions, but the right ones. She possesses a perpetual mindset of seeing both the forest and the trees--and is a marvel of on-point organization and communication."

She served as co-editor of *Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images*, published in 2006, an extensive data content standard that paved the way for resource sharing and interoperability.

Serving as Project Director for the SAHARA initiative, Ann was a strong advocate for those of us in the VRA and ARLIS/NA communities to keep pace with the rapidly changing nature of scholarly communication. Jeffrey Klee, the current co-editor of SAHARA who was part of the early group of scholars and librarians who met regularly to expand the SAHARA concept into a sustainable resource, noted that "there were many good ideas, but it was Ann who, agreeably, respectfully, and always thoughtfully, was able to find an achievable, sustainable path through the thicket of brilliant notions."

While at MIT, Ann served in a leadership role for FACADE, or Future-proofing Architectural Computer-Aided Design, a group that investigated the best methods for capturing, describing, managing, preserving, archiving, and making accessible digital 2-D and 3-D models produced by architects.

These accomplishments would be more than sufficient to explain this award, however those nominating Ann, without exception, noted her good sense, intelligence, even-handedness and ability to compromise.

She was according to everyone, the voice of reason on every committee and during every discussion. This quality as well as her scholarship, help her bring many a contentious issue to resolution and consensus. In the words of one of her colleagues, "Ann is a teacher, she creates a picture, and she lures people in."

We completely agree and wish to extend our congratulation to Ann Whiteside, this year's winner of both the ARLIS/NA and VRA Distinguished Service Awards.

Ann, you exemplify the criteria of both the ARLIS/NA and VRA DSA through your outstanding and sustained service to our professions. It is fitting that both honors are bestowed on you this evening, given the many bridges you have helped to build between the visual resources profession and art librarianship.