

Virginia M. G. Hall , Author
Digital Initiatives Advisory Group
February 3, 2003
Annual Report 2002

Current Charge (if applicable):

To monitor the activities of shared resource initiatives having digital components and to keep the VRA membership informed.

Accomplishments:

Ann Whiteside and Macie Hall both participated in meetings with ARTstor representatives, in New York and at their respective institutions.

Members are monitoring various e-mail lists and newsletters including Digital Copyright Listserv, Free On-Line Scholarship Newsletter, NINCH, ImageLib, Primary Source -- the IMLS Monthly E-mail Newsletter, VRA Listserv.

Ann Whiteside, Virginia Kerr and Macie Hall attended the conference Transforming Disciplines: Computer Science and The Humanities, sponsored by NINCH, CNI and the Carnegie Corporation, January 17-18, 2003.

The DIAG met in during the conference and was able to develop some specific goals for the coming year.

Completed planning for the VRA Annual Meeting 2003 session titled "XML, METS, TEI, EAD: New Acronyms in the Future of VR?" Confirmed speakers and revised abstract.

Goals:

Our overall goal is to provide more organized mechanisms for informing the membership about digital projects, initiatives, and practices of interest to the profession and to provide access to resources for the membership to incorporate digital technologies into professional practice.

Specifically, we will be enlisting the assistance of VRA members with expertise in appropriate areas to assist in developing a set of resources to support the needs of visual resources professionals for the digital era. Relevant topics should extend beyond imaging standards to include workflow, collection development strategies, and metadata used for delivery and archiving of digital files. Resources to be developed could include lists of definitions and tools, as well as information on project management, best practices and collaborative practices.

We intend to launch a column on the VRA website that covers current topics such as an update on ARTstor, a report on the NINCH conference, as well as articles and summaries of listserv discussions on project management, best practices and forming partnerships. To the extent that the VRA Bulletin continues to be published, some of these materials can be repurposed for the paper edition. We will use the VRA Listserv to keep members updated, and to point to the website column.

We also will be looking at ways in which to provide additional education and training resources in the necessary components for digital literacy to the membership in the future.

Ann Whiteside and Virginia Kerr will be informally polling members at the upcoming VRA conference to see what kind of information is most needed. This will be one way to assure that we are serving the membership appropriately.

Board Action Requested:

OPTIONAL-- Miscellaneous (Financials, Membership Action Requests, etc):

The committee has been asked to include in this section comments on and responses to the VRA Strategic Plan. Our committee in developing goals for the coming years has considered several aspects of the Strategic Plan. We will be using the VRA website to communicate to the membership with our plan to implement a column on the website with regular features of interest on digital initiatives and technology. We will also continue to inform the membership via the VRA listserv. We are offering a session at the upcoming conference to educate the membership on some digital technologies which will be of interest. Our committee has had some discussion about other education opportunities we might provide such as speaking at (or suggesting speakers for) VRA chapter meetings, and developing resource lists for workshops and training opportunities on various technologies, thereby supporting the concept of “making experts.” We also expect to be able to help with the goal of supporting a VRA Speakers Bureau and a Consultant's Roster. Committee members are participating in national efforts by our attendance at the NINCH conference and at ARTstor meetings. We are a technology oriented committee and thus provide for the long term goal of using technology to support the future objectives of the VRA.

It is possible that the Board may wish to consider citing DIAG specifically in the Strategic Plan, under points 6A (“Making Experts”) and/or 6B (Promoting our leadership).

List of Members of Committee/Chapter/Task Force (cite names and note officers' titles only):

Virginia M. G. Hall
Virginia Kerr
Ann Whiteside

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia M. G. Hall
Author