



35th Annual Conference
Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-May 1

ARTbibliographies Modern (ABM) and Design and Applied Arts Index (DAAI) Users Group Meeting
Friday, April 27th, 2007, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Speaker:

Alison Knight, Editor, Design and Applied Arts Index.

This was the second time a joint ABM and DAAI Users Group Meeting had been held at an ARLIS-NA Conference. The session was well attended with 18 participants. C. Alan Golden, Director of Arts and Humanities for ProQuest CSA was also present and his help was much appreciated in addressing questions relating to the new ProQuest-CSA business.

The session began with a brief PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of new developments for 2007. These include the introduction of Discovery Links which link CSA records to ARTstor images, Ulrich's records and Wikipedia Webpages. Also mentioned was the introduction of Design Abstracts Retrospective and Design Profiles (DAR/DP) to the CSA Illumina site. The merger of CSA and ProQuest was discussed and the prospect of full-text linking from ProQuest products to CSA products in the future.

This was followed by a discussion of information seeking behaviours of artists, designers and craftspeople based on work by Susie Cobbledick and used in a questionnaire which had been compiled for the group meeting and was handed out during the session. This will also be made available on the CSA Illumina Website and results will be posted to the ARLIS listerv.

Discussion of information seeking behaviours of artists, designers and craftspeople.

This part of the meeting was interactive and focused on the quote:
"There is a whole series of things really that you automatically do from reading the Guardian in bed at 6am in the morning to listening to the radio on the way to work... If you're part of a community that is interested in it [social work], of course you're always talking about it. Always thinking about it..." (Source: a social scientist talking about how she finds information, taken from unpublished research conducted in 2005 by Alison Knight)

Research into how artists search in these topics by Susie Cobbledick in 1996 and others has shown that they:

- Do a lot of browsing (especially of images)

- Search beyond arts information to other topics
- Find library print sources useful for inspiration
- Use personal subscriptions to journals for international, national, and regional developments in the arts
- Make substantial use of interpersonal sources to obtain technical information and local art scene information

Susie Cobbledick concluded:

“This research suggests that a library designed with artists in mind should be heavy on print materials whose verbal and visual content covers a wide array of topics without an undue emphasis on art”

(Cobbledick, “The information seeking behavior of artists: exploratory interviews”, *Library Journal*, 66, Oct., 1996, p. 363)

Lively debate then ensued over whether Susie Cobbledick’s research is still relevant ten years on and how the search habits of artists, designers and craftspeople compare to those described by the social scientist quoted. When asked how many of the librarians in the room were also artists, designers or craftspeople there was a large show of hands. People in the room were very passionate about this discussion and it led on to topics regarding ABM and DAAI evident from the suggestions below.

Participant suggestions from the meeting:

Research on information seeking behaviours of artists, designers and craftspeople

More research had been conducted on this topic than Alison Knight had found in her search of the literature. Interestingly, she had used LISA as a reference tool, however, most of the participants at the meeting used ARLIS sources for their research, especially ARLIS occasional papers.

Content

There was a request for more industrial design and sustainable design titles to be added to DAAI. This suggestion was made based on the fact that more interdisciplinary research is being conducted now than previously in universities.

There was a discussion amongst participants over increased content in DAAI and an agreement was reached that what was wanted was a greater variety of topics covered rather than the introduction of e-journals. Most were not keen on e-journals in the arts thinking them poor products.

One person put forward the idea of more Australian and New Zealand titles, others thought DAAI was well covered in this.

Another person suggested adding trade catalogues and yearbooks that are being covered in DAR so that they can be carried forward in time.

Suggested new Index terms

Technical drawings

Recipes (for ceramics etc)

Spelling of thesaurus terms

The spelling is in English, it was suggested that it could be in US English too. This may not be easy to achieve, perhaps by using See Refs?

Peer Reviewed Journals

Many people wanted to know what this meant, especially in terms of how the CSA Illumina search engine defined it. Alan Golden answered this one by saying that the tag came from a match with Ulrich's and also from vendor information.

One person suggested adding a column to the DAAI source list to show which were peer reviewed journals.

Further Information

For further information about this discussion, to request an "Information Seeking Behaviors Questionnaire" or a "DAAI Source List", or for other details about ABM and DAAI, please contact:

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Finally, we would like to thank all participants for their contributions and the conference organizers for their assistance in facilitating this Users Group.