

DSA REMARKS



Thank you, Lori. Thank you, Rachel.

Thanks to the members of the DSA committee and to everyone who wrote a letter of support on my behalf. I am truly humbled by and grateful for this award.

When I was in library school in the late 1970s, with my background in art history I knew I wanted to be an art librarian. The school I attended – Wayne State University in Detroit – didn't have a specialization in this area, but I had a wonderful adviser who helped me create an independent study program. Dr. Betty Maurstad compiled readings and helped me get internships at the Detroit Institute of Arts Research Library and the Midwest branch of the Archives of American Art, plus I was working part-time in Wayne's art history slide library. Dr. Maurstad also told me about a new organization called the Art Libraries Society of North America that she thought I would find useful. I joined and obtained copies of the ARLIS/NA Newsletter and was amazed at the wealth of information it contained.

My first professional position was branch head of the library for the University of Detroit extension business program (not sure why they hired an art historian). After a couple of years, I moved to the main campus library and joined the reference department. There I found an incredible community of colleagues who worked together, mentored each other, and formed deep friendships. After a few years, one of my colleagues showed me a job ad for Library Director at Cranbrook Academy of Art. I applied on a whim and was shocked to be offered the position.

I was excited to be finally working in an art library, but suddenly I felt very isolated since I now had only a tiny staff. I had lost my community. I realized that I now needed to look much more broadly for my community, and I remembered ARLIS. I quickly rejoined, and I felt I had a lifeline in the publications and eventually through the colleagues I met at the annual conferences. The more I became involved, the more I wanted to give back, especially in the area of publications, which had been so important to me. I'm grateful to have had opportunities to work with the Publications Committee, the Editorial Board, ARLIS/NA Update, Art Documentation, and the ARLIS-L listserv.

Over time my position at Cranbrook expanded beyond the library, so I now oversee accreditation, the technology staff and the labs, the writing program, graduate reviews, student awards, the Fulbright program, and much more. In March 2023, our new Director undertook some staff reorganization and made me Deputy Director of the school. As we realigned my job responsibilities, I told him everything was negotiable – except the library. I was keeping that. He knew better than to argue with me.

Although I now interact with arts administrators in many other professional organizations, I still consider ARLIS/NA to be my community.

In closing, I'd like to share the words of Mark Twain, who summed up beautifully the importance of community and the role that ARLIS/NA has served in my career.

Every person has an inborn worth and can contribute to the human community. We all can treat one another with dignity and respect, provide opportunities to grow toward our fullest lives, and help one another discover and develop our unique gifts. We each deserve this, and we all can extend it to others. // Thank you SO much.