

Contents

Editorial

Editorial	1
Greetings from the Chair	2
A selection of Art libraries in South Africa	3
Library of Visual Arts	5
News from the Getty Research Institute	6
View through Matapihi widens	8
National Reports	9
Australia 9	
Canada 10	
France 10	
Germany 12	
Japan 13	
Mexico 14	
United Kingdom 15	
United States 15	
New Publications	17
Forthcoming Conferences	18
General Announcements	19
A.I.S. Standing Committee	20

The planning of the Art Libraries Section programme for 2008 conference is well under way. There will be both an Open Session in Quebec and a Satellite meeting in Montreal. The call for papers for both events will be published on IFLAart mailing list and IFLA Art Libraries website.

This Newsletter has geographically wider perspective to information than normally thanks to our active members, corresponding members and Durban conference. You will find an article about art libraries in South Africa, learn about art libraries in Mexico and Matapihi database from New Zealand. In addition this issue includes many national reports from nearly all over the world!

Thank you for all the contributions to this Newsletter!

EILA RÄMÖ
Editor

product of outstanding study of art catalogues focusing on 18–19th century France. The prize for promotion is another type of prize. This prize is given to an outstanding practice. This year Art Libraries' Consortium which developed and released cross-searching system for art libraries (this was introduced in an essay by Takeshi Mizutani, *ALS Newsletter* No. 59, 2006) and Masaki Murakami in recognition of contribution for popularize art books and establishing basis of IADS were selected as the winners.

Mexico

ELSA BARBERENA
Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC). Sección de Artes Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Facultad de Filosofía y Letras. Programa de Posgrado en Bibliotecología y Estudios de la Información.

In 2007 the Arts section of the Mexican Librarians Association participated in several librarians conferences:

- April 15, 2007, Congreso Iberoamericano de Bibliotecología. Buenos Aires, Argentina. "De cómo a través de los servicios de consulta de la Biblioteca Digital/Biblioteca Virtual se educa al usuarios de las artes" (How art library users are educated through the reference services of a Digital/Virtual Library). Elsa Barberena, Carmen Block, Elda Mónica Guerrero, Betsabé Miramontes.
- May 3rd, 2007, XXXVIII Jornadas Mexicanas de Biblioteconomía, León, Guanajuato, México. "Exlibris mexicanos: Pequeñas fuentes para nuevas aportaciones" (Mexican exlibris: small resources for future contributions) Selva Hernández. "El arte en la obra bibliográfica de Genaro Estrada". (The art in the bibliography of Genaro Estrada). Daniel de Lira. "Los valores de la cultura bibliográfica y documental del siglo XX: reflexiones para su permanencia". (Cultural bibliographical and documentary values of the XXc: reflections for their perma-

nence) Salvador Adán Hernández. Juan Miguel Palma. Daniel de Lira. "Presentación de la página web *Mex@rte*". (Presentation of the web page *Mex@rte*). Elsa Barberena. "Teatro: Biblioteca de obras de consulta". (Theater: reference works library). Imelda Lobato. Leslie Celaya.

The Arts section includes the very rich cultural heritage of Mexico on visual arts, architecture, literature, theater, music, film and photography. Its portal can be seen at the following url <http://www.ambac.org.mx>

In the near future bibliographies related to dance and Mexican films will be included as well as the link for "Musical" an archive of XXc Mexican composers.

Art libraries in Mexico

Majority of the libraries and documental resource centers about Mexican art and its history are situated in Mexico City, but there are some also in several states. Here are lists to present some of them: the first one deals with cultural foundations and private museums, the second one present a list of museums and institutions supported by the government and the last one is devoted to academic institutions.

Cultural foundations and private museums

- **ARCHIVO HISTÓRICO DEL COLEGIO DE LAS VIZCAÍNAS**
Calle Vizcainas 21
Colonia Centro,
C.P. 0608 México D.F.
TEL.: 5512 4267; 5512 7609
E-MAIL: vizcainas@infosel.net.mx
- **BIBLIOTECA MEXICANA DE LA FUNDACIÓN MIGUEL ALEMÁN**
Rubén Darío 187
Colonia Chapultepec Morelos
C.P. 11570 México D.F.
TEL.: 9126 0700 ext. 130, 131;
9126 0762
<http://www.miguelaleman.org.mx/biblioteca/bib3000.html>
- **CASA LAMM BIBLIOTECA DE ARTE FUNDACIÓN TELEVISÁ**
Alvaro Obregón 99
Colonia Roma. México D.F.

TEL: 55144899 ext 35
www.casalamm.com.mx

- **CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS DE HISTORIA DE MÉXICO CONDUMEX**
Plaza Federico Gamboa #1
Colonia Chimalistac
San Ángel, C. P. 01070, México D. F.
TEL.: 5326 5174, 5326 5175
www.cehm.com.mx
- **FOMENTO CULTURAL BANAMEX A.C. BIBLIOTECA Y FOTOTECA**
Madero 17
Centro Histórico. México D.F.
TEL: 1226 0234; 1226 0280
www.banamex.com/esp/filiales/fomento_cultural/index.htm
- **MUSEO AMPARO**
2 Sur 708
Centro Histórico
C.P. 72000 Puebla, México
TEL.: +(222) 2293850; 2293951
<http://www.museoamparo.com/>
- **MUSEO FRANZ MAYER BIBLIOTECA ROGERIO CASAS- ALATRISTE H.**
Avenida Hidalgo 45
Centro Histórico. México D.F.
TEL: 5518 2266 ext.236
www.franzmayer.org.mx
- **MUSEO TAMAYO CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACIÓN**
Reforma y Gandhi
Bosque de Chapultepec, México, D.F.
TEL: (+0155) 52866519/26
www.museotamayo.org

Museums and institutions financed by the State

- **BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGÍA E HISTORIA**
Av. Paseo de la Reforma
y Calz. Gandhi, México D.F.
TEL.: 5553 6865; 5553 6342
E-MAIL: biblio_antropo.bnah@inah.gob.mx
<http://www.bnah.inah.gob.mx/>
- **CENIDIM – CENTRO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIÓN, DOCUMENTACIÓN E INFORMACIÓN MUSICAL "CARLOS CHÁVEZ"**
Centro Nacional de las Artes
7° piso de la Torre de investigación
Río Churubusco 79,
Colonia Country Club
Coyoacán, C. P. 04220, México D. F.
TEL.: 1253 9415; 1253 9400,
ext. 1175 Y 1100

e-mail: cenidim@correo.cnart.mx
<http://www.cenart.gob.mx/centros/cenidim/>

★ **CONACULTA -**

BIBLIOTECA DE LAS ARTES
 Avenida Río Churubusco
 Col. Country Club, C.P. 04220
 México D.F.
fespbib@correo.cnart.mx
www.cnca.gob.mx

★ **MUSEO DE ARTE CARRILLO GIL**
 Avenida Revolución 1608
 Colonia San Ángel, México D.F.
 TEL.: 5550 6260; 5550 39 83
www.macg.inba.gob.mx

★ **MUSEO JOSÉ LUIS CUEVAS**
BIBLIOTECA Y CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACIÓN "OCTAVIO PAZ"
 Academia 13
 Centro Histórico, México D.F.
 TEL.: 55220156
www.museojoseluiscuevas.com.mx

★ **SINAFO - SISTEMA NACIONAL DE FOTOTECAS**
 Casasola s/n Exconvento de San Francisco
 Col. Centro, C.P. 42050
 Pachuca, Hidalgo, México
 TEL.: +(52) (771) 71 43 653; 71 91 273
 E-MAIL: atencion.sinafo@inah.gob.mx
<http://www.sinafo.inah.gob.mx/>

Academic and research institutions:

★ **UNAM- ESCUELA NACIONAL DE ARTES PLÁSTICAS CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACIÓN PROFESOR JOSÉ NATIVIDAD CORREA TOCA**
 (Biblioteca, Fototeca y Videoteca)
 Avenida Constitución 600
 Col. Barrio la Concha, C.P. 16210
 México D.F.
<http://www.enap.unam.mx/>

★ **UNAM, INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES BIBLIOGRÁFICAS, BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL**
 Centro Cultural Universitario, C.U.
 Delegación Coyoacán, C.P. 04510
 México D.F.
 TEL.: 5622 6800
<http://biblional.bibliog.unam.mx/>

★ **UNAM-INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES ESTÉTICAS BIBLIOTECA JUSTINO FERNÁNDEZ**
 Circuito Mario de la Cueva, Cd.

Universitaria
 Delegación Coyoacán, C.P. 04510
 México D.F.
 TEL.: (55)5665 2465; 56227540
<http://www.esteticas.unam.mx/>

United Kingdom

DOUGLAS DODDS
 ARLIS/UK & Ireland
 Victoria and Albert Museum

The ARLIS/UK & Ireland Annual Conference was held in Cheltenham from 4-6 July and was entitled *Beautiful and useful? Supporting the Arts and Crafts in the 21st Century*. Speakers covered a wide range of subjects, including aspects of the Arts and Crafts movement itself, plus contemporary practice and a number of impressive digitisation projects at the University of Gloucestershire, Glasgow School of Art and elsewhere. Delegates also discussed priorities for the Society in the coming year and reviewed plans for re-launching the ARLIS website. For a fuller report, see the *ARLIS News-sheet* no. 189, September / October 2007, pp 7-15.

Next year's conference will be held in Liverpool from 23-25 July 2008, and is timed to coincide with the city's year as European Capital of Culture. As such, it promises to be an exciting and informative experience. In addition the Society continues to organise other visits, talks and study days throughout the year. For more details about ARLIS events, see the Society's website at: <http://www.arlis.org.uk>

ARLIS/UK & Ireland continues to maintain the *arlis.net* service (www.arlis.net), which includes an online directory of art libraries and an associated union list of art and design serials. The website's links page has recently been updated to incorporate additional references to other useful sources of information, including artists' papers and auction house sale catalogues. Following on from the decision in Durban to stop maintaining the IFLA Directory of Art Libraries, the *arlis.net* links page also includes a

list of some national directories of art libraries.

The Society's chair is now Vanessa Crane, who took over from Sue Price in Spring 2007. As a result of refurbishments at the Courtauld Institute, the ARLIS administrative office has now been relocated to the V&A. The contact information for the Society's business manager is as follows:

AMY DONNISON
 Business Manager
 ARLIS/UK & Ireland
 Word & Image Department
 Victoria and Albert Museum
 South Kensington
 Cromwell Road
 London, SW7 2RL
 TEL. 0207 942 2317
 EMAIL: arlis@vam.ac.uk

United States

JEANETTE CLOUGH
 Getty Research Library,
 Los Angeles, CA

News and Projects:

ARLIS/NA chose not to renew its membership in IFLA. The Board considered the dues structure disproportionate to ARLIS/NA's overall budget and in relation to its level of interaction with IFLA, and preferred to fund other ARLIS projects and activities. **American Libraries Association** and **Special Libraries Association** continued their memberships in IFLA and in the Art Libraries Section.

The major bibliographic utilities **OCLC's Worldcat** and **Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN)** are merging. The OCLC search interface will be used. Records are migrating from RLIN to OCLC.

THE WOMEN AND ART ROUND TABLE

(ARLIS/NA) WIKIPEDIA PROJECT: Members of the Women and Art Roundtable (<http://condor.depaul.edu/~sclarke/arlis/womart.htm>) noted Wikipedia's inadequate coverage of women's art. Despite questions regarding its validity as a source, Wikipedia is widely used by research-

art libraries journal

Special issue:

Art libraries and art librarianship in Latin America

Documenting Latin American art at MoMA

A UK art librarian in Argentina

Reviews

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Revue de Bibliothèques d'Art
Zeitschrift für Kunstbibliotheken
Revista de Bibliotecas de Arte

Investig@rte: the national network of art libraries in Mexico*

Elsa Barberena, Carmen Block and Elda Mónica Guerrero

Mexican art, dating back to 2500 BC, is enormously rich and stylistically varied, the product of the country's indigenous, 'mestizo' [mixed race] and Mexican cultures, which range from Olmec, Teotihuacan, Zapotec and Mixtec, to Mayan and Aztec. During the colonial period, the influence of European art was added, brought via Spain, and at the same time Catholicism prevailed over pre-Hispanic polytheism. Mexican culture as it is known today emerged at the end of the Spanish colonial period and its wealth is amply demonstrated in the content of the writings and other documents found in Mexican libraries today.

English version by Gillian Varley and Alison Minns

Investig@rte: aim and priorities

To promote the richness of Mexican culture, art librarians in this country propose to create a national network of art libraries, whose activities could be managed by the revived Art Section of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios, A.C. Mexico City's 100 libraries and collections of documents on Mexican art would form the basis of this network, which would include libraries with collections on the visual arts, architecture, literature, theatre, music and dance.

The first priorities are

- to re-establish the art section of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC)
- to draw up the parameters for the network
- to study and analyse other art library networks, such as the Vitruvio network in Argentina¹
- to expand the existing directory of Mexican art libraries and document collections
- to establish guidelines for running the network.

Several of the elements for this project already exist, namely the directory of Mexican libraries and art collections on the Mex@arte website; the

Méxicoarte database on Mexican plastic arts and architecture; the controlled vocabulary generated from that database; and the Pепенar union catalogue of periodicals on Latin American art and architecture.

It is proposed that the network be called Investig@rte.

The directory of libraries

This directory lists Mexican art libraries with collections that include books, journals, manuscripts and archives, in both print and electronic format.

The concept of a library has been continually redefined throughout history. During the 17th century a library meant not only the place but also the book. I am referring here to the concept of a 'library' as envisaged by a group of scholars, researchers and writers whose analysis was published in the journal *Artes de México*² in a special issue devoted to the Palafoxiana Library in the city of Puebla, the broad universal knowledge contained in its books and the artistic wealth of their bindings, typography and illustrations. In this issue Margarita de Orellana sees the library as a huge banquet awaiting the diners (researchers) who look forward



National Library, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)

Photo: Lourdes Cruz

to a great feast, and as a paradise where any editor, designer, illustrator or printer can leave their professional mark in all manner of ways. Alfonso Alfaro echoes the above view by discussing the book as an art object: examples are those true works of art, the legal patents of nobility in the National Library; the items that form the collection of the Franz Mayer Museum Library and those of the library of the Mexican History Research Centre CONDUMEX; the Mexican and European incunabula in those same libraries; or the 'book-object' [libro-objeto] 'where reading combines with artistic endeavour to create an object', such as those exhibited at the Central Library of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). In the same issue Roger Chartier talks of the need to organise all this wisdom effectively to ensure efficient retrieval. Alberto Manuel, referring to the Library of Alexandria, asserts that familiarity with the written word introduced that town's citizens to the habit of reading.

Our directory of art libraries, then, is an invitation to the paradise that is a library; an invitation to devour the pages of its books, to become an avid reader, to rejoice in their art, to accept or reject theories, to encounter the dead as if they had come to life, to defend the book, as Umberto Eco urges in

the same issue of *Artes de México*, because the book is a fragile being, deteriorating with time, prone to destruction by rodents and suffering in inexpert hands. This cultural heritage has inspired learning, knowledge, reflection, inspiration, satisfaction and aesthetic pleasure for all those who visit libraries and enjoy their collections.

The Mex@rte web page

The Mex@rte web page provides a bio-bibliographical guide with images and links. The menu includes

- libraries (information on the documentation collections in Mexico City)
- catalogues (direct access to online library catalogues)
- the pre-Hispanic era and its preclassic, classic and postclassic periods (approximately 4000 years)
- the colonial or Viceregal period, representing 300 years of Spanish conquest and rule; this was also a period in which the indigenous population reasserted its authority, transforming and enriching the styles of the European Renaissance and Baroque

- the modern period (179 years of Mexican independence), when scientific discoveries were making possible the analysis of the natural world and when painting found its national voice
- the contemporary period, when over 2000 artists engage not only in Mexican muralism but also in other artistic endeavours, either in groups or individually.

The Méxicoarte database

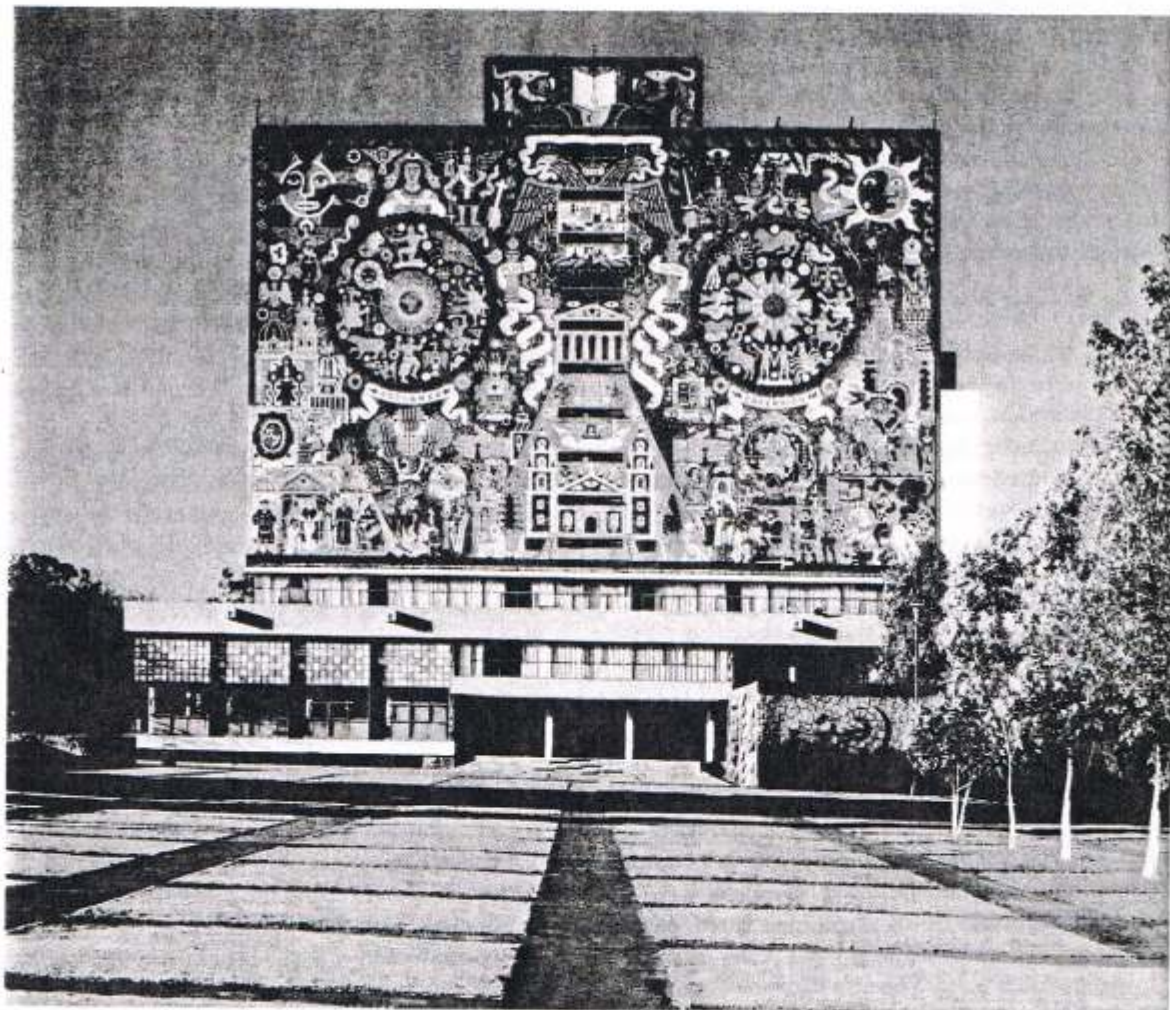
The aim of this database, which is on the web page of UNAM's Libraries Department, is to provide information about Mexican plastic arts and architecture, and it is supported by an information infrastructure which can be used for methodological research in these disciplines. The Méxicoarte database also aims to contribute to the spread of

knowledge about Mexican art through its incorporation into the major information systems dealing with this specialism.

There are currently some 4800 records, linking information on art from the pre-Hispanic, colonial, modern and contemporary periods to that on Mexican plastic arts and architecture. The database also contains one full-text journal (*Anales del Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas*³) and tables of contents.

The methodology for setting up the database involved both print and electronic resources: seventeen bibliographical indexes, six directories, three catalogues and a dictionary were located, reviewed and analysed. The information was assembled and classified, resulting in a total of 7000 items arranged by subject, style (pre-Hispanic, colonial, modern and contemporary), medium (painting, sculpture, drawing, engraving, photography, architecture), author, title and source.

A controlled vocabulary was developed



The Central Library of UNAM.

Photo: Jimena Mateos

specifically for Méxicoarte, using the model of *Art index* and with similar aims to those of the Getty Foundation's thesaurus: to improve access to information about the plastic arts and architecture, and also to be of value as a cataloguing authority. It offers a structure and a classification scheme that are of great benefit in the documentation process.

The vocabulary can also serve as a search tool in natural language retrieval systems and is valuable for the richness of its content and the contextual knowledge it contains. Its semantic networks show the links and interconnections between concepts and thus ensure more effective retrieval. It contains 997 topics or descriptors and includes synonyms, related terms, geographical locations and 'see' and 'see also' references in an alphabetical sequence. It does include proper names.

Union catalogues of periodicals

The planned national network will be able to use Pepenar, the existing union catalogue of periodicals on Latin American art and architecture. 'Pepenar' is a Mexican term that means to gather, choose or pick one or more items from a selection.⁴ The catalogue contains details of approximately 400 titles held in Mexican libraries. It works in a similar way to library networks, by providing access to information, allowing users to select one or more items of data or themes from archives, libraries and museums, and enabling them to find the collection that is of most interest to them.

Another union catalogue which can be consulted online is Seriuam, which was compiled by the UNAM's Department of Libraries; the 219 current periodical titles, available on the website of UNAM's Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, are an example of what one library can bring to the Investig@rte project. This site also includes links to the indices. A further addition to the project, from the same library, is the Bexart database, which contains records for 10,796 exhibition catalogues.



Electronic Reference Department, Central Library, UNAM.

Photo: Julio Zetter

The Art Section of the Asociación Mexicana de Bibliotecarios A.C.

AMBAC, the association of Mexican librarians, has been active since 1954. The Art Section was established in 1984, and includes libraries and collections of documents on art and architecture. Forty such libraries and collections were invited to participate and their data were published in the *International directory of art libraries*, the online directory of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).⁵

In 1992, the president of AMBAC requested that the section cover the arts in general (literature, theatre, music and dance), as well as the visual arts. It should now be possible to re-energise the enlarged Section, which has been inactive since 1992, through the project to create a network of Mexican art libraries.

The aims of the revived Art Section would be

- to encourage the use of art libraries and audiovisual resources as a source of information on the arts
- to foster research into new developments in art librarianship, documentation and audiovisual collections
- to revise and expand the directory of Mexican libraries with holdings on art
- to make contact with Mexican and international organisations with similar aims
- to promote continuing professional development among members, as well as to encourage the exchange of ideas and provide all aspects of technical support.

The Association's underlying goals of education and information can be achieved through conferences, seminars, round-tables, publications, web pages, chat-rooms, etc.

The activities of the Section in managing the national network would include

- maintaining up-to-date information in IFLA's *International directory of art libraries*
- refining the Mexicoarte database
- updating the directory of libraries and the links to their respective web pages
- continuing the expansion of the Popenar union catalogue of periodicals
- indexing the new series of the journal *Artes de México* (nos. 1-34, 1988-1997) and including it in the Mexicoarte database
- running the Mex@rte web page for people searching for bibliographical information on Mexican plastic arts and architecture, and expanding the range of subjects covered
- compiling biographical information on approximately 2000 Mexican artists and sending it to the Union List of Artists' Names (ULAN) at the Getty Foundation
- developing the existing controlled vocabulary of terms used in the plastic arts and architecture
- developing a course in art librarianship as part of the post-graduate programme in librarianship at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, UNAM
- investigating the creation of a digital library.

Finally, the Art Section will promote Mexico's cultural and artistic richness, which is the fundamental aim of the whole project.

* Revised version of paper presented to the Section of Art Libraries at the World Library and Information Congress, 70th IFLA General Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2004.

References

1. See Julieta Stramschak's article in this issue of the *Art libraries journal*.
2. *Artes de México* no. 68 2003.
3. The URL is <http://www.analesicee.unam.mx/>.
4. José G. Moreno de Alba. *Minucias del lenguaje*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1992, p.223, 311.
5. <http://iberia.vassar.edu/ifla-idal/>.

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