1-19-2015

Content Editors' Transition

Maureen Burns

Visual Resources Association, moaburns@gmail.com

Content Editors' Transition

Abstract

The *VRA Bulletin* Content Editor discusses the transition from one editor to the next and summarizes this issue's content. She mentions the types of publishing formats currently available, explains how to submit and article, and calls for more contributions.

Author Bio & Acknowledgements

Maureen Burns is an information professional with over 25 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 and the Image Consulting Cooperative, Burns currently handles sales for Archivision, is partnering on the CSU Japanese American History Digitization Project, finishing the Patel Islamic Architecture Project for ARTstor's core collections, and serving as project coordinator for the UCI NSF Equitable Science Curriculum integrating Arts in Public Education. With a doctorate in Educational Administration from the UCI/UCLA joint Leadership program, Burns is also the production editor for the electronic *Journal for Learning through the Arts.* On the professional activities front, she is currently serving as the Content Editor of the online *VRA Bulletin* and participating in the work of the Slide and Transitional Media Task Force as well as developing a Regional Workshop program through the Visual Resources Association Foundation. She has served as a Director of the VRA Foundation Board and President of VRA within the last 5 years.

This issue of the *VRA Bulletin* is the first since the transition of the Content Editors. Therefore, I would like to first and foremost take this opportunity to thank Anne Blecksmith for her almost four years of service in this position. She did a terrific job of getting the electronic journal off the ground, catching up on the publication schedule, and finding interesting material to publish.

In this issue, the President of the Visual Resources Association, Elaine Paul, provides us with an update on the organization's many important activities, including progress in the areas of communications, awards, education, professional development, intellectual property, and data standards. She provides other news about Association business, including preparations for the upcoming annual conference in Denver and a reminder that the 2016 conference will be a joint one with the Art Libraries Society of North America in Seattle. Molly Tighe adds to the Association news with more details about the work of the Intellectual Property Rights Committee and encourages VRA members to complete a survey to help inform the direction of their work.

Feature articles include a contribution by Jane Darcovich describing a University of Illinois at Chicago project in which the digitization of book jackets and description of a special collection has made it more discoverable and increased awareness of this rare material. Jasmine Burns' article follows in which she asserts the elevation of visual materials to the level of textual records in archives and explores the theoretical and practical implications. While Burns grapples with maintaining the archival value of images in both physical and digital form, Molly Schoen shows us how incorporating visual literacy sessions into undergraduate courses helps students effectively access and use the archival materials that they need for their research. This last article builds a strong case for providing such customized instructional sessions by using those offered by the Visual Resources Collection at the University of Michigan as an example. Extensive information is provided about what is generally covered in such a session and how they can be customized to meet instructor, course, and/or student needs as well as to include a wide variety of subject areas beyond the visual arts. Thank you to all of these authors for providing such pragmatic and thought provoking information as well as to copy editors, Astrid Otey and Chris Donnelly, for their conscientious work.

The *VRA Bulletin* Editors are looking forward to publishing three more issues this year and are currently accepting a variety of publication formats. They include the following:

- **Feature Articles** (approximately 2,000 to 5,000 words in length) covering a wide range of topics including: digital imaging and digital projects; cataloging and classification systems; historical collections and archives; data standards; education and professional development; intellectual property rights and copyright; library automation; collection development; digital humanities; digital curation and preservation; visual literacy and instruction; and, professional standards and ethics.
- **Perspectives** (approximately 1,000 to 3,000 words in length) allowing VRA members and other information professionals the opportunity to write thoughtful, measured, and well-researched professional opinion articles on a particular subject of interest.
- **Reviews** (approximately 250 to 1,000 words in length) of print publications of interest, databases, online collections, software, imaging equipment, etc.

- **Association News** from VRA leaders and members, affiliate societies, and/or commercial partners.

Creative ideas about other publication formats are always welcome. VRA members and other like-minded information professionals are strongly encouraged to submit their writing to the *VRA Bulletin* and enjoy the benefits of being published. Whether a short or lengthy contribution, we look forward to hearing from you.

Both the Content and Production Editors are here to help with any aspect of the publishing process (moaburns@gmail.com and jnmiller@berkeley.edu). Submitting content to the *VRA Bulletin* starts by visiting the Submission Guidelines portion of the journal Web site at http://online.vraweb.org/vrab/submguide.html. You should have the following items ready for upload: author information, article title, abstract (separate from the article body), keywords for your article (optional), and the text of your article in Microsoft Word or RTF format. The article text doesn't need to have a title page, integrated abstract, or page numbers because these are generated from the associated information you add to the online system. The submission process consists of the following steps: reading and accepting the Article Submission Agreement, providing information about yourself and any other authors, and uploading your article and any related items. You may revise these elements by accessing your submission from your account page at any time before publication. Your submission will be final when all steps have been completed and you click the final submit button.

The mission of the *VRA Bulletin* is to serve the membership of the Visual Resources Association by providing a professional forum for the discussion and dissemination of ideas and information directly related to the field of visual resources. The *Bulletin* serves as a record of the Association's research and progress; thus, contributions from VRA professionals are essential to the *Bulletin's* relevance and continuation. News from affiliated societies and other like-minded information professionals is also encouraged. Please consider sharing your research, projects, news, and stories in the *VRA Bulletin*. We want to hear from you!