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2025 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Friday 2nd May 2025, 2-4pm (British Library and via Teams)

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, and apologies	Brett Moodie	2pm
2. Minutes of last AGM (28 th April 2024)	Brett Moodie	2:10pm
3. Chair's Report	Brett Moodie	2:15pm
4. Hon. Secretary's Report	Morwenna Peters	2:25pm
4.1 Constitution Approval		
4.2 Handbook Approval		
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report	Rebecca Law	2:35pm
6. Membership Secretary's Report	Madeleine Ahern	2:40pm
7. Annual Conference		
7.1 2024 London Conference Report	Jerry Jenkins	2:45pm
7.2 2025 Limerick Conference Working Party Update	Aoife Larkin & Sarah Landy	2:50pm
8. Art Libraries Journal Report	Gustavo Grandal Montero	2:55pm
9. Committees' Reports		
9.1 Cataloguing and Classification Committee	Victoria Parkinson	3pm
9.2 Professional Development Committee	Tavian Hunter	3:05pm
9.3 Serials Committee	Klara Finnimore	3:10pm
10. Regional Representation		
10.1 ARLIS South West	Morwenna Peters	3:15pm
10.2 LALIC	Aoife Larkinn & Ann Sproat	3:20pm
11. Website and Social Media	Alex Duncan & Laura Wood	3:25pm
12. Awards and Scholarships	Brett Moodie	3:30pm
12.1 Global Majority Scholarship	Nick Brown	
12.2 Research Award	Morwenna Peters	
13. Election of New Officers/Council Members	Morwenna Peters	3:35pm
14. Thank you to Retiring Officers/Council Members	Brett Moodie	3:40pm
15. AOB		3:50pm

Present: Madeleine Ahern, Jessica Brown, Sarah Clifford, Corrado Di Tillio, Kirsty Edginton, Klara Finnimore, Beth Houghton, Tavian Hunter, Jerry Jenkins, Cathy Johns, Sarah Landy, Jennifer Ly, Brett Moodie, Victoria Parkinson, Morwenna Peters, David Pulford, Ann Sproat, Leah Tozer, Laura Wood, Hannah Woodley

Present in-person at the British Library: Madeleine Ahern, Jessica Brown, Kirsty Edginton, Klara Finnimore, Beth Houghton, Tavian Hunter, Jerry Jenkins, Cathy Johns, Jennifer Ly, Brett Moodie, Victoria Parkinson, Leah Tozer, Laura Wood

Apologies: Salvatore Bellavia, Nick Brown, Alex Duncan, Emma Hayton, Jodie Heap, Rhian Isaac, Ruth Kamen, Aoife Larkin, Rebecca Law, Gustavo Grandal Montero, Candida Ridler, Maria Simoes, Lluís Tembleque Teres, Adam Waterton

1. Welcome, Introduction, and Apologies

At the start of the AGM, the Chair, Brett Moodie (BM), asked all present in-person at the British Library to introduce who they are, where they work, and their experience with ARLIS.

BM expressed gratitude to Jerry Jenkins for arranging the space and set-up at the British Library.

BM set out the process for voting during the AGM as follows:

- For those attending in-person, asked to put up their hand to approve.
- For those attending online:
 - Minutes Secretary Leah Tozer (LT) will post the item for approval in the Teams chat.
 - Attendees can either 'like' the post, or post 'yes'/'approve' in the Teams chat for each post.
- LT will count votes in-person and online and note if approved.

Hon. Secretary Morwenna Peters (MP) noted that 20 votes is quorum for ARLIS UK & Ireland, and there were 20 attendees in total at the start of the AGM; therefore, it was decided to do all voting/approving as part of the Hon. Secretary's Report in **2.**, in case any attendees leave early.

2. Minutes of last AGM (28th April 2024)

BM noted that there was one previous action from the 2024 AGM, which was to circulate the Engagement Officer opportunity once advertised; Laura Wood is now in post.

BM asked all to approve the Minutes of the last AGM; all approved.

3. Chair's Report – Brett Moodie (Report 1, p.2)

As outlined in the Chair's Report circulated in advance, BM provided an overview of the Society's activities over the last year, including events, awards and scholarships, and the Conference, which will all be expanded on in the individual Reports to follow.

BM noted ARLIS's dedication to diversifying the work we do as art library professionals and in the wider sector through applying the Equity Steering Group actions across the Society, and

are proud to offer opportunities to do this through its awards and the Global Majority Scholarship.

A lot of the Society's work is supported financially by the Art Libraries Journal, and BM noted that ARLIS is prepared for changes in the future with Cambridge University Press's shift to Open Access. ALJ Editor Gustavo Grandal Montero is in the early stages of investigating an alternative partner or source of funding. Therefore, while ARLIS is in a good financial position at present, there is a need to identify other ways to fund the Society's work.

BM was saddened to announce that Hon. Treasurer Rebecca Law will be stepping down, although RL will stay to support the transition of the new Treasurer once appointed; this post will be advertised in due course.

As well as those noted in the Chair's Report, BM ended by expressing gratitude for everyone's work for ARLIS and is proud of what the Society has achieved over the last year.

4. Hon. Secretary's Report – Morwenna Peters (Report 2, p.6)

4.1 Constitution Approval

There was an outstanding proposal to extend the length of office for the three Honorary Officers on Council – Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Membership Secretary – from six years to nine years.

While approved at Council, any changes to the Constitution are to be approved by 2/3 of the Society's Membership (at present, this totals 46 votes). As there were not 46 Members present to vote at the AGM, and there is no extraordinary Meeting planned to approve these changes in future, this proposal cannot be approved.

Attendees were not asked to vote and the length of office for the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and Membership Secretary will stay at six years.

4.2 Handbook Approval

The updated ARLIS Handbook was circulated to attendees in advance.

MP noted that there were lots of edits in line with changes to the Society over the last few years, including the introduction of new posts and their duties, the application of the Equity Steering Group actions, and the Conference planning cycle.

It was identified and approved at Council that a separate Conference guide should be produced to clarify procedures for the planning of future Conferences; Aoife Larkin and the 2025 CWP are working on this during the planning of this year's Conference.

MP asked all attendees to approve the updated ARLIS Handbook; all approved.

The updated ARLIS Handbook will be posted to this page on the ARLIS webpages shortly:
<https://arlis.net/about-us/policies/>

4.3 Election of New Officers/Council Members

All present were asked to vote to approve the following:

- Ordinary Member: Aoife Larkin, Leeds Arts University
- Ordinary Member: Salvatore Bellavia, Wallace Collection and National Portrait Gallery
- Co-Webmaster: Kirsty Edginton, Architectural Association
- Membership Secretary: Madeleine Ahern, Tate
- Engagement Officer: Laura Wood, Leeds Arts University

All elections approved.

4.4 Returning Members

All present were asked to vote to approve the following:

- Chair: Brett Moodie, Cornwall College
- Honorary Secretary: Morwenna Peters, UWE Bristol
- Minutes Secretary: Leah Tozer, UWE Bristol
- Chair of Serials Committee: Klara Finnimore, Royal College of Art
- Chair of Professional Development Committee: Tavian Hunter, Iniva
- Chair of Cataloguing and Classification Committee: Victoria Parkinson, King's College London

All approved.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Law (Report 3, p.8)

Rebecca Law (RL) sent apologies; BM presented the Hon. Treasurer's Report and asked all to view the 2024 Financial Accounts, the 2025 Budget, and the Scholarship Control spreadsheet circulated in advance:

The accountants have completed a review of ARLIS's accounts for 2024 with no concerns flagged. Final Account statement attached for circulation.

To note that although ARLIS is in a strong financial position to support the various activities and awards of the Society at present, it is advised that future funding decisions consider the proposed changes to our main source of income, the ALJ.

The budget for 2025 has been agreed by council (attached).

A summary of Global Scholarship payments is also attached. There is currently £6,350.00 outstanding.

6. Membership Secretary's Report – Madeleine Ahern (Report 4, p.9)

ARLIS Membership as of 14th April 2025:

- Individual – 29
- Institutional – 39
- Affiliate (LALIC) – 5
- Honorary – 14

Madeleine Ahern (MA) noted that while there is a slight decrease in individual and institutional Members from 2024, she is confident that it will increase throughout the year and particularly following the 2025 Conference in Limerick.

The new process for signing up for Membership following the launch of the arlis.net website is proving successful.

MA presented the data from the annual Diversity & Inclusion Membership Survey, which was circulated to all individual and institutional Members prior to the AGM, with 29 respondents. The annual Membership Survey started in 2021 as one of the Equity Steering Group actions.

The Membership Survey slides were circulated to all attendees in advance, and MA noted the following:

- Education is the largest sector, then National Library, then private sector.
- A postgraduate qualification was the most popular route into librarianship, with 61.3% of respondents in certificate of a postgraduate Library and Information Studies qualification.
- Over 50% of respondents work in London; 29% from the Midlands.
- 82.8% identify as White (down 1.1% from 2024).
- 69% identify as female, including transgender women (up 4.5% from 2024).
- 10.7% identify as D/deaf or disabled or have a long-term health condition (down 2.2% from 2024).
- 17.2% identify as neurodiverse (up 0.5% from 2024).
- No clear preference overall for which areas of activity respondents would like to see ARLIS prioritise.

7. Annual Conference Reports

7.1 2024 London Conference Report – Jerry Jenkins (Report 5.1, p11)

Chair of the 2024 Conference Working Party (CWP), Jerry Jenkins (JJ), presented the 2024 Conference Report.

The focus of the Conference, *Artificial Visions: Navigating the Intersection between AI and Art Libraries*, arose from trying to unpack the deluge of information we deal with as art library professionals. The ARLIS Conference felt like an apt opportunity to explore this intersection in detail, as evidenced by the wealth of applications for speakers and delegates. Delegates appreciated the diversity of events, presentations, and workshops scheduled.

While overall a very successful Conference, JJ noted that there were difficult situations to deal with, including IT support, scheduling, and diversifying the schedule and speakers, but praised the 2024 CWP for dealing with this during the proceedings and identifying actions to address these issues for future Conferences.

Due largely to the venue, Central Saint Martins, offering their space and services for free, the 2024 Conference was profitable and so in a position to financially support future Conferences. The 2025 CWP are using the profit from the 2024 Conference to fund a selection of

Conference Bursaries, offering opportunities to those that wouldn't otherwise attend an ARLIS Conference.

Following JJ's Report, BM praised the 2024 CWP for dealing with those difficult situations on the day and afterwards, and for producing such a successful Conference; noted increased confidence personally in discussing AI and Art Librarianship since attending.

7.2 2025 Limerick Conference Working Party Update – Sarah Landy (Report 5.2, p.19)

Sarah Landy (SL), Deputy Librarian at the Technological University of the Shannon, the venue of the 2025 Conference, and Co-Chair of the 2025 Conference Working Party (with Aoife Larkin) presented the following updates on the planning of the 2025 Conference in Limerick:

- The 2025 Conference, *Stacks, Studio and Beyond: Artists and the Art Library*, will take place at Limerick School of Art and Design, part of the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS). The TUS was founded after a union of two previous technological institutes and opened in 2021.
- There are 12 people in the 2025 CWP from across the UK and Ireland, as well as three *ex officios* (Brett Moodie, Chair; Laura Wood, Engagement Officer; Alex Duncan, Webmaster)
- SL presented the actions taken so far (with dates) as part of the Conference planning cycle and outlined in the Conference Working Part Update, including:
 - Undertaking a site visit to the Limerick School of Art and Design (November 2024).
 - Setting up a 2025 Conference gmail address: arlisconference25@gmail.com (January 2025).
 - Selecting a logo designed by a Limerick School of Art and Design student, with the prize (an iPad) donated by the TUS (February 2025).
- The 2025 Conference keynote speakers are:
 - Virginia Teehan – Chief Executive Officer, Heritage Council Ireland
 - Katherine McSharry – Deputy University Librarian, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Due to an issue with using TicketTailor, tickets will be issued using Eventbrite again this year.
- Very pleased to offer an extensive selection of Conference Bursaries for those that self-identify to apply, with allocations for UK and Irish applicants.

SL ended with special thanks to the 2025 CWP, as well as Brett Moodie, Morwenna Peters, Rebecca Law, Laura Wood, and Alex Duncan for their support.

BM echoed thanks to SL, Aoife Larkin, and the 2025 CWP for their work so far, and is looking forward to attending this year's Conference.

8. Art Libraries Journal Report (Report 6, p.22)

Gustavo Grandal Montero sent apologies; BM presented the ALJ Report and asked all to view the appendices circulated in advance:

Four issues of the Journal were published in 2024:

Volume 49 - Issue 1 - January 2024, collection of articles, edited by Associate Editor Kraig Binkowski: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/art-libraries-journal/issue/807AF88E0FFACACAAA175D94A28C5549>

Volume 49 - Issue 2 – April 2024, collection of articles, edited by Editor Gustavo Grandal Montero: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/art-libraries-journal/issue/3E83EFD9A83E39FC5A07F2A32C474110>

Volume 49 - Issue 3 – July 2024, special issue on the IFLA Satellite Conference of the Art Libraries Section, edited by Associate Editor Lindsey Reno and guest editor Saskia Scheltjens: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/art-libraries-journal/issue/C38780646F75EF0BDA97FFD50DB53976>

Volume 49 - Issue 4 – October 2024, collection of articles, edited by Associate Editor Michael Wirtz: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/art-libraries-journal/issue/04FF2AF808954446830CDFF7613B149E>

Our publisher Cambridge University Press experienced a cybersecurity incident in June 2024 which affected the production of the journal. The ALJ remained accessible online, but issues 2, 3 and 4 were delayed.

Our institutional subscribers in 2024 were 121, and 3,978 institutions had access through consortia agreements (please note that this figure does not include lower cost consortia programme).

9. Committees' Reports

9.1 Cataloguing and Classification Committee – Victoria Parkinson (Report 7.1, p.28)

With eight people on Committee, the Cataloguing and Classification Committee (C&C) are in a fairly strong position; still planning to do a call-out for new Members later this year.

The C&C delivered one in-person event this year at Leeds Arts University, led by Laura Wood and inspired by the Cataloguing Artists' Books workshop that took place at the Tate in late 2023. The C&C were proud to offer a free event outside London and expressed gratitude to Council for approving funding for catering. The event was well planned and attended, and views on the event were very positive.

The C&C are in the early stages of planning to offer lunchtime events later in the year.

9.2 Professional Development Committee – Tavian Hunter (Report 7.2, p.29)

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) are in a stronger position than last year with six people on Committee; Tavian Hunter (TH) noted that this allows for increased capacity to plan and deliver events.

The PDC delivered two events this year: the Artistic Pedagogies workshop, which focused on teaching for art library professionals and identified a future focus for the PDC, and the PDC's flagship event *Taking the Plunge*, which was adapted to focus on skills transition in a shifting professional landscape. TH noted that the events were well-attended and attracted attendees from around the world as well as the UK and Ireland.

For future events, the PDC is planning to focus on digital pedagogy and AI, and offer a part two to the Artistic Pedagogies workshop focusing on teaching with Special Collections.

9.3 Serials Committee – Klara Finnimore (Report 7.3, p.31)

The Serials Committee is in good standing with six people on Committee; shifting to online meetings has supported a less London-centric Membership and allows for attendance alongside other professional duties.

The Serials Committee offered two events this year, one workshop at the 2024 Conference, *Using AI to Engage with your Print Collection*, and *Serial Offenders*, a series of online lightning talks delivered by the Committee. The events were well-attended (with up to 60 people attending *Serial Offenders*), and the Serials Committee is using the positive feedback to develop future ideas.

Future event ideas for the Serial Committee include offering serials cataloguing and conservation workshops.

10. Regional Representation

10.1 ARLIS South West – Morwenna Peters (Report 8.1, p.33)

ARLIS South West delivered three events this year:

- Visit to the University of Bristol's Theatre and Special Collections (November 2024)
- Research Award presentation (December 2024)
- Visit to the Cabinet of Curiosities showcase at Bower Ashton Library with UWE's Centre for Print Research (March 2025)

The Research Award presentation was an engaging way to present the work funded by ARLIS, and was uploaded to the ARLIS YouTube after, and MP proposed that it would be great to see awardees present their ARLIS-funded work like this in future. The written reports are also posted on arlis.net: <https://arlis.net/careers/awards/>

A Padlet was created to allow people to post ideas for visits and events throughout the South West (as it's largely Bristol-centric at present), as an interactive, visual source. ARLIS South West are open to those across Council using it to share ideas for future visits and events: <https://padlet.com/ARLISSW/arlis southwest>

10.2 LALIC – Leeds Art Libraries in Cooperation (Report 8.2, p.35)

Aoife Larkin sent apologies; Ann Sproat presented the LALIC Report.

LALIC has worked as a cooperation of five arts libraries across Leeds for over 25 years. After previously working as part of a past Committee for national organisations, LALIC has strengthened its affiliation with ARLIS over the last few years as an affiliate group.

The five art libraries are Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Arts University, Leeds Central Library, the Henry Moore Institute, and the University of Leeds, and LALIC provides opportunities to support each other and share knowledge across institutions.

Due to various disruptions this year, such as staff restructures and construction work, it was difficult to arrange events, but LALIC are enthusiastic about ideas for the future.

11. Website and Social Media – Alex Duncan & Laura Wood (Report 9, p.36)

Alex Duncan (AD) (Co-Webmaster) sent apologies; Laura Wood (LW) (Engagement Officer) presented the Website Report that was circulated in advance.

The new arlis.net website went live in September 2024 and is already successfully facilitating the Membership sign-up process. The pages for the 2025 Conference are also a fixed part of the ARLIS website, for easier finding and archiving.

After several years, Simine Marine stepped down this year, and Kirsty Edginton was appointed Co-Webmaster alongside AD.

ARLIS is now active across Instagram, Bluesky, LinkedIn, and YouTube (after a decision by Council to deactivate the ARLIS Twitter/X account), with increasing following and engagement over the last year (with 200 members now part of the LinkedIn group).

The 2024 Conference videos will be posted to the ARLIS YouTube account shortly, and LW is working with the 2025 CWP to post this year's Conference content across the ARLIS social profiles.

LW asked for all to share any future events, visits, or content for posting or sharing on the ARLIS social accounts.

12. Awards and Scholarships

BM introduced this section and provided an overview of the awards and scholarships that ARLIS supports, including the Global Majority Scholarship and Research Awards, as well as the extensive selection of Conference Bursaries and Student Awards on offer this year to prospective delegates in the UK and Ireland: <https://arlis.net/careers/awards/>

12.1 Global Majority Scholarship – (Report 10.1, p.37)

The following text was provided by Nick Brown who sent apologies; presented by BM:

The ARLIS/UK & Ireland Global Majority Art Librarianship Scholarship was successfully awarded in 2024 to applicant Rhoda Boateng who is now completing an MA in Library and Information Studies at University College London.

Now in its fourth year, the Scholarship continues as an effort to begin addressing structural racism and the chronic underrepresentation of library workers of colour across the arts library sector.

The 2025 scholarship will be advertised in early to mid-May with a closing date of late June and the intention to notify applicants of the outcome in July. Contact has been made with some members of the former ARLIS Equity Steering Group who are keen to assist with the promotion of the award and participating in the award panel.

We remain proud of the commitment ARLIS Council has shown to continuing with this important initiative, subject to annual review in light of financial viability. We strongly encourage ARLIS as a community of interest to continue to help promote the award among your networks.

12.2 Research Award – Morwenna Peters (Report 10.2, p.38)

ARLIS offers two Research Awards each year, gratefully funded by an anonymous donor:

- Members Research Award – up to £1500, focused on providing professional development opportunities to existing individual or institutional Members.
- Non-Members Research Award – up to £1000, focused on offering an opportunity for those outside of ARLIS's institutional circles to fund more diverse work in the sector.

MP noted that these differentiations are not prescriptive and that there is lots of overlap in the applications. The awards allow for expansive use for the awardee, such as funding for travel, event attendance, and visits.

For this year's awards, Council approved increasing the total awarded to Members from £1000 to £1500. The totals awarded will be assessed every year, in line with the Society's financial position.

A panel of volunteers were appointed to assess applications, and will use their experience this year to look at the fair scoring of applications and the way in which this differs across the two awards in future.

The 2023-24 awardees were:

- Suzanna Hall (Arts University Bournemouth) – Ephemera in the Fashion Library: slow looking and rare fashion publication in academic libraries
- Billie Coxhead (UAL), Fiona Dowling, and Morwenna Peters (UWE Bristol) – So you think you want a materials library? A knowledge exchange material literacy research project

The work funded by these awards was presented online in December 2024 and uploaded to the ARLIS YouTube account: [ARLIS Research Awards 2023-24](#)

The 2024-25 awardees are:

- Aoife Larkin (Leeds Arts University) – exploring the Leeds Arts University archive to foster greater scholarly, creative, and wider engagement.

- Francisca Fuentes Rettig – developing a theoretical underpinning for a creative output.

13. Election of New Officers/Council Members

Voting to approve the elections took place as part of the **Hon. Secretary's Report** in 4.

14. Thank you to Retiring Officers/Council Members – Brett Moodie

BM expressed the Society's gratitude to those stepping down from ARLIS positions this year:

Honorary Treasurer: Rebecca Law, East Kent Colleges
 Co-Web Master: Simine Marine, Architectural Association
 Ordinary Member: Jane Bramwell, Tate
 Ordinary Member: Antonia Lewis, University of the Creative Arts

15. AOB

BM asked for any questions; Beth Houghton asked if there were any further details about the financial situation and the Art Libraries Journal:

- BM noted that this is very new and was only discussed at January's Council.
- There are alternative options open to the ALJ – finding an alternative publisher, looking at different funding sources – that the editor, Gustavo Grandal Montero will lead the Society through, provide updates on, and ask for approval for at future Councils.
- BM assured all present that this will be discussed again at the next Council in September.

BM closed the AGM by praising everyone for their work for ARLIS over the last year, and expressed gratitude to all attendees, as this was essential for the voting process.

A social event at the Somers Town Coffee House in London followed for those attending in-person, and BM looked forward to seeing attendees there.

Actions

No actions from the AGM.

Action	Who	Date