

## 2016 ARLIS/NA Netherlands Study Tour Report

Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam, and The Hague

Sunday, June 12-Friday, June 17

Summary: The ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee (IRC) organized with our Dutch colleagues a week long study tour to the Netherlands. Fifteen ARLIS/NA members participated in the tour, visiting 18 libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural institutions in four cities.

- Sandy Brooke, Librarian, Marquand Library, Princeton University
- Judy Donovan, Art Librarian, Philadelphia, PA
- Deborah Kempe, Chief, Collections Management & Access, Frick Art Reference Library
- Amanda Leftwich, Library Assistant for Reader Services, Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Erika Linke, Associate Dean of University Libraries, Carnegie Mellon University
- Maggie Long, Special Collections Cataloger, New York, NY
- Daniel Payne, Head, Instructional Services, OCAD University
- Henry Pisciotta, Arts and Architecture Librarian, Pennsylvania State University
- Derek Quezada, Reference Librarian, Getty Research Institute
- Alyssa Resnick, Administrator, Glendale Library, Arts & Culture
- Kenneth Soehner, Arthur K. Watson Chief Librarian, Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Ruth Thomas, Art History Bibliographer, Boston University Library
- Anelia Tuu, Art Librarian, Hungarian National Gallery
- Rina Vecchiola, Art & Architecture Librarian, Washington University - St. Louis
- Tony White, Florence and Herbert Irving Associate Chief Librarian, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Michiel Nijhoff, ARLIS Netherlands, was the local group leader and host. Rina Vecchiola, IRC member, was the group leader and coordinated communication and scheduling with Michiel. Rina made the call for registrants and worked with Robert Kopchinski to monitor the registration list, and handle the application of the collected registration fees to group expenses. IRC members Liv Valmestad and Elisa Hansen served as working group members to help refine the itinerary and select the group hotel. As Liv had recently traveled to Amsterdam, she was able to recommend priorities for sites to visit and provide suggestions for optional activities. Elisa researched hotels, requested group rate quotes, and communicated the participants' dates of arrival and departure with the group hotel selected, the

Bilderberg Hotel Jan Luyken. All study tour group members contributed profile information including descriptions of their expertise, current position, professional interests, organization, description of three institutional projects and three challenges, to a PDF face book document which was shared with our Dutch colleagues prior to our arrival in the Netherlands. All participants were responsible for arranging their own flights and securing their own hotel rooms at the group hotel. The collected participant registration fees were applied to the public transportation between cities and to most of the group lunches and dinners. Participants contributed photos from the trip to a flickr group "ARLIS/NA 2016 Study Tour to the Netherlands."

Some highlights of the tour included a mini symposium with presentations on digital project management and a meet and greet with the members of ARLIS Netherlands. We were treated to several lunches. The Rijksmuseum hosted a lunch for us where we were welcomed by the newly installed museum director, Taco Dibbits. The book vendor Erasmus Books hosted a reception for us at their headquarters. We came together with our Dutch colleagues over the issues of building digital resources through collaboration, new ways to think about how we balance space between users and collections, and reorganizing to unify research and collections services. Participants' particularly appreciated the location of the group hotel, the variety in sites visited, and how enormously welcome we were made to feel everywhere we visited.

Amsterdam June 12-13

Michiel had left some brochures, catalogs, and each participant's transit card at the hotel and this welcome packet was received upon check in. The group gathered for a kick-off dinner Sunday evening at a restaurant near the university, Café de Jaren. Monday started with a visit to the University of Amsterdam Special Collections Library in old Amsterdam. The university buildings were formerly a convent and hospital. We met in the map room. Special collections has an Amsterdam collecting focus. We next visited the Public Library of Amsterdam. The library was planned around 3 activities: traditional library work, lifelong learning and development, and community programming and activities. 25% of Amsterdamers are library members. The library wants to be a meeting place for Amsterdam citizens and its architecture makes it easy to come together. Programs include regular lectures with speakers on outside cultures new to Amsterdam, and an exhibition on the future of Amsterdam with designers and thinkers. There is a larger theater with excellent acoustics and there are four pianos throughout. A local radio station broadcasts from the library. After lunch we walked through the Eastern Harbor area to the International Institute of Social History. The Institute was founded in 1935 by gathering materials

threatened by dictatorships in the 30s together in an archive. Archival collections were taken by Nazi Germany and after the war some of the collections were recovered in Frankfurt and Austria and returned to the Netherlands. Some collections are still missing and suspected to be in Eastern Europe. The former USSR kept collections as compensation for war losses and the Russian government still keeps German archives. The Institute was once part of the university but now is a part of the academy of arts and sciences. The archives are a part of a private foundation on loan to the Institute, to keep them separate from the state. There is a collection of left wing materials: social democrat, anarchist, Trotskyist, Marxist, etc. Communist materials are in their own archival collection. The scope is broadening to collect environment, education, anti-military, alternate lifestyle. Examples of new social movements collected include: squatters, environment, third world, solidarity. The scope is also broadening to beyond Europe. Within this broader collecting there is still some limiting to focus to one or a few movements. A 120,000 posters collection is also digitized. Pictoright handles copyright for artists' archives. Additional collections include a 2,500 buttons collection and a textile collection.

Utrecht June 14

On Tuesday we traveled by train to Utrecht. Our first visit was the University Library designed by Wiel Arets. Its compacted book system of closed stacks compact shelving on all floors requires users to request materials through the catalog. After a presentation with hosted coffee service, we toured Special Collections where a selection from the 1.5 million holdings were displayed in the Map Room. As we said our goodbyes, we were each given a copy of a book on the holdings of special collections and a book on the architecture of the library. We used public transit to travel to the Central Museum which collects items related to Utrecht. The building was recently remodeled and an old chapel in the building houses the information center. The museum has digitized the Rietveld Schroderhuis archives and created a 3D scan of the house. Together the archives and scans is a growing volume of knowledge used in how to care for the house in the future. The information is made available through a 3D model. After lunch at the Central Museum, we toured the Rietveld Schroderhuis. We finished the day with a tour of the Museum Oud Amelisweerd and Armando Documentation Centre housed in a historic country estate. We enjoyed a group dinner at the organic and slow food restaurant, De Veldkeuken, in the old coach house.

Rotterdam June 15

After arriving in Rotterdam by train, we started the day with a hosted coffee in the café of the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen. The Librarian, Erik van Boxtel, presented a show and tell in the library of highlights from the collection, including the rare 5 volume colored covers edition of Max Ernst's collage novel *Une Semaine de Bonté*. We walked across the street to tour the Nieuwe Instituut, Research Center for Dutch Architecture, and the Huis Sonneveld. The Instituut was formerly the Dutch architects' institute, but is now international in focus. The Instituut's collection of books, journals, and archives is open to the public. The archives were formally established in the 1970s, after many decades of architects donating their papers to the Instituut. The archives is limited in scope to Dutch architecture with over 650 collections and houses one of the largest architecture models collections. The archive of the architect Aldo van Eyck is a highlight. We had lunch in the Market Hall designed by the Dutch architectural firm MVRDV. We finished the day at the public library, Openbare Bibliotheek Schiedam, a recently remodeled former gin warehouse. Before a tour of the library, we were treated to coffee and tea in the library's café. Several of us enjoyed fresh mint tea from the library's garden. The library is the first green library. For performances in the library, the large glass enclosed atrium can be covered to darken the space. The interior landscaping is maintained by the original landscape designers, a staff member, and community volunteers.

The Hague June 16

We took the train to The Hague in the morning and arrived at the Rijksbureau Kunsthistorische Documentatie (RKD) for our first library tour that day. We toured the documentation center study room which houses 6 million print reproductions of works of art with notations stored in green boxes on shelving. Approximately 2 percent of the images are digitized. The collection is used to trace back provenance of art works and to iconographically index the art. The database to the collection is publically accessible and includes a biographical information record for artists. We next toured the RKD's library reading room where patrons can request books, archives, auction catalogs through the catalog from the storage and the items can be retrieved for use in the reading room after 20 minutes. About 7000 new items are added to the collection of 475,000 volumes in a year. There are 600 archives of dealers, art historians, and artists. The monographs are organized by a local system based on subject and divided into a Dutch collection and an international collection. After the reading room, we toured the press collection files area where files of ephemera, news clippings, posters are collected by categories like art theft, unions, education, galleries. There is a process now to select rare items and move these to the depot (closed stacks). More and more items are being lent to exhibitions. The collection received a grant

to digitize up to the year 1960. Donations of ephemera are received from museums like the Stedelijk. They are collecting born digital but not yet in a systematic way. Focus is shifting to exposing the collection. We were treated to a coffee break and networking with staff of the RKD library and archives. The head of the library and archives, Roman Koot, gave a presentation on the history and new directions in digital collections for the RKD. A second presenter spoke on the Mondrian Edition Projects digital collection (presentations available on the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal). In the afternoon we visited the Sculptures by the Sea museum, a privately founded museum. We enjoyed a tour of the current exhibition, a show of Brazilian artists, by two Leiden University masters students. One unique feature of the museum is that it includes a room for people to view the museum's collection of preparatory sculpture models. The non-circulating library had its origins in the museum founders' private book collection on sculpture. The scope begins with modern sculpture of the 1880s and is organized alphabetically by artist. We ended the visit with a hosted wine reception in the library.

Amsterdam June 17

We started the day on Friday at the Van Gogh Museum, where the new entrance designed by a Japanese architecture firm opened last year in order to manage the 2 million annual visitors. Our group was split in order to visit the conservation studio and depot archives storage in smaller groups. The conservation studio moved into its new space over 3 years ago in order to have a more secure environment that avoids passing artworks through public zones. The conservators explained the paintings they were working on in the studio were for a catalog of paintings from the last 70 years. They were researching how the painting was made, the materials used, and how it was conserved. Their research complements art historical research. On one table was a painting from Van Gogh's asylum where they were investigating the type of paint he used. The paint's color changes over time. They had one of the paintings of an olive grove, of which there are nearly 20, taken out of its frame so that they could see the original color on the edges. Chemical analysis for elements helps in discovering the types of pigments used. Van Gogh used pigments from a particular lake. In the tour of the depot, we saw where the library, which was founded before the museum, is stored. Its holdings include one book certainly owned by Van Gogh. Also in the holdings is the collection of a Van Gogh scholar. Van Gogh cites books in his letters and these titles were acquired as a way to recreate what he read. There is a digital project of this recreated Van Gogh library. An exhibition is being prepared of Van Gogh as a reader. We also were able to see where the letters collection is stored and view a few of the actual letters. Each letter is encapsulated and they are researching how best to further preserve the letters.

Next we visited the Rijksmuseum reading room, which was recently reopened to the public. The reading room was designed as such and opened 1-2 years after the opening of the museum in 1885. We viewed recently acquired rare books in the special collections study room which is scheduled by appointment. After the presentation in the study room, we were treated to lunch and a presentation by Saskia Scheltjens, head of the research department, in the conference room. In the afternoon and evening we had several events at the Stedelijk. First there were presentations by Michiel Nijhoff and Derek Quezada (presentations available on the ARLIS/NA Learning Portal). Then we had a wine reception with members of ARLIS Netherlands. After the reception, we were treated to a tour of the special exhibition on the Amsterdam School by the curator of the exhibition. We finished the evening with a closing dinner at the restaurant of the Stedelijk.

## Conclusion

IRC Chair Deborah Kempe and Jennifer Garland, ARLIS/NA Board Liaison, made a budget request for \$500 for a gift for our Netherlands affiliate, OKBN/ARLIS NL in thanks for hosting the 2016 Study Tour, which was approved by the Executive Board. The gift and a letter of thanks was sent by the ARLIS/NA President Heather Gendron. Jennifer is working to make the \$500 gift donation to the host affiliate a standing line in the budget and the Study Tour Checklist for IRC Planners has been updated to include this post tour activity. Rina and Deborah created a spreadsheet of people to thank individually from the organizations the group visited and Deborah sent out 20 formal thank you letters.

Itinerary with names of institutions and hosts

## Amsterdam

### Sunday 12 June

- Arrivals
- Check in at Group Hotel:
  - Bilderberg Hotel Jan Luyken at:  
Jan Luykenstraat 58, 1071 CS Amsterdam  
T 020-5730730 | F 020-6763841  
Jan-Luyken.Reservation@bilderberg.nl | www.bilderberg.nl
- Afternoon visit to a museum
- Kick-off dinner

## Amsterdam

### Monday, June 13

- 10.00 – 11.00 Special collections University Library, Oude Turfmarkt 129, 1012 GC Amsterdam  
[a.c.balsem@uva.nl](mailto:a.c.balsem@uva.nl) 020-5252003
- *Walk (20 minutes)*

- 11.30 – 12.30 Amsterdam Public Library, Oosterdokskade 143, 1011 DL Amsterdam. 6<sup>th</sup> floor Harry Mulischzaal [directie@oba.nl](mailto:directie@oba.nl) Anja de Man 020-5230731
- *Very short walk*
- Lunch at Hanneke's Boom [www.hannekesboom.nl](http://www.hannekesboom.nl)
- 14.00 – 15.00 Walk through Eastern Harbour area, that was developed some ten years ago. Guide: Michiel Nijhoff
- 15.00-16.00 International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam. Huub Sanders, Jacqueline Rutte [jru@iisg.nl](mailto:jru@iisg.nl) 020-6685866
- *Very short walk*
- From 16.00 Reception at Erasmus Books. Veemarkt 207, 1019 CJ Amsterdam. Dirk Raes, Anne Oechtering, [anne.oechtering@erasmusbooks.nl](mailto:anne.oechtering@erasmusbooks.nl) 020-5353425

## Utrecht

### Tuesday, June 14

- *09.08 Amsterdam Centraal, 09.34 Utrecht*
- *Bus line 12 9.45 arrival Educatorium Uithof 10.00*
- 10.00-11.00 University Library (architect Wiel Arets), Heidelberglaan 3, 3584 CS Utrecht. Maaïke Wijnen [m.m.wijnen@uu.nl](mailto:m.m.wijnen@uu.nl) 030-2536612
- *Bus line 12 11.14 arrival bushalte Sterrewijk 11.24*
- 11.30 – 13.30 Centraal Museum Utrecht, Agnietenstraat 3, 3512 XA utrecht. Marije Verduijn, [mverduijn@centraalmuseum.nl](mailto:mverduijn@centraalmuseum.nl)
- *Bus line 8 Halte Oosterstraat 13.44 arr. Halte de Hoogstraat 13.49*
- 14.00-15.00 Rietveld Schröderhuis, Prins Hendriklaan 50, 3583 EP Utrecht
- *Walk to bus stop (10 min.) 15.14 bus line 41 stadion Galgenwaard ar. 15.18 Oud Amelisweerd*
- 15.30-17.00 Museum Oud Amelisweerd/Armando Documentation Centre, Koningslaan 9, 3981 HD Bunnik. Saskia Leefsma, 030-8905460 [sleefsma@moa.nl](mailto:sleefsma@moa.nl)
- Dinner at Veldkeuken Oud Amelisweerd [www.veldkeuken.nl](http://www.veldkeuken.nl) (own costs) open till 20.00
- *Back to Amsterdam*

## Rotterdam

### Wednesday, June 15

- *Centraal Station 8.55 Fyra Rotterdam 9.36*
- 10.00-11.00 Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Museumpark 18-20, 3015 CX Rotterdam. Erik van Bortel [bortel@boijmans.nl](mailto:bortel@boijmans.nl) 010-4419456
- *Cross the street*
- 11.00-12.00 Het Nieuwe Instituut (Research center for Dutch Architecture), Museumpark 25, 3015 CB Rotterdam 010-4401200
- *Cross the street*
- 12.00-12.30 Huis Sonneveld (architectural monument)
- *Subway Nieuwe Binnenweg dir. Blaak stop Blaak*
- Lunch at <http://markthalrotterdam.nl/> (own costs)
- *Subway Blaak to Marconiplein at Marconiplein tram 21 to Koemarkt Schiedam*
- 15.00-16.00 Openbare Bibliotheek Schiedam, Lange Haven 145, 3111CD Schiedam. Theo Schilthuizen, [tschilthuizen@debibliotheekschiedam.nl](mailto:tschilthuizen@debibliotheekschiedam.nl) 010-7146300
- *Back to Amsterdam.*
- Dinner at Eye (Filmmuseum) (own costs)

## The Hague

### Thursday, June 16

- 09.27 Amsterdam Centraal, train to Den Haag Centraal arr.10.17
- 10.30 – 13.00 Rijksbureau Kunsthistorische Documentatie(RKD), Prins Willem Alexanderhof 5, 2514 AP, Roman Koot [koot@rkd.nl](mailto:koot@rkd.nl) 070-3462700 coffee/tour/mini symposium (transatlantic) / meet and greet/lunch
- Short walk (5 min.)
- 13.30 – 14.30 Museum Meermanno Westreenianum - Museum of the Book, Prinsessegracht 30, 2514 AP. Rickey Tax [tax@meermannno.nl](mailto:tax@meermannno.nl) 070-3462700
- Walk to tramstop (3 min.) Malieveld Tram 9 to Scheveningen, stop Kurhaus, walk 5 min.
- 15.00 – 16.00 Museum Beelden aan Zee = Sculptures by the Sea, Harteveltstraat 1, 2586 EL. Dick van Broekhuizen [vanbroekhuizen@sculptuurinstituut.nl](mailto:vanbroekhuizen@sculptuurinstituut.nl) 070-3589076/0646143620
- Drinks

## Amsterdam

### Friday, June 17

- 10.00 – 11.00 Visit Library Van Gogh Museum, Museumplein 4. 020-5705978 [vriend@vangoghmuseum.nl](mailto:vriend@vangoghmuseum.nl)
- Short walk
- 11.00 – 13.00 Visit Library Rijksmuseum, including lunch. Museumstraat 1, 1071 XX. 020-6747000/183. Saskia Scheltjens, Geert-Jan Koot. [G.koot@rijksmuseum.nl](mailto:G.koot@rijksmuseum.nl)
- Walk to Spiegelgracht (3 minutes) - Tramline 10 to Stop: De Wittenkade
- Walk to Museum Het Schip (15 minutes)
- 14.00 – 15.00 Visit Museum Het Schip [www.hetschip.nl](http://www.hetschip.nl)
- Walk to Haarlemmerplein (10 minutes) - Tram Line 3 Stop Van Baerlestraat
- 16.00-17.00 Visit Library Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Van Baerlestraat 31, 1071 AN. Michiel Nijhoff 0623976557 [m.nijhoff@stedelijk.nl](mailto:m.nijhoff@stedelijk.nl)
- Drinks in restaurant Stedelijk Museum
- 18.00-19.00 Tour of exhibition 'De Amsterdamse School'
- Closing Dinner