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Editorial Transition

Maureen Burns Ed.D.

IMAGinED Consulting, moaburns@gmail.com

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Editorial Transition

Abstract

The *VRA Bulletin* Content Editor discusses the transition from one editorial team to the next and expresses gratitude to fellow-editors and contributors. A nostalgic look back at the interesting content published over the last four years is provided. Potential authors are encouraged to consider submitting feature articles, perspectives, reviews as well as the full gamut of Association and affiliate news to the *VRA Bulletin* especially as it moves to an open access publishing model.

Keywords

open access

Author Bio & Acknowledgements

Maureen Burns is an information professional with over 30 years of experience developing and managing teaching resources of analog and digital images at UC Irvine, the Getty Villa, and CSULB. Presently working on a consulting basis through IMAGinED, Burns is handling sales for Archivision and is partnering on a CSU Archives Japanese American history digitization project as well as other image-focused work. With a doctorate in Educational Administration from the UCI/UCLA joint Leadership program, Burns provides editorial support for the electronic *Journal for Learning through the Arts* and works as a project coordinator for a UCI NSF K-12 arts integration professional development grant. She is completing four years of service as the Content Editor for the online *VRA Bulletin* and participating in the work of VRA's LA Conference Planning, Development, International, and Financial Advisory Committees as well as Affiliate Representative to the College Art Association. She is also a past VRA president, past director of the VRA Foundation, and past chair of the VRA's Southern California Chapter.

Letter from the Editor February 2019

As I complete my term as the VRA Bulletin Content Editor, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the VRA Board for appointing me to this position of responsibility and to Hannah Marshall, Production Editor, for being the best of collaborators in this publishing endeavor. I am thrilled to see Hannah step up as the new Content Editor and we thank Amy Lazet for jumping in as the new Production Editor. I am confident that they will take the VRA Bulletin to new heights in terms of quality journal issues. All of my best wishes go out to the new VRA Bulletin editors as they move to an open access model in 2019. May new and exciting content roll in!

I would also like to thank Susan Jane Williams for coming up with the idea for a themed issue focused on metadata and cataloging, a subject that is close to any VRA member's heart. She led the charge on finding content for this issue, worked with the featured authors to bring their articles together, did some editorial work, and wrote an article herself. All of these efforts are very much appreciated. This is VRA's third guest edited issue and we now have some guidelines in place, if any other members have good ideas about themed issues and might want to consider guest editing. We hope that VRA members will keep this possibility in mind and take advantage of this opportunity with future themed issues.

Of course, my editorial stint would not have gone well without all of the VRA members and other authors who came to me with article ideas, followed through on the research and writing, and so willingly shared their experiences in this journal of professional visual resources practice. Thank you so very much to all of the contributors to the VRA Bulletin. Whenever you have to research or problem solve at your own institution, please consider documenting and sharing it with your colleagues in the VRA Bulletin. The VRA Bulletin accepts association news (from the Board, Chapters, Committees, Task Forces, etc.), affiliate news (from ARLIS/NA, CAA, SECAC, and SAH as well as VRA's commercial partners), feature articles, perspectives (opinion pieces and other news), and reviews (books, other media, technology, etc.). The sky is the limit, so contact the Editors with any publishing ideas and stay tuned as the VRA Bulletin moves to an open access publishing model—it will not be locked down at all and passwords will not longer be required with the 2019 issues.

The transition from a print journal to an electronic publication has had its challenges, but the Editors hope that VRA members and like-minded informational professionals are enjoying the content that we are making so readily available. During this time, I have had colleagues bemoan the loss of the print version arriving in their snail mail boxes and have even mention that they don't read the journal anymore because they have to go online. With print, one couldn't resist at least flipping through the table of contents and often getting drawn in to read more. We all have these nostalgic analog moments; I for one can't seem to let go of print books, music CDs, and movie DVDs, although I buy, download, stream, and read electronic versions too. These were often some of my favorite things to give as gifts and it is not as satisfying to just give gift cards for the electronic items or send them through Amazon (although at least VRA can benefit from such purchases through the Amazon Smile program). However, as soon as an issue of the VRA Bulletin is published, the Production Editor sends an e-mail to the VRA-

Listerv outlining the contents and potential readers only have to click on the link to get to the issue. There was the added barrier of remembering a VRA Bulletin password, since issues have been locked down to VRA members only for 6 months, but the move to open access in 2019 will make it so the password is no longer necessary. You can read the articles online immediately, download PDFs, or print articles of interest to read at your leisure away from the computer screen.

I took a nostalgic look back at the four years of VRA Bulletin issues that I have edited to get a feel for the range of content that has been published. There were three special themed issues with guest editors on the current topics of: digital humanities, scope drift, and now cataloging and metadata. If metadata is your special interest, previous issues had the “Cataloging and Metadata Practices Survey Report” (Vol. 45, Issue 1) as well as articles on the VRA’s embedded metadata tools (Focht in Vol. 45, Issue1), metadata for geographic information systems (Cartledge in Vol. 45, Issue 1), creating metadata for a portrait file (Waldron in Vol. 44, Issue 1), and customizing metadata with open source software (Lucarelli and Swindle Thomas in Vol. 44, Issue 2). Copyright and intellectual property rights, crowdsourcing, media preservation, portfolios, visual indexes for legacy slide collections, visual literacy, and a wide range of digital projects focused on many subjects (from Japanese American WWII incarceration to wine labels) are topics represented in recent articles. New technology topics are well represented, such as: DAMs, geographic information systems, electronic publishing, immersive environments, linked open data, photogrammetry, stereographs on smart phones, virtual reality, and visualization. Association business, affiliate news, reports from VRA’s commercial partners, reviews, opinion pieces and other perspectives are also published regularly. For example, in Stephanie Rosen’s “Toolkit to Support the Description of Visual Resources for Accessibility in Arts and Humanities Publications,” readers can learn more about a collaborative effort to develop a standard and tools for the vision impaired to describe the images published in books (Vol. 44, Issue 1). This is a very broad range of topics that can enhance your professional practice and provide food for thought about the expanding roles that visual resources curators can play in educational institutions.

Therefore, I urge you to open that laptop and start typing or pick up your pen, find some paper, and start writing. The VRA Bulletin wants to hear from you. I think you will find along the way that writing about the visual resources profession is good for crystalizing ideas, raising issues, developing projects, and thinking about the future.

With much appreciation to all for your consideration and this opportunity to serve the Association in such an enlightening capacity,

Maureen Burns, Ed.D.
Past VRA Bulletin Content Editor
IMAGinED Consulting & Archivision Associate