

Visual Resources Association



*13th Annual Conference
25-28 January, 1995*

San Antonio

Welcome to San Antonio! We hope that you will find the thirteenth annual conference of the Visual Resources Association to be a stimulating and rewarding experience, not only for the variety of information presented, but for the opportunity to explore some of the unique offerings of the city in the company of colleagues and friends.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

VRA hospitality suite, Menger Hotel, Poolside 1:

Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.;

Wednesday, January 25, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;

Thursday, January 26, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;

Friday, January 27, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Your VRA registration fees include admission to all sessions, tours where an additional charge is not required, the members' reception, and the continental breakfast at the business meeting. Please note: participants are individually responsible for the cost of local transportation and museum admissions unless otherwise noted. Only VRA conference registrants may attend VRA sessions or activities, and badges must be worn at all times as proof of registration. Daily registrants should have their receipts in hand as proof of payment. If a prepaid event is ticketed, that ticket will be in your registration packet; please bring the ticket with you to that event. Your VRA badge is your admission ticket to most events, including the College Art Association exhibition hall and the New Technologies Roundup.

Payment of the VRA registration fee does not constitute payment of fees for any CAA program, including the VRA session at CAA on Saturday morning. A CAA registration badge or single-session event ticket will be required for admission to CAA events.

Sincere thanks go to the members and friends who helped ensure the success of this program. VRA's Lonestar State members provided invaluable local arrangements assistance; their names are listed at the back of this program. Special thanks to Adam Loory, UK International, for desktop publishing and computer assistance; David Schnabel, Executive Editor, Sandak, an imprint of Macmillan Library Reference USA, a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc., for sponsorship of the members' reception; Judith Sobre and Ray Gay, University of Texas/Austin for assistance in setting up the hands-on computer workshops new to this year's conference; and everyone who made substantive suggestions after the 1994 conference in New York.

During the conference, look for Lonestar State members, who will be wearing tan "conference committee" badge flags. Feel free to ask any conference committee member for directions, or suggestions about places and events of local interest. Other VRA members will act as "shepherds" to guide you to events beyond the conference hotel.

After the conference, please take a moment to fill out the conference questionnaire that is in your registration packet. This will help in planning the 1996 conference. And please turn in your badge holder at the end of the conference! They can be re-used next year, or recycled. There will be boxes in the registration suite marked for these purposes.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 24

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Conference registration opens.

VRA hospitality suite, Menger Hotel, Poolside 1.

Wednesday, January 25

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Conference registration continues.

VRA hospitality suite, Menger Hotel, Poolside 1.

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

SESSION I: Our Workplace: Our Health and Safety.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms A and B.

Moderator: Pam Krupanski, Tufts University.

Speakers: Jeanne M. Keefe, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:

"Health Hazards in the Workplace and Sick Building Syndrome."

Rachel Dvoretzky, Rice University: "Awareness and Wellness in the VR Collection: Proactive Responses to Environmental Problems."

Christine Hilker, University of Arkansas: "Stress and the Visual Resources Curator."

Corinne Robles, HealthSouth Hand Therapy and Rehabilitation Center: "Cumulative Trauma Disorders."

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

CIHA Liaison Committee meeting. Menger Hotel, second floor, Renaissance Room.

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

VRMS Users Group meeting. Menger Hotel, second floor, Renaissance Room.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

SESSION II: Management of Images in Non-Art Collections.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms A and B.

Moderator: Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin.

Speakers: Stella de Sa Rego, Center for Southwest Research:

"Managing an Historical Photograph Collection in an Academic Regional History Library."

Donna J. Coates, The Center for American History, University of

Texas/Austin: "Photograph Collections at The University of

Texas at Austin's Center for American History."

Tim Hawkins, Playboy Enterprises: "A View from the Private

Sector: Managing the Playboy Photo Collection."

Gary Alan Seloff, RMS Photographic Services, Johnson Space

Center: "Downsizing: Diet and Exercise for a Leaner, Meaner Image Collection."

Linda Tompkins-Baldwin, University of Texas/Austin: "Bats in

the Slide Bind: Applying Art Collection Conventions to a

National Science Collection."

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Development Committee meeting. Menger Hotel, rooms 5124-5126.

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

ROUND TABLE I: For New Curators:

The Importance of Statistics in Visual Resources Collections.

Menger Hotel, second floor, Renaissance Room.

Discussion leader: Sherrie Rook, George Mason University.

ROUND TABLE II: Cataloguing for Unusual or Satellite Slide Collections.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom C.

Discussion leader: Margo Ballantyne, Lewis & Clark College.

WORKSHOP I: Writing Effective Job Descriptions.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Cavalier Room.

Leaders: Kim Kopatz, University of Rochester; D. Jo Schaffer,

State University of New York/Cortland; Christina Updike,
James Madison University; Margaret Webster, Cornell
University.

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING I.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Cavalier Room.

Executive Committee members, Standing Committee chairs, Editors, Task Force chairs, local chapter presidents, and invited guests.

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEMBERS' RECEPTION.

Menger Hotel, main floor, ~~Minuet~~ Room.

Appetizers will be served; cash bar. Sponsored in part through the generosity of Sandak, an imprint of Macmillan Library Reference USA, a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc. The 1995 VRA Distinguished Service Award will be presented during the reception, at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 26

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Conference registration continues.

VRA hospitality suite, Menger Hotel, Poolside 1.

8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms B and C.

Continental breakfast will be served. Reports will be given to the membership. The Luraine Tansey Travel Awards will be announced. This meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m.!

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

SESSION III: Imaging: Issues and Technology for the Visual Resources Professional.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms B and C.

Presenters: Howard Besser, University of Michigan; Jennifer Trant, Getty Art History Information Program.

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

VRA/ARLIS (VRD) Joint Task Force on Visual Resources Professional Issues meeting.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom A.

Publications Advisory Committee meeting.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Patio Room.

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Boston '96 Conference Planning Committee meeting.

Menger Hotel, main floor, rear of Ballroom C.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

SESSION IV: Digital Imaging Project Management for Visual Resource Libraries.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms B and C.

Moderator: Kevin J. Comerford, Dallas Museum of Art.

Speakers: Elizabeth Antrim, San Jose State University: "Working Together to Create an Image Database on the Internet, or, You Can Teach an Old Slide Curator New Tricks."

Leslie Johnston, Historic New Orleans Collection: "Images and Exhibitions: Development of a Touchscreen System to Augment Access."

Virginia Kerr, Columbia College Chicago: "Searching for Effective Information Retrieval in an Imaging Project: The Costume Image Database at Columbia College Library, Chicago."

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

SESSION V: Hypermedia on the Internet.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballrooms B and C.

Moderator: Joseph Romano, Oberlin College.

Speakers: Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University: "Lessons from California's Project Delta."

Stephen Goddard, University of Kansas: "Prints and Print History on Internet."

Kathleen Chmielewski, Nan Goggin, and Joseph Squier, University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign: "Art as Signal: Contemporary Artists using the Internet."

Joseph Romano, Oberlin College: "The World of Internet Hypermedia and its Potential for the Visual Resources Profession."

7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING II.

Menger Hotel, rooms 5124-5126.

Executive Board members only.

Friday, January 27

8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Conference registration closes.

VRA hospitality suite, Menger Hotel, Poolside 1.

8:00 a.m.

VRA Bulletin Editors breakfast meeting. Assemble in the main lobby of the Menger Hotel.

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

SESSION VI: Implications of the New Visual Resources Technologies for the Classrooms and Museums of the 21st Century, Part II.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom A.

Moderator: Carolyn Putney, Toledo Museum of Art.

Speakers: Thomas Bower, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution: "Make My Day, Use My Image: New Visual Resources Technologies and Some of the Applicable Laws from the User's Viewpoint."

Caron Carnahan, Williams College: "Saving at the Image Bank: Considerations of Technology and Access in Imagebase Planning," Steven Leuthold, Syracuse University: "Interactive Multimedia Instruction in the Large Lecture Course: Promise or Reality."

Bonnie Holt, University of California/Davis: "Query by Image Content, the QBIC Project's Applications in the University of California at Davis Art and Art History Departments."

Pat Keats, California Historical Society: "The Visual Imaging Project at the California Historical Society: Cataloguing Images of California History—Photographs, Book Illustrations, and Ephemera—for Local and National Access."

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES ROUNDUP.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom B.

Organizer: Kevin J. Comerford, Dallas Museum of Art.

Participants: ArtFact, Dallas, Texas (Jean Bouneau).

D Animation, Dallas, Texas (Wilbur Penn).

Gallery Systems, New York, New York (Marsha Finklestein).

Getty Art History Information Program, Santa Monica, California (Nancy Bryan).

Department of Art History, University of North Texas/Denton (Prof. Larry Gleeson).

Graphic Detail, Raleigh, North Carolina (Randy Parker).
Houston Advanced Research Center, Houston, Texas (Tom Linehan).

IBM, Dallas, Texas.

Kodak, Rochester, New York (Dave Wilson).

Luna Imaging, Los Angeles, California (Kevin Donovan).

Micrografix, Dallas, Texas (Craig Simmons).

Questar Systems, Pasadena, California (Emily Edmondson).

Sony, Newark, New Jersey (Koy Sampei).

Stokes Imaging Services, Austin, Texas (John Stokes, Patti McClung).

*Please note: As of printing, some of the vendors named here were still tentative participants. This listing is therefore subject to last-minute change.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Data Standards Committee meeting.

Menger Hotel, rooms 5124-5126.

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

ROUND TABLE III: Nuts and Bolts of the New Technologies.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Patio Room.

Discussion leader: Linda Tompkins-Baldwin, University of Texas/Austin.

ROUND TABLE IV: Resource Sharing and Data Standards; Going from Promise to Reality in the Digital Revolution.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom C.

Discussion leaders: Scott Bell, University of California/Long Beach, and Linda McRae, University of South Florida.

WORKSHOP II: Navigating the World Wide Web with Mosaic.

University of Texas/San Antonio, MS Building, room 2.03.14.

Leader: Robbin Murphy, ArtNet.

Please meet the bus for transportation to the University at the Crockett Street side of the hotel at 12:30 p.m. Shepherd: Leigh Gates, Art Institute of Chicago.

3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

ROUND TABLE V: Writing Annual Reports.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Patio Room.

Discussion leader: Astrid Otey, Miami University/Ohio.

3:30 to 5:30 p.m., continued

WORKSHOP III: Cataloguing Images: Photographs, Book Illustrations, and Even Wine Labels and Menus.

Menger Hotel, main floor, Ballroom C.

Discussion leader: Pat Keats, California Historical Society.

3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

WORKSHOP IV: Access to the Visual Image: The Role of Controlled Vocabulary.

University of Texas/San Antonio, MS Building, room 2.03.14.

Leaders: Elisa Lanzi and Toni Petersen, Art and Architecture Thesaurus.

Please meet the bus for transportation to the University at the Crockett Street side of the hotel at 3:00 p.m. Shepherd: Christine Hilker, University of Arkansas.

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Luraine Tansey Travel Award Fundraising Dinner at Mi Tierra Cafe, 800 Dolorosa Street. Meet in the main lobby of the Menger Hotel to walk to Mi Tierra at 6:30. Shepherd: Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin.

Saturday, January 28

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

SESSION VII (VRA session at CAA): Implications of New Visual Resources Technologies for the Classrooms and Museums of the 21st Century.

Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, 101 Bowie Street, River Room B.

Moderator: Sandra Walker, University of Tennessee.

Speakers: Elaine DeBenedictis, Canisius College: "Teaching with Multimedia in the Art History Classroom: Getting Started."

Sarah Miller and Walter Gilbert, University of Maryland/College Park: "Experiences with CAPRINA: A Campus-wide Networked Image Distribution System."

Michael Greenhalgh and Joye Volker, Australian National University/Canberra: "From a Distance: Australian Perspectives on Networking in the Visual Arts."

Deborah Wilde, Getty Art History Information Program:

"Setting Standards for Art Information: A Methodology."

Elisa Lanzi, Art and Architecture Thesaurus: "Vocabulary as Access to the Visual Image."

Ben Kessler, Princeton University: "A Systems Anthropology of Electronic Imaging."

Please note: This session will be held at a CAA venue. VRA conference attendees must either purchase a single session ticket, or register for the full CAA annual meeting in order to attend. If you did not purchase a single session ticket during pre-registration, please go to the CAA registration desk at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, 101 Bowie Street, third floor, for information.

TOURS

Friday, January 27

1:30 p.m.

The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum. Shepherd: Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin. Meet in the main lobby of the Menger Hotel at 12:30. Public transportation to the museum is \$.80 round trip. Admission to the Museum is free.

Saturday, January 28

9:00 a.m.

King William District. Shepherd: Kathy Morgan, California Polytechnic University. Meet in the main lobby of the Menger Hotel at 8:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Missions National Historical Park. Shepherd: Rebecca Hoort, University of Michigan. Meet in the main lobby of the Menger Hotel at 8:45 a.m.

ALSO OF INTEREST

VRA members and conference registrants are invited to attend the CAA Committee on Electronic Information (CEI) session. This meeting is free and open to the public. It will be held on Thursday, January 26, from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m., River Room B, Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. The session is entitled "Arts and Humanities on the Information Superhighway: The Future is Now;" Judith Berg Sobre and Kathy Cohen, Committee Co-Chairs. How are the arts and humanities community voicing

their concerns about the government's plans for applying technologies to the cultural sector? This session will focus on some of the collaborative efforts now underway to ensure universal access to arts and humanities information on the networks. Speakers will be announced in the final CAA conference program.

On Saturday, January 28, from 12:30 until 2:00 p.m., the CAA Intellectual Property Rights Committee (IPR) will meet in the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, River Room B. The session is entitled "Legal Implications of the National Information Infrastructure for the Art Historian, Artist, University Press, and Library;" Barbara Hoffman and Christine L. Sundt are Committee Co-Chairs. Mary Levering, Associate Register for National Copyright Programs, Library of Congress, will give a talk entitled "Copyright Issues in the Digital Age." Full CAA conference registration, or a single session admission ticket, is required to attend this meeting.

VRA members and conference registrants are invited to attend the ARLIS session at CAA. Full CAA conference registration, or a single session admission ticket, is required to attend this session, entitled "Art Bibliography in the Computer Age," to be moderated by Deirdre C. Stam, Syracuse University, on Friday, January 27, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m., Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, Salon J. Speakers will be Joseph Busch, Getty Art History Information Program, "Integrating Art Information Sources;" Milan Hughston, Amon Carter Museum, "A Different Climate: Art Historians and Research Museums;" and Max Marmor, Yale University, "Baedeker and Art Bibliography."

Also of interest at CAA: "The Computer and the Visual Arts: A Revolution in Progress," Saturday, January 28, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.; "Visual Literacy in General Education," Saturday, January 28, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. These sessions also require appropriate CAA registration for admission.

The University of Texas/San Antonio will host an "open house" on Wednesday, January 25, and on Saturday, January 28, to show what one modest state university is doing electronically—in art history, studio art, and with visual resources. These programs are open to everyone. Times will be posted when available, but participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the University.

SESSION ABSTRACTS

Session I: Our Workplace: Our Health and Safety. Moderator: Pam Krupanski, Tufts University.

Concerns about health and safety in the workplace environment have, in recent years, been widely reported upon in the media. Increased computer use can lead to carpal tunnel syndrome, a repetitive motion disorder, as well as severe back and eye strain. Noxious air quality in poorly designed or ventilated spaces can cause a myriad of physical ailments for the worker, the recently recognized "Sick-Building Syndrome." Those of us working in, or within close proximity to, photographic darkrooms and art studios face serious health and safety issues peculiar to those chemically saturated areas. This session will attempt to explore the health and safety issues some of our peers have faced in a variety of work environments.

Session II: Management of Images in Non-Art Collections. Moderator: Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin.

Acknowledging the fact that we often find solutions to questions relating to image management in routines and procedures developed for use in fields other than art and architecture, this session is designed to provide us insight into procedures utilized by curators of images in historic archives, governmental agencies, and publishing.

Session III: Imaging: Issues and Technology for the Visual Resources Professional. Presenters: Howard Besser, University of Michigan; Jennifer Trant, Getty Art History Information Program.

Digital imaging technologies offer a great attraction for the visual resources professional. The chance to take advantage of this new way of working is both liberating and daunting. What standards exist for the creation of image databases? What functions should those databases perform? Whom do they serve? How are they managed? This session will explore the issues involved in the design, creation, and management of image databases. It will review the issues of image capture, storage, and display, and briefly outline concerns related to standards and copyright. Examples will be taken from existing or prototypical image database systems used in a variety of environments. Though much of the session will be applicable to

both videodisc and digital imaging projects, the bias will be towards digital storage of images. The session is aimed at visual resources professionals with little or no knowledge of the issues involved in creating an image database. Computer literacy and a comfort with basic technical terminology, such as megabytes and RAM, is recommended.

Session IV: Digital Imaging Project Management for Visual Resource Libraries. Moderator: Kevin J. Comerford, Dallas Museum of Art.

Advances in digital imaging and other information technologies have made the last five years an exciting and important period for the Visual Resources profession. While the theoretical benefits of automation in all its various forms have been discussed at length for a number of years now, the application of these technologies to aid in the management of and access to visual collections is just now becoming practical and affordable for many. Upon reflection it is amazing to think that database systems and the hardware and software tools for digital image storage and manipulation—products which were until just recently limited to the world of mainframe computer systems—are now readily available for the desktop computer at the neighborhood discount store. Therefore the next five years will no doubt see rapid progress in the number of libraries, museums and other cultural institutions that make a commitment to the automation and digital conversion of their slide and photograph collections. Thus, many more in the Visual Resources profession will in the near future have the opportunity to manage the automation and digitization of their collections, as well as to provide access to these resources via network systems and the Internet. The goal of this session is to help serve the needs of those professionals who are just beginning or are soon to embark upon a digital imaging project at their institutions.

Session V: Hypermedia on the Internet. Moderator: Joseph Romano, Oberlin College.

Hypermedia technology in tandem with Internet protocols provide a flexible variation on the client-server model for networking data whether this data be in the form of text, images or sound. The development of user-friendly Internet interfaces, such as Mosaic, have brought World Wide Web use to critical mass. How effective will this approach to sharing information be for the Visual Resources profession?

Sessions VI and VII: Implications of the New Visual Resources Technologies for the Classrooms and Museums of the 21st Century. Moderators: Part I: Sandra Walker, University of Tennessee; Part II: Carolyn Putney, Toledo Museum of Art.

The traditional media of art, art history, and museum education—slides, photographs, film, and videotape—are rapidly being supplemented or replaced by computerized image access systems. This session will provide a forum for exploring the myriad issues relating to the implementation of these new visual resources technologies, and will include both theoretical and practical discussions of the following topics: accessibility of images, including the issues of image standards (i.e., universally accepted format) and intellectual property; institutional cooperation and centralized information networking to make resources that are currently accessible to a limited number of patrons more readily available; intellectual access and budget constraints affecting what becomes available to whom in the new technological formats. How can we as visual resources professionals, artists, art historians, and museum personnel influence the information selection process and the methodological standardization so that available resources meet our needs?

ROUND TABLE OUTLINES

Round Table I: For New Curators: The Importance of Statistics in Visual Resources Collections. Discussion leader: Sherrie Rook, George Mason University.

Keeping statistics is an important part of a visual resources curator's job. Statistics reflect what the curator does, from acquisitions and circulation to budget and staffing. Statistics recorded throughout the year are summarized in the annual report. Using a recent annual report, the compilation of statistics and their value will be discussed. Methods and forms used for collecting this information will be shared with participants.

Round Table II: Cataloguing for Unusual or Satellite Slide Collections. Discussion leader: Margo Ballantyne, Lewis & Clark College.

Slide curators are often called upon by administrators in either the public or private sector to apply their knowledge and skill to collections that are not necessarily connected to an art, art history or architectural history curriculum. The collections can

be associated with educational institutions, businesses, architecture firms, government agencies, etc. Cataloguing in these instances can produce fresh and innovative ideas that are of interest to those curators dealing with special cataloguing problems. As an example: by cataloguing a collection with categories coordinated to color codes, slides could be filed by color indication for speed and accuracy.

Round Table III: Nuts and Bolts of the New Technologies. Discussion leader: Linda Tompkins-Baldwin, University of Texas/Austin.

Many visual resources collections managers are investigating the new technologies available for accessing and archiving their collections. Often the information they receive comes from a sales person with a vested interest in which products are chosen. Concepts can be very confusing and overwhelming for people who do not have a strong computer background. Too often, the programmers and sales people are dictating how we do our jobs by intimidating us in regards to what can and cannot be done. If we are to implement this new technology in ways that help us do our jobs more efficiently, we need to understand the terms and concepts involved. This round table will address such issues as the different types of digital image files, CD-ROM vs. photo CD, how databases and digital images relate, and e-mail. Tim Moyers, a Software Designer for Stokes Imaging, will assist.

Round Table IV: Resource Sharing and Data Standards; Going from Promise to Reality in the Digital Revolution. Discussion leaders: Scott Bell, University of California/Long Beach; Linda McRae, University of South Florida.

Most digital imaging projects have begun with individual class tutorials. Even a modest demonstration requires hundreds of hours of work at a significant cost to the institution. While the results, in terms of pedagogical effectiveness, can be impressive, the pace is glacial. The most obvious question seems to be why can't we share these resources, and not only spread out the cost but hasten their development? While this question may reveal a naive disposition towards the utopian, it seems that we must dispose of the issue sooner rather than later. The VRA Data Standards Committee has started to design a common communications format that will become part of the infrastructure for resource sharing, but many issues still need to be addressed: Assuming we digitize slides we own copyright to, what mecha-

nism needs to be developed to collect and distribute these images to participating institutions? Who/what will organize the effort? What are the costs? Should there be some order to data sharing from the beginning, or should it progress in an ad hoc manner creating its own order? As we get closer to actually building large "image bases," these questions seem to be crucial to our ability to reach critical mass.

Round Table V: Writing Annual Reports. Discussion leader: Astrid Otey, Miami University/Ohio.

Annual reports are important documents of visual resources activities and accomplishments. We will consider their purpose, and the subsequent planning and organization of materials necessary to create a document that will be useful for curators and supervisors.

WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Workshop I: Writing Effective Job Descriptions. Leaders: Kim Kopatz, University of Rochester; D. Jo Schaffer, State University of New York/Cortland; Christina Updike, James Madison University; Margaret Webster, Cornell University.

Sponsored by the ARLIS/NA and VRA Joint Taskforce on Visual Resource Professional Issues, this session will focus on the writing of effective and accurate job descriptions for visual resources professionals. Among the topics which will be considered are the elements of a job description, the evaluation and organization of responsibilities, and the usage of appropriate terminology. This session will benefit those who are considering a position review, establishing a new position within their visual resources unit, or realigning their unit itself within the institution. Materials, including sample job descriptions, pertinent articles on writing job descriptions, and a work sheet, will be distributed to the participants before the annual meeting. Each participant will be expected to complete and return the work sheet before the meeting. During the workshop a general introduction on writing job descriptions will be presented followed by a critique and discussion of issues raised by the returned work sheet. At the end of the session a generic job description for visual resources professionals will have been created. This document should provide a framework for visual resources professionals to define their responsibilities, to convey

them effectively within their institutions, and to provide a basis for comparison with related professionals such as librarians, archivists, and curators.

Workshop II: Navigating the World Wide Web with Mosaic. Leader: Robbin Murphy, Managing Editor, ArtNet.

Visual resources on the Internet are now accessible online by way of the World Wide Web using web "browsers" such as NCSA Mosaic. But making sense of the web and its vast, seemingly unstructured, resources can be frustrating. Participants in this workshop will learn the simple basics of how to write web pages in HTML, insert graphics in line, link information within a document as well as to other sites and to use hotlists effectively to remember where they've been and to organize what they've found. No advanced computer skills required. (ArtNet is a BBS and Web Site dedicated to viewing, promoting, and discussing art.)

Workshop III: Cataloguing Images: Photographs, Book Illustrations, and Even Wine Labels and Menus. Leader: Pat Keats, California Historical Society.

This workshop will deal with the setting up of a system to catalogue visual facsimiles of all kinds—photographs, book illustrations (woodcuts, engravings, lithographs, etc.), plus ephemeral materials such as sheet music covers, menus, fruit labels, broadsides, and posters. Images of objects such as paintings, sculpture and furniture will also be included. Setting up a computer system, cataloguing on a system, and transferring records to a local OPAC or a client-server networked computer environment will also be discussed. The main part of the workshop will be practical information on the cataloguing and classification of images. What does "classifying" really mean when dealing with images? How do you catalogue using MARC format, and what thesauri can be used? How do you use them? Library of Congress Subject Headings, LC Thesaurus for Graphic Materials, and the AAT will be discussed and compared. Finally, we will try to deal with the importance of thinking about how images and their records will be used in the future. The workshop will conclude with questions and there will be hand-outs describing MARC fields and formats, comparisons of all three thesauri discussed and a short bibliography and workform examples for cataloguing.

Workshop IV: Access to the Visual Image: The Role of Controlled Vocabulary. Leaders: Elisa Lanzi and Toni Petersen, Art and Architecture Thesaurus.

Access to computerized text databases has required the use of controlled vocabularies for consistency of data. Techniques for indexing of text data is well established. Image databases bring new challenges to the retrieval process, however. Many image databases consist only of the images with no accompanying texts. Images alone are mute and provide no verbal clues. Retrieval from many of these databases consists of users browsing through them. As the databases grow larger and larger, such browsing will no longer be an efficient way to find images. New techniques will need to be developed to index the images for access purposes. The workshop will address issues such as how thesaurus structure and content serve as bridging mechanisms between manifestations of the visual arts and the museums that serve the viewers of art; how images can be indexed and searched for; the potential use of images within the thesaurus to find images in the database. Participants will be asked to undertake a traditional exercise in descriptive analysis of an object, relating it to the process of analyzing images and objects which do not contain verbal clues.

VISUAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

Incorporated as a General Not For Profit Corporation in the State of Missouri, under no. N00028029, 13 August 1982.

Applications for membership in the Visual Resources Association will be available in the VRA hospitality suite (Menger Hotel, Poolside 1) during the conference. Annual dues for 1995 are \$55, \$70 outside North America. Contributing membership is \$100 to \$299. Patron membership is \$300 and above. To become a member, send your check (U.S. currency only, please) to Lynda S. White, VRA Treasurer, c/o University of Virginia, Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, Bayly Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22903. Membership includes a subscription to the Visual Resources Association Bulletin. Visit our booth in the CAA exhibits area for information about other publications.

1995 Program (San Antonio, Texas)

Conference Coordinator: Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts.
Pre-registration Coordinator: Leigh Gates, Art Institute of Chicago.

Local Arrangements:

Hotel and bus tours, shepherd coordinator: Linda Tompkins-Baldwin, University of Texas/Austin.
T-shirts, registration packets, weather updates: Rachel Dvoretzky, Rice University.
Logo, name badges, signage: Jane Ottens, Texas A & M.
Luraine Tansey Travel Award dinner: Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin.
Student registration workers coordinators: Sarah Pierce, University of Texas/San Antonio, and Eleanor Fye, Trinity University.
Local printing: Eleanor Fye, Trinity University.
Proof-reading: Karin Whalen, Reed College.
Committee to Maintain the Sanity of the Conference Coordinator: Rachel Dvoretzky, Rice University; Laura Gobbi, University of California/Berkeley; Sarah Johnson, The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts; James Monteith, Vassar College; Joseph Romano, Oberlin College; Lynda White, University of Virginia. You are all herewith nominated for sainthood.
Shepherds: Leigh Gates, Art Institute of Chicago; Christine

Hilker, University of Arkansas; Rebecca Hoort, University of Michigan; Kathy Morgan, California Polytechnic University; Nancy Schuller, University of Texas/Austin.

Program Design & Production Coordinator:

Adam Loory, UK International, City Island, New York.

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