



Annual Report 2013-2014



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The VRA Foundation Mission

The Foundation advances knowledge in the field of visual resources and image management and provides educational and training opportunities in support of broad access to cultural information in the digital age.

The Foundation advances awareness of important issues for digital information management, encourages the application of professional standards, innovative technology, and metadata cataloging protocols, facilitates workplace training, and promotes an awareness of intellectual property rights and copyright issues.

The VRA Foundation supports a range of educational offerings to help ensure that such information reaches a diverse and global audience.



Images courtesy of Archivision

Message From the Chair

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, it's been another successful year for the Visual Resources Association Foundation.

During 2013-2014, the Board of Directors was able for the first time to offer grant funding to a successful candidate who resides outside of the United States. The VRAF grants program, which provides funds for professional development opportunities as well as for research and education, was delighted to provide funding to our international colleague, Vicky Brown, to allow her to attend the VRA conference in Milwaukee.

In order to continue to foster the next generation of visual resources professionals, the Foundation offered a second VRA Foundation Internship to support a graduate student in obtaining practical work experience in archives, libraries, and museums. This second internship provided a stipend of \$3000 plus an additional \$1,000 for professional development such as attendance at relevant conferences or at the SEI.

The Board is deeply appreciative of the dedicated efforts of the VRAF Internship Awards Committee: Melissa Brown, Meghan Musolff, Margaret Webster and Angie Yip. This committee consists of representatives of the VRA Education Committee, the VRA Awards Committee, and the previous internship recipient; it is chaired by a VRAF Director.

The VRA Foundation is grateful to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for providing the funding for the second year of the internship. We hope to continue the VRAF Internship for years to come.

June 2014 marked the eleventh year of the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources & Image Management (SEI), held for the first time at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Led by Co-chairs Amy Trendler and Meghan Musolff, Local Chair Sarah Christensen, and the entire SEI Implementation Team, attendees experienced four intensive days of courses addressing the topics of metadata, imaging, intellectual property rights, and instruction while also having the opportunity to explore and enjoy the University of Illinois campus, the city of Urbana-Champaign, and to develop a critical network of professional relationships. SEI would not be possible without the yearlong commitment of the Implementation Team; the VRAF Board extends a heart-felt thanks to each member of the team for their efforts and dedication.

Stay tuned as the VRA Foundation continues to develop programs to support the visual resources profession. In the works is a program to support regional workshops. We are also engaging in conversations with the Board of Directors of the Visual Resources Association to strengthen and coordinate our efforts for the mutual benefit of our profession. Finally, we will soon launch a broad based fund raising drive.

As I look back upon the past year and all the Foundation has accomplished, I take this opportunity to thank my fellow directors for their time and dedication. I also thank each and every donor for his or her generous gifts to the VRA Foundation. Thank you for making the 2013-2014 fiscal year such a success.

Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management

The purpose of the Summer Educational Institute (SEI) is to provide information professionals with valuable training and education in the area of visual resources and image management. Under the direction of the Executive Boards of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) and the Visual Resources Association Foundation (VRAF), the SEI Implementation Team serves as the management group, coordinating administration, scheduling, fundraising, publicity, curriculum, and instruction.

The year 2014 marked the 11th year of SEI. In June 2014, SEI was held for the first year at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The class of 44 students, representing a wide variety of universities, libraries, museums, and other organizations, was led by SEI Co-chairs

The VRA Foundation Internship Award

The second VRAF Internship Award in visual resources and image management was granted in September 2014. This award provides \$3,000 to support a graduate student in obtaining practical work experience in archives, libraries, or museums. The award also includes \$1,000 for professional development in the field of visual resources such as conference or SEI attendance plus a year's membership to the Visual Resources Association. The VRA Foundation is delighted to support the education and practical training of emerging information professionals through the implementation of this new internship award. The VRAF is grateful to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for funding this award and for recognizing its potential to foster the next generation of visual resource professionals. The VRA Foundation continues to work to secure additional funding in order to make this

Amy Trendler (Ball State University) and Meghan Musolff (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), with assistance from the Local Arrangements Chair, Sarah Christensen (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Greta Bahnemann (University of Minnesota) served as the Incoming Co-chair and Faculty Liaison. This year's SEI was both an educational and financial success, offering its attendees the most recent developments in imaging technology, metadata creation, and rights management while also bringing in a substantial profit for its two parent institutions. Great job SEI 2014 Implementation Team!

Visit this [link](#) to learn more about the SEI 2015 program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

award an annual event.

Gabriella Karl-Johnson, an MLIS student at Queens College, the City University of New York, was selected as the 2014-2015 Intern; she is currently providing a minimum of 200 hours of work in the Digital Media Services and Image Archive at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University under the supervision of Jenni Rodda. Her project involves digitizing, fully describing, and making discoverable a collection of analog architectural images which exist as lantern slides. The resulting digitized collection with its descriptive metadata will be accessible on various sites including SharedShelf and Tumblr.

Visit this [link](#) to learn more about the VRAF Internship Award

Grants: Professional Development

This year the VRA Foundation awarded its fifth annual Professional Development Grants. These grants support attendance at an educational event of the grantee's choosing, such as a conference, symposium or workshop, or enrollment in relevant research activities in the VRAF Grant Areas of Interest. These areas may include visual information management and education, and the dissemination of and access to images of primarily cultural heritage materials. Two grants were awarded—one for an Emerging Professional and one for an Established Career Professional. For the first time, due to changes in VRAF policies, internationals as well as United States citizens were eligible to apply for these grants.

Sara Piasecki, recipient of the grant for an Emerging Professional, is Photo Archivist in the Bob and Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, in Alaska. Sara used her award to attend Gawain Weaver's course, Care and Identification of Photographs, held in Los Angeles in October, 2013, where she got hands-on experience learning how to identify the various processes used to make historic photographs. One of her goals was to share her training with other visual resources professionals in Alaska to address needs for fuller description, more informed researcher assistance, and better housing and preservation of historic photograph collections.

Vicky Brown, the first international recipient of a grant for an Established Career Professional, is Curator of the Visual Resources Centre in the History of Art Department, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. Vicky used her award to help support her participation at the annual VRA conference in Milwaukee in March 2014, where she attended many sessions and workshops, helped facilitate the Travel Awards presentation, and chaired the inaugural VRA International Chapter meeting. She was especially glad to be present for the VRA Board's recognition and approval of the International Chapter, which she and colleagues from eight other countries had been working to achieve for the past three years.

Our Generous Donors

Included are our grants partners, internship partner, SEI Donors and general foundation donors. To make a donation, please visit us at vrafoundation.org

2014 SEI Donors

Kathe Hicks Albrecht
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VRA Great Lakes Chapter
VRA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Our grants partner for the SEI Scholarship Program:

Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Our grants partner for the VRA Foundation Internship Award:

Samuel H. Kress Foundation

General Donations to the Foundation

Cindy Abel Morris, Fellow
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Grants: Project Grant for Research and Education

Grants of up to \$1,500 are awarded to organizations or institutions for programs and projects in the VRAF Grant Areas of Interest. The funds may be used for small, stand-alone projects, pilots or start-up financing for larger projects, or for a component of a larger project. Projects in the following categories may be considered for funding: Image Metadata, Image Cataloging, Data Standards, Digital Archives, Digitization projects, Visual Literacy, Pedagogy and Technology, and Intellectual Property Rights. This year, for the first time, applications from internationals could be accepted.

Two Project Grants were awarded in the 2013-2014 cycle. **Amanda Rybin**, Associate Director of the Visual Resources Center at the University of Chicago, received a grant to pursue development of MetaShotPpt 2, a project to automate the transfer of embedded metadata and images to PowerPoint on Macintosh computers. The University of

Spotlight on Past Awardees

We have heard from three recent recipients of VRAF grants about the effect the grant has had on their project or on their own professional lives.

Leslie Cade at the Cleveland Museum of Art was the recipient of a VRAF Project Grant award to digitize negatives documenting the life of the institution and its collections. Leslie writes, "The VRAF grant allowed us to take the first step... to develop a database and hire an intern to count the exact number, size, and type of negative. The results have fostered institutional support in the preparation of thoughtful grant applications to hire a consultant to assess the physical condition of the collection and a digitization vendor."

Meghan Petersen at the Currier Library & Archive also received a VRAF Project Grant award, in her case to digitize Currier Library publications because, as she says, "we felt we could tackle the project in a responsible way and that it would serve our audiences well." She adds, "The VRAF grant although modest, propelled our project forward and enticed donors to support our ongoing work. We believe that they took the project seriously not only because we presented a realistic workflow and

Chicago used the funds to hire a student programmer and license the necessary Adobe software. This project was the logical continuation of the work done last year at Carleton College to transfer embedded metadata and images to PowerPoint on Windows computers.

The second Project Grant was awarded to **Christopher Strasbaugh**, Director of Visual Resources in the History of Art Department at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Chris and his colleagues used the funds to continue development of the open source DIMLI: Digital Image Management Library, a web-based application written to interact with visual resources relational databases. The grant was used to pay a developer to create several critical features and lay the foundation for others, including a functional and useful import feature, which could make DIMLI a digital asset management system that would meet the needs not only of Vanderbilt, but other institutions as well.

project plan but because the project was supported by the VRAF. Our success in the Digital Library project has increased traffic to our website and has improved our response times for reference for this collection. Additionally, the Digital Library has now become an institutional strategic priority. We are thrilled!"

Anne Young at the Indianapolis Museum of Art received a VRAF Professional Development Grant to attend the American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education (ALI CLE) 2013 Legal Issues in Museum Administration (LIMA) course. Anne writes that "the additional sessions and networking opportunities that are not available in the virtual webinars have been pivotal to my current professional projects. Notably, several individuals I was able to connect with in-person at LIMA are now collaborating with me on the upcoming publication, **Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions**, for which I am both the editor and a contributing author. Without my attendance at ALI CLE's LIMA and the VRAF's Grant support, I would not have been able to make the vital connections to make the Handbook contributors and legal review panelists as robust as they are today."

Visual Resources Association Foundation
Financial Statement, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Income

Personal donations	\$ 3035.00
Corporate donations	4000.00
Interest	3.15
SEI 2013	1300.00
SEI 2014	5480.00
	(Tuition income received after July 1, 2014)

Total VRAF Income **\$ 13,818.15**

Expenses

Annual Board meeting	\$ 1497.48
Grants awarded	7065.00
Fundraising	1335.07
Insurance	1475.00
Depreciation	1027.00
General administrative expenses	1440.02
Professional fees	3747.00
Taxes	465.00
Licenses & permits	25.00
Web hosting	284.47
SEI 2013	11,166.15
SEI 2014	17,749.82

Total VRAF Expenses **\$ 47,152.01**

Visual Resources Association Foundation
Summer Educational Institute 2014
Profit & Loss (Calendar year 2014)

Income

Kress scholarships	\$ 3850.00
Donations	1630.00
Tuition	25,540.00 (Received after July 1, 2014)

Total SEI Income **\$ 30,020.00**

Expenses

Scholarships	3850.00
Univ. of IL housing	1852.00
Administrative costs	352.00
Food events/miscellaneous	1783.65
Co-chairs, incoming co-chair & local co-chair	5797.84
Instructors	5370.79
Instructional materials	81.21
Co-sponsor share (ARLIS/NA)	5503.60

Total SEI Expenses **\$ 24,591.09**

Net SEI 2014 Profit **\$ 5428.91**

Please note: VRAF operates on a July to June fiscal year while SEI uses a calendar year; this accounts for income and expenses from 2 SEI years in one VRAF financial year report.