Notes from the President
By Macie Hall (John Hopkins University)

Autumn is upon us; our membership renewal is underway as well as election of new officers to the positions of President-Elect, Vice President for Conference Arrangements, and Secretary. Don't forget to renew early so that you continue to receive the benefits of membership without interruption. Also please vote! Due to a problem with the initial mailing, ballots were reissued and mailed on September 21, 2006. Ballots must be returned to the teller postmarked no later than October 20, 2006.

The Board and other VRA members have been busy through the summer with various activities.

Mid-Year Executive Board Meeting
The Board had a successful mid-year meeting in Kansas City July 21 to 23. We are all enthusiastic about the venue – the Intercontinental Hotel (http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/ic/1/en/hd/mkcha) is very nice and undergoing extensive renovations. The staff promises that all will be completed well in advance of our conference in March. The location, right on the edge of Country Club Plaza, a 1920s Spanish mission-style shopping district, is ideal. Great shopping, restaurants and entertainment are all within a few blocks walk.

We tackled a full agenda during our 3 day meeting, including reviewing all appointee, committee, task force and chapter reports, reading the session, seminar and workshop proposals and making selections, handling other preliminary conference planning and scheduling, and meeting with the hotel staff to discuss conference arrangements. Other mid-year actions included selecting promotional items and deciding on a conference logo. We worked on the budget for the new fiscal year and discussed possible venues for future conferences. We also met with our representative from Helms-Briscoe, Tom Costello. Tom has assisted us with hotel selection, arrangements and contracts for Baltimore, Kansas City and San Diego. We have initiated discussion with him on ways in which we might outsource some of our other conference activities and arrangements.

New VRA Chapter Approved
During the meeting, the Board approved the petition for formal recognition of the VRA Southeast Chapter. At their business meeting at the Baltimore conference, Emy Decker (University of Georgia) was elected Chair and Mary Alexander (University of Alabama) was elected

Secretary/Treasurer. The states included in the Chapter are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The Chapter has formulated bylaws and will vote on accepting them at their upcoming meeting in October in Nashville. The Nashville meeting will take place during the joint SECAC (South Eastern College Art Conference) MACAA (Mid-America College Art Association) conference. We are delighted to recognize our new Chapter!

SEI Co-Chair Appointment
At the request of the SEI Implementation Team, the Board has agreed to appoint a new co-chair a year in advance of the term. This way the incoming appointee can serve for a year on the team before becoming chair, thereby gaining familiarity and experience with the cycle of activity. The Board is please to announce that Jeanne Keefe (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) will be the next VRA SEI Co-Chair. Jeanne started her term with the committee September 1, 2006, and will take over as co-chair when Karin Whalen steps down on September 1, 2007.

VRA Web Site Redesign
Lise Hawkos, Public Relations and Communications Officer, has began work with a Phoenix web site design firm – Amy Ng and Tanya Amos – on a new VRA web site. The Board has approved the contract and we hope to be launching the new site by the end of the calendar year.

Silver Jubilee Committee News
The Silver Jubilee Committee, under the leadership of co-chairs Megan Battey and Marcia Focht, continues to work on plans for celebrating our 25th anniversary at the VRA annual conference in Kansas City, March 27 – April 1, 2007. We want to acknowledge a special gift from Scholars Resource towards this event. Many thanks to Kurt and Carmen Wiedenhoeft for their generous sponsorship in providing a conference logo designed by the Brad Smith, Scholars Resource graphic designer and for funding the production of two commemorative booklets. One of the booklets will feature the transcript from a recent interview with Luraine Tansey, the other highlights VRA history.

Digital Scene And Heard
By Jacquelyn Erdman (Florida Atlantic University)
Digital Initiatives Advisory Group

Fine Arts Digital Imaging System (Fadis)
By Tammy Moorse (University of Toronto)

The Fine Art Digital Imaging System (FADIS) (http://fadis.library.utoronto.ca) is a web-based image database developed and designed within the University of Toronto (http://www.utoronto.ca). The coordination between the department of fine arts and the main library has created a tool used primarily for teaching courses in art history, visual culture, and fine art.

FADIS was created to respond to the shift in presentation technology from the dual slide projector system to the digital environment. This forward thinking design provides access for users anywhere there is an Internet connection, which allows for flexibility in studying and lecture preparation. Projecting a collection of images for a lecture is based completely within the database, meaning any computer monitor or data projector instantly becomes the equivalent of a two slide projectors with carousels.

As of July 2006, there existed a pool of over 30,000 fully searchable, high quality image and video records. With four different levels of access, there are controls over those who are involved in administration, content management and cataloguing and those who can only collect or access content. Cataloguing practices, completed by trained staff and librarians, are based on the VRA Core version 3.0 with upgrades planned to meet version 4.0 and the standards outlined in the Cataloguing Cultural Objects manual.

The database interface is very simple and straightforward. Icons with names like, Light Table, Carousels, Courses and Projection recreate physical processes within the digital framework. Movements between searching, collecting and projecting images are seamless. Video is streamed from within the database via QuickTime, but this requires no additional software on the host computer.

Other features of FADIS include: a small courseware component, where faculty can post syllabi,

office hours, or PDF and text documents. Full display of information relating to the image, both from the catalogue record and from lecturer notes can be displayed or hidden. There is the ability to project up to twelve images on screen at one time during a presentation, albeit with a more limited information display.

FADIS' flexibility and in-house design has given it the ability to respond to new changes in technology and requests for new features. The database staff will continue to contribute content in response to faculty teaching practices.

At present, no other participants are being sought, but institutions and art departments who feel they would benefit from such an image management system are encouraged to contact the University of Toronto. If you are interested in more information regarding the FADIS project or would like to participate please contact Tammy Moorse (tmoorse@utm.utoronto.ca).

Digital Curation Centre (DCC)
By Jacquelyn Erdman (Florida Atlantic University)

The Digital Curation Centre is committed to improving "the quality of data curation and of associated digital preservation" problems that have arisen in the UK, due to the increasingly large amounts of digital data that is produced by the academic community. The Centre intends to accomplish these goals by: 1) Establishing a program that addresses data curation issues: 2) Nurturing community relationships by working with the Associates Network and engaging with scientific digital curators; 3) Testing and evaluating the tools, methods, standards, and policies to achieve realistic goals and to offer a repository of tools and technical information; and 4) Developing their research program on data curation.

Those institutes that participate in the DCC will be given advice on how to collect, store and annotate information. The DCC will also advise on the appropriate methods that fit the institutions data preservation needs. The DCC is geared towards scientists in the UK and organizations that create vast amounts of data, but their method and support system is an important model to study. The DCC's website, www.dcc.ac.uk hosts an information resource centre with papers, case studies, interviews and a DCC Digital Curation Manual. The website also gives information on the tools and standards developed by the DCC and their partners, and also any research and development updates. The DCC relies on the expertise of its consortium of nearly 10 partners. The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the e-Science core program fund the projects.

Web Gallery Of Art
By Jacquelyn Erdman (Florida Atlantic University)

A notable virtual museum and database containing 15,400 European paintings and Gothic sculpture from different time periods can be found at the Web Gallery of Art (www.wga.hu). This virtual museum hosts a searchable database, commentaries of the artwork, biographies of the artists, and has a glossary of art terms. The WGA tries to enhance the user's experience by offering guided tours to bring understanding of the artistic and historical relationship between the art and the artist. Users can also choose to listen to music of the period. This feature may not work if your computer does not support the music file format. The site also features free postcards of some of the artwork.

The WGA is intended to be "a free resource of art history primarily for students and teachers." The user can browse lists and indexes, perform a search, search two copies of the collection for more effective side-by-side comparisons called Dual Mode, or take a guided tour. The tours available are: Italian painters, European sculptors, the Art of Giotto, Frescoes at Arezzo, the Sistine Chapel, Brancacci Chapel, and art based on location. There is a list of sources and a downloadable catalog for reference. There is a Forum section to the website for discussion of topics related to education, religion, or to seek information on artists and artwork.

The WGA is a private project and is not supported by state or corporate sponsors. The site is sponsored by Specifica and as been reviewed and/or recommended by 9 organizations including the BBC Education Web Guide and Forbes. Although the database is copyrighted, the images can be used for educational or personal purposes. Those who find the virtual museum useful are welcome to contribute a donation.

Collection Spotlight
By Jacquelyn Erdman (Florida Atlantic University)

This is the second time an individual's collection of images and information that has been spotlighted in this column. As those in the visual resources profession know, the creation of image collections started with faculty traveling to the location of the artifact and bringing back photographs. Although now both universities and commercial companies produce slides and digital images to faculty, there are still some academic enthusiasts who take the time to create online collections.

Risto Hurmalainen from Helsinki, Finland created one such site. His website hosts a collection of Pre-Raphaelite website links at http://www.dlc.fi/~hurmari/preraph.htm. This website is divided into information on the Pre-Raphaelite and Victorian artists, the women in the paintings, and web resources. This site is a good resource for information about the time period and the artists, with some images. He also has image collections of castles from Britain and Scotland, taken during his travels. Each castle has a brief description associated and each photograph is labeled with the name of the castle. The images of the website have been labeled that they were created by Hurmalainen, however he writes that he hopes his website "will frequently be visited". Therefore having a link to images in the website appears to be allowed, although there is no copyright announcement. Inquires into the use of the images can be found by contacting Risto Hurmalainen.

Please contact Jacquelyn Erdman with any questions or suggestions for future columns. For more information on the activities of the Digital Initiatives Advisory Group (DIAG) see http://www.vraweb.org/diag/index.htm

What's New on The Copyright Front?
By Jane Darcovich (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Intellectual Property Rights Committee

Orphan Works Legislation
Things are not looking good right now for orphan works legislation. Legislative remedies proposed for dealing with orphan works, first introduced in May as the "Orphan Works Act of 2006" (H.R. 5439) have now been subsumed into a larger bill, and reintroduced on September 12th as part of the "Copyright Modernization Act of 2006" (H.R. 6052). This new bill has three sections: the first deals with music licensing, including licenses for digital delivery of musical works; the second is the orphan works bill; the third section addresses copyright protection resources. Text of the bill is available at http://thomas.loc.gov/ (do a "BillNumber" search for H.R. 6052.).

Music industry lobbyists have many objections to the bill, which addresses satellite radio broadcasts. As well, the orphan works section of the bill is being opposed by authors' and photographers' groups. Despite the different focus of the two other sections of the bill, there currently doesn't seem to be any initiative to remove the orphan works section and re-introduce it as a separate bill.

This new bill, in its entirety, was scheduled for a mark-up in the House Judiciary Committee on September 20th, after having been pulled the previous week by Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-Michigan). A mark-up means that the Committee is reviewing the text of the orphan works bill yet again, with the possibility that there may be changes made in the bill's language.

Canadian Copyright Law in the News
The introduction of a new copyright bill in the Canadian Parliament is a strong possibility this fall now that the House of Commons is back in session. Despite the negative experiences with the U.S. DMCA, as well as calls against anti-circumvention legislation from musicians, artists, security companies, librarians, and the privacy community, Canada may soon be facing its own DMCA.

Michael Geist's blog, 30 Days of DRM highlights some of the exceptions and limitations that he would like to see included in the event that a Canadian DMCA is introduced. He completed 30 postings, focusing on marketplace concerns, public protection, and fair circumvention. Together, these form a compilation of DRM policy issues. He also has a wiki for interested readers to add individual perspectives.

Another Canadian blogger, Ottawa-based lawyer Howard Knopf, provides his own views of the current copyright issues in Canada at http://excesscopyright.blogspot.com/2006/09/cria-cmec-copyright-controversy.html

Fair Use Lecture Webcast

On September 21st, Judge Alex Kozinski (US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit) delivered The Second Annual Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP Distinguished Lecture on Intellectual Property, at the Washington School of Law, American University. A webcast of his lecture, titled "Fair Use Revisited" is available at http://www.wcl.american.edu/pijip/webcast.cfm#

NYU's Fair Use Symposium Audio Available Online
Audio of the entire three-day symposium on Fair Use ("Comedies of Fair U$e: A Search for Comity in the Intellectual Property Wars") held at New York University in April is available online through the Internet Archive at http://www.archive.org/details/NYIH_Comedies_of_Fair_Use

Other material such as the audio file of a pre-conference interview on New York Public Radio with Siva Vaidhyanathan, Art Spiegelman and Jonathan Lethem, and links to images, transcripts and blog commentary are available at the Comedies of Fair U$e blog: http://newsgrist.typepad.com/comediesoffairuse/

Online Copyright Education Workshop
The Center for Intellectual Property at University of Maryland University College hosts an annual asynchronous online workshop series for faculty, university counsel, librarians, and instructional design and information professionals. Institutions currently wrestling with copyright issues may find the upcoming session on copyright education valuable. Workshop goals include:

- Discuss the purpose and legal basis for copyright education in higher education
- Look at challenges in establishing effective copyright education programs
- Consider some of the technical and logistical aspects of developing a copyright education program
- Review various guidelines for the use of copyrighted materials
- Explore some of the elements and steps necessary for developing copyright policies

The workshop lasts approximately two weeks (November 6-17), providing participants with an in-depth understanding of issues. Workshops include course readings, chats and online discussions, with daily feedback from moderators. Early registration (until October 27) is $125. A significant discount is given for full time graduate students. For more information and to register online, visit http://www.umuc.edu/cip/ipa/workshops.html#copyright_education

VRA Newsletter Re-naming Competition

Image Stuff needs a new, permanent name that reflects our association. The jury members are Lise Hawkos, Trudy Levy, Steven Kowalik and Marlene Gordon.

If you have an idea for a new name for the newsletter, send your submissions to by Friday, November 17th. The winner will be announced the December issue.

Position Filled
Meghan Musolff is the new Assistant Coordinator of the Visual Resource Collection at the University of Michigan. She received her MA in Art History from Michigan State University and her MLIS from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. Meghan comes to Ann Arbor from Yale University where she was the Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship. Her research interests include the use of new technologies (blogs, wikis, etc.) to deliver information to users and the incorporation of social tagging into visual resource databases.

Chapter News

New England Chapter Fall Meeting
Williams College, Williamstown, MA
September 29, 2006
For more information, go to: http://cat.middlebury.edu/%7Eslides/vrane/meeting-fall06.html

Greater New York Chapter Fall Meeting
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
October 6, 2006

For more information, go to: http://www.nysid.net/vra-ny/fall06.htm

Great Lakes Chapter
October 13, 2006, Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Events begin at 9:00 am in Knowlton Hall, 4th floor, Architecture Library foye.

The meeting includes presentations from VRA grant recipients for the 2006 VRA conference. Michelle Maguire will report on the workshop "Digital Copystand for Dummies: A Real Life Workshop for the Rest of Us!" and Carole Pawloski will summarize "Copyright Law, Image Policies and Guidelines for VR Collections."

Contact Joseph Romano for more information: joseph.romano@oberlin.edu

Pacific Rim Chapter Fall Meeting
Seattle Public Library, Central Library, Seattle, WA
October 14th, 2006
For more information, go to: http://depts.washington.edu/vraprch/2006mtg/intro.html

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Fall Meeting
The Fall meeting will be a joint meeting with the ARLIS/NA- D.C., Maryland & Virginia Chapter, on October 20, 2006 at the Naval Academy. Details to be posted soon at :
http://www.jhu.edu/arthist/vram/meetings.html

CCO Training Workshop
October 27, 2006
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (co-sponsored with Greater New York Chapter)
For more information, go to: http://www.nysid.net/vra-ny/CCOannouncement.htm

Midwest Chapter Fall meeting
November 10 & 11, 2006, Chicago, IL
For future details, go to:
http://humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/art/visual_resources/vramidwest-web/index.html

SEI Correction

Students in the Institute also received, VRA Special Bulletin No.14, Strategies for Transitioning to the Age of DigitalMedia, by Sarah Cheverton and Christina Updike. The co-chairs regret the omission.

Associate Editor Position Available

Applications for an Associate Editor are being accepted. If you are interested in working on the newsletter or have questions on the duties, please send an email to Marlene Gordon, mgordon@umich.edu.