The VRA Foundation Mission

The mission of the VRA Foundation is to advance knowledge in the field of visual resources and image management and to provide 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 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.

Message From the Chair

Thanks to your generosity, it has been another active and successful year for the Visual Resources Association Foundation. Professional development grants were presented to Lauren Paustian and Kanako Iwase. They both traveled long distances from New York and Hawaii respectively to attend the 3rd Joint VRA + ARLIS/NA conference in Seattle from March 8-12, 2016. Each attended the THATCamp associated with the conference and was able to network with colleagues from both organizations.

Two project grants were awarded. Fatemeh Baigmoradi embarked on a project to develop a digital archive of works of contemporary Iranian photography; she plans to share her work either in ArtStor or in the Shared Shelf Commons. Sheryl Frisch and Greg Reser were awarded a grant to develop a new stand-alone version of MetaShotPpt and the necessary tutorials. This work builds on previous Foundation funded project grants for the development of MetaShotPpt.

Continuing in our efforts to foster the next generation of visual resources professionals, the Foundation offered a third VRA Foundation Internship to support a graduate student in obtaining practical work experience in archives, libraries, and museums. This internship provided a stipend of $3,000 plus an additional $1,000 for professional development such as attendance at relevant conferences or at the SEI.

The Foundation is deeply appreciative of the dedicated efforts of the VRA Internship Awards Committee: Linda Callahan, Meghan Musolf, Margaret Webster, and Gabriella Karl-Johnson. This committee consists of a representative of the VRA Education Committee, the VRA Awards Committee, and the previous internship recipient; the group is chaired by a VRAF Director. The VRA Foundation is also grateful to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for continuing to fund this initiative.

June 2011 marked the thirteenth year of the Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources & Image Management (SEI), held for the first time at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Capably led by Co-chairs Greta Bahnemann and Jesse Henderson, Local Arrangements Chair J. J. Bauer, and the entire SEI Implementation Team, 42 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 North Carolina’s campus, the town of Chapel Hill, 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 for their efforts, dedication, and teamwork.

Our newest endeavor, the Regional Workshop Program, has successfully launched with generous financial support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. This program allows the VRAF to more fully realize its mission to promote scholarship, research, education, and outreach in the fields of visual resources and image management. Two workshops were offered. Jessica Sack of the Yale University Art Gallery presented Learning to Look and Looking to Learn at the University of California at Berkeley. Meghan Musolf of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor conducted a workshop titled Exhibit, Instruct, Promote: An Introduction to Omeka for Digital Scholarship at Hunter College of the City University of New York. We anticipate expanding the number of regional workshops we are able to offer in the coming year.

We continue to collaborate with the Executive Board of Directors of the Visual Resources Association to strengthen and coordinate our efforts for the benefit of the visual resources profession. The joint task force co-chaired by Maria Elia (VRA) and Billy Kwan (VRAF) with a charge to mutually explore fund raising strategies has provided both organizations with strategies for implementing coordinated development initiatives. This includes explorations into the joint acquisition of software to manage donations and donors.

As I look back upon the past year and all of the accomplishments of the Foundation, I thank my fellow directors for their time, extraordinary dedication, and collegiality. A heart felt thank you to each donor for his or her generous gift to the VRA Foundation. Thank you for making the 2015-2016 fiscal year such a success. With your help the Foundation makes a difference.
Summer Education Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management

The thirteenth annual Summer Education Institute (SEI), jointly sponsored by the Visual Resources Association Foundation (VRAF) and the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA), moved to the Southeast in 2016, on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from June 7 thru June 10, under the direction of co-chairs Greta Bahnmann (University of Minnesota) and Jesse Henderson (University of Wisconsin). J. J. Bauer of the host campus served as local arrangements chair and introductory speaker, and Nicole Finzer (Northwestern University) joined the team as the incoming co-chair and faculty liaison. The instructional sessions covered the ever-relevant topics of intellectual property, taught by Nancy Simms from the University of Minnesota, and metadata for digital images by Marcia Focht from SUNY at Binghamton and Johanna Baumann from the Pratt Institute. A full day was devoted to the basics of digitization, covering its various aspects from collection development and project management to image distribution and preservation, with instructors, Martin Kalfatovic of the Smithsonian Museums, and Euan Cochrane from the Yale University Libraries and two local talents, Lisa Gregory of the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center and Julie Rudder of the Chapel Hill Libraries. The last day provided a primer on initiating digital humanities projects with local instructors and Justin Schell from the University of Michigan. With 42 attendees, SEI 2016 was overall a great success. The majority of participants were librarians and archivists, along with library and information science and art history graduate students, an art history professor, museum professionals, and image management professionals who came from across the United States.

On the whole they expressed great satisfaction with the content and the quality of the instruction, although there is always some mismatch between the level of instruction and attendees with a broad range of experience in the field. The co-chairs were pleased that the Samuel Kress Foundation responded to their request to increase their sponsorship by providing scholarships for six attendees at a higher amount than previously. SEI 2016 provided income for both host organizations to make possible their continuing programs and vital training and networking opportunities for its participants in a rapidly changing work environment.

The VRA Foundation Internship Award

The third VRA Foundation Internship Award in visual resources and image management was granted in September 2015. This award provides $3,000 to support a graduate student in obtaining practical work experience in archives, libraries, or museums. It 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. We are 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 award an annual event.

Meghan McGowan, an MLIS and history student at Wayne State University in Detroit was selected as the 2015-2016 Intern; she is concurrently working towards certification in archival administration. Meghan is currently providing a minimum of 200 hours of work in the Detroit Institute of Arts Research Library and Archives under the supervision of Maria Ketcham Library. Her project involves digitizing a portion of the archives' photographic collection using scanning and metadata standards established by the museum. Gabriella Karl-Johnson, our 2014-2015 VRAF intern, is now the architecture librarian at Princeton University.

Visit this link to learn more about the VRAF Internship Award.

Grants: Professional Development

This year marks the VRA Foundation's seventh annual Professional Development Grants program, which supports professional development in the field of visual resources and cultural heritage information management. The grants can be used for conference attendance, workshop enrollment, or participation in research activities.

2015 Professional Development Grant Recipients

Lauren Paustian, Technical Services Librarian at the Leo Baeck Institute, New York, received the Professional Development Grant for an emerging professional, making it possible for her to attend the 2016 ARLIS/NA-VRA joint conference in Seattle. There Lauren gained additional professional skills and updated her digital imaging skills. In her role working with the Institute's special collections, she is involved in multiple grant-funded preservation and digitization projects. Conference attendance provided an opportunity for Lauren to engage more directly with others who share similar backgrounds, experiences, and professional aspirations.

Kanako Iwase, Visual Resources Librarian at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, received the Professional Development Grant for an established professional. Working in a one-person library, Kanako is currently managing data-migration of her image database to an open source, web-based system, despite the challenge of minimal IT support. Kanako used her grant to attend the 2016 ARLIS/NA-VRA joint conference in Seattle, her first opportunity to attend a conference of either organization, where she learned more about the integration of visual literacy with Digital Humanities technology, metadata standards and Linked Open Data, and open-source image management platforms, as well as other trends in the image management field.

The VRAF Regional Workshop Program

The Visual Resources Association Foundation (VRAF) is pleased to report that the first two workshops in the VRAF Regional Workshop Program were held in February at Hunter College, City University of New York and University of California, Berkeley. The goal of this program is to provide more localized, affordable educational and professional development opportunities in the area of visual resources and cultural heritage information management. The workshops provide an immersive experience in a single topic that is relevant to both image management professionals and the broader information community, and is open to anyone wanting to attend. The VRAF received a generous grant of $6,000 from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation to implement the pilot year of the program.
The program was developed and executed by the Regional Workshop Implementation Team, composed of members of the VRAF and representatives from the Visual Resources Association (VRA) and the VRA Education Committee. Members included:

Maureen Burns, VRA (Archivision and Independent Consultant)
Marlene Gordon, VRA (University of Michigan, Dearborn)
Christine Hilker, VRAF Treasurer (University of Arkansas, Fayetteville)
Ian McDermott, VRAF Director (Laguardia Community College/CUNY, formerly Artstor)
Betha Whitlow, VRAF Director (Washington University in Saint Louis)

Exhibit, Instruct, Promote: An Introduction to Omeka for Digital Scholarship was held on Friday, February 19, 2016 at Hunter College, City University of New York. The workshop instructor was Megan Musolf, Special Projects Librarian for Instructional Technology at University of Michigan. Steven Kowalik, Librarian at the Zabar Art Library at Hunter College, was the local organizer and host. Exhibit, Instruct, Promote had 50 paid registrants and 2 scholarship students selected by Hunter College. The participants included museum professionals, university professors, librarians, visual resources professionals, and two oral historians, with registrants attending from as far away as Chicago, North Carolina, and Kansas.

Learning to Look, Looking to Learn: A Workshop on Visual Literacy was held on Friday, February 26, 2016 at the University of California, Berkeley. The workshop instructor was Jessica Sack, the Jan and Frederick Mayer Senior Associate Curator of Public Education at the Yale University Art Gallery. Lynn Cunningham, Principal Digital Curator in the Visual Resources Center, Department of Art History, University of California, Berkeley, was the local organizer and host. This two-part workshop was held in two locations: the newly opened UC Berkeley Art Museum and the recently renovated classroom in the UC Berkeley Department of Art History, where an afternoon coffee break was also provided. Learning to Look, Learning to Learn had 31 paid registrants and two scholarship students selected by the University of California, Berkeley. Registrants included a fiction writer, faculty and students from a range of academic disciplines, K-12 art educators, museum professionals, visual resources professionals, and other members of the information community, all largely drawn from the San Francisco area.

Grants: Project Grants for Research and Development

The VRA Foundation’s Project Grants program provides support for projects that reflect the VRA Foundation mission to advance education, research, and outreach in the field of visual resources and image management. The Project Grant funds may be used for stand-alone projects, pilots or start-up financing for larger projects, or for a component of a larger project. Collaborative projects and those proposed by groups, whether or not affiliated with an organization or institution, are encouraged. Of particular interest are innovative projects with the potential to have a broad impact across the global community.

2015 Project Grant Recipients

Fatemeh Baigmoradi, M.EA candidate, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, in collaboration with the Bunting Visual Resources Library, will employ VRAF Project Grant funding to expand upon a project to develop a digital archive of works focusing on contemporary Iranian photography, with plans to share the images with the scholarly community via either Artstor or Shared Shelf Commons.

Sheryl Frisch, Visual Resources Specialist, California Polytechnic State University, and Greg Reser Metadata Specialist, University of California San Diego, will use VRAF Project Grant funding to develop a new, stand-alone version of MetaShotPpt, an application that transfers embedded metadata into PowerPoint. This version will work on both Mac and Windows platforms, and will include all of the updated features currently available only in the Mac version while including more features than predecessors. In addition, MetaShotPpt tutorials will be developed.

Spotlight on Previous Grant Recipients

Krystle Kelley was recipient of a 2014 VRAF Project Grant during her employment at the Visual Resources Center, University of Colorado Boulder. The grant supported digital conversion and cataloguing of the Bernier Image Archive, a collection of 30,000 slides representing the cultures of Nepal, India, Tibet, and Southeast Asia. A subset of 500 images highlighting the archive was selected as the pilot project, the first in a series of stages to digitize and catalog this large collection. Visit the archive at http://ahvrc.colorado.edu/luna/servlet/ArtArtHi–1–1 to see this project in progress. Future plans include access of the archive through Shared Shelf Commons.

Our Generous Donors

2016 SEI

Kathe Albrecht (Opening reception sponsor)
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Maureen Burns
Sherman Clarke
Jolene de Verge
Beth Dodd
Sarah Gillis
Macie Hall
Amy Lucker
Morgan McKeehan
Greg Most
Elaine Paul
Elizabeth Shaub

VRA Foundation Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Donors

Our grants partner for the VRA Foundation Internship Award: Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Donors to the general fund of the VRAF:

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### Visual Resources Association Foundation

**Income**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal donations</td>
<td>$ 4971.00</td>
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| Corporate donations  | 4000.00    | (Grant from Kress Foundation for regional workshops start-up funds.)
| SEI 2015             | 125.00     |
| SEI 2016             | 38,715.50  |
| **Total VRAF Income**| **$ 65,203.95** |

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Annual Board meeting</td>
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<td>Grants awarded</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>General administrative expenses</td>
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<td>Web hosting</td>
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<td>SEI 2014</td>
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<td>SEI 2015</td>
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<td><strong>Total VRAF Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net profit</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 14,449.71</strong></td>
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### Summer Educational Institute 2016
Profit & Loss (Calendar year 2016)

**Income**

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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Tuition</td>
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<td><strong>Total SEI Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 41,234.00</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

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<tr>
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<td>Food events/miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Host institution</td>
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<td>Co-chairs, incoming co-chair &amp; local co-chair</td>
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<td>Instructors</td>
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<td>Refund (tuition, housing)</td>
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<td>Co-sponsor profit share (ARLIS/NA)</td>
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<td><strong>Total SEI Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net SEI 2015 Profit for VRAF</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 5943.04</strong></td>
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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 the VRAF financial report.