



**Art Libraries Society of North America, 34th Annual Conference
Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alberta, Canada, May 5-9, 2006**

**Grove Art Online Users Group
Monday May 8, 2006 12:30-1:30 p.m.**

Presenter: Christine Kuan, Editor, Grove Art Online

Recorder: Max Marmor, ARTstor and Grove Art advisory board member

Attending: ca 125

Christine Kuan began the meeting by thanking those in attendance as ARLIS/NA is considered one of the core user communities of the resource. She welcomed Allen Townsend and Peter Blank (both board members) to join her at the podium. Kuan described the collaborative foundations of the Grove Art Online effort. Key collaborative elements of the Grove effort include:

- Editorial and advisory boards
- Area editors for subject area updates (produced on a quarterly basis)
- Contributions from 800+ international scholars
- Feedback from librarians, researchers, students, educators, art historians re content, functionality, usability – feedback Kuan described as essential in shaping the ongoing development of the resource

Recent developments for the Grove Art editorial program (online & print) include the following projects in the following areas:

- Asian contemporary art
- Women artists
- Decorative arts
- Classical art & architecture
- Islamic art & architecture
- Materials & techniques in art
- Modern & contemporary art

Grove's art image program strives to provide Grove users with thoughtfully curated selections of images that would support the need for "core" images of world art. This effort is guided by key art history textbooks (Stokstad, Janson, Gardner), and seeks to achieve a judicious balance of western and non-western subjects, ranging from ancient to contemporary. Key sources of such images to date include:

- Artists, galleries, scholars
- British Museum (nearly 400 images)
- Art Resource (2,500 images)

Grove hopes to establish partnerships with the following organizations in the coming year:

- MoMA
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- ARS & VAGA (not sources of images but able to provide permission to use images of contemporary art by their artist members)

Because Grove Art Online was launched in 1998, much of the functionality is now very dated. In the past eight years, technology has improved a great deal and users have greater expectations from online resources. Oxford University Press will be redesigning Grove Art Online for 2007 and it will include a new interface (slated for release spring 2007) as well as enhanced functionality and content and the ability to export Grove bibliographical citations to standard bibliographic software like RefWorks and EndNote (2007). Grove Art looks forward to working with librarians through the planning and development of the redesigned site (expected spring 2007). Some of the complex datawork, such as the incorporation of Getty vocabularies, or enhancements to the Index, may be rolled out over the course of 2007-2008.

Key features of the redesign include:

- Open URL-compliant bibliographies
- Search overhaul
- New image search
- Explore – subject browse
- Index integrated with browse
- Getty vocabularies
- ARTstor linking
- Learning resources (guidance for teachers and students)

Oxford University Press is also considering making Grove Art Online searchable with other strong art reference titles from OUP as well as non-OUP copyrights.

- Grove Art Online with searchable Oxford content (titles on western art, aesthetics, classical and world mythology, dictionaries of art and design terms, photography, dictionaries of popes, saints, etc.)
- Grove Art Online with non-OUP content (Benezit, Encyclopedia of World Art, Guide to the Literature of Art History (v. 1-2), others)

The Future of Grove Art Online: Kuan concluded by stressing the nature of Grove's mission as a non-profit reference publication and the importance of librarian participation to Grove's ongoing evolution. The Q&A was moderated by Peter Blank, Stanford University, Grove Art advisory board member.

Comments from the floor:

Jeanette Clough (Getty Research Institute): Can Grove provide 2-way links between Grove Art Online and other OUP online reference works? Kuan responded that this is being explored for all OUP online reference works such as the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Grove Music Online, and others.

Lucie Stylianopoulos (UVA): Are there plans to expand the coverage of Native American art? Kuan said that it is useful to know which areas users would like to see enhanced so that she can schedule it into the online editorial program. Typically, an online update takes 2-3 years of planning before it can be published online and Native American art can be added to the program.

BJ Irvine (IU): Grove needs to expand its coverage of African American art. Kuan stated African American is a priority for the editorial program. *The Dictionary of Art* was originally based in London and some American subjects received less coverage due to space restrictions in the print edition. Now that we are in an online environment, we can begin to expand these important areas. New articles, such as one on Romare Bearden, have already been commissioned by Kuan and will be published soon. In addition, OUP's new African American Studies Center is part of this effort as many of the area editors will be able to collaborate with Grove Art in developing greater coverage of African American art in Grove Art Online.

BJ Irvine (IU) expressed the need for the Quick Search to conduct a full-text search because students assume the search box functions like Google. Kuan stated that the Quick Search and the Advanced Search will be overhauled in order to enable more powerful search functionality in redesign effort.

Max Marmor (ARTstor) asked for a summary of Grove's recent librarian survey. Kuan responded that they had nearly 700 responses, and that key themes were the need for more images, for modern and contemporary art, and for linking to other resources (ARTstor, etc.)

Peter Blank then asked about content needs. Responses called for more American art (Native American, Canadian, contemporary); landscape architecture and design; more contemporary art and architecture; design history; history of photography.

Blank asked whether there is a need for further links to printed reference works? Indexing and abstracting services were singled out for mention in this context.

Margaret Webster (Cornell) asked: How will links to ARTstor work? Kuan explained that the links will exist for mutual subscribers. Within Grove Art Online, article-level links to ARTstor will enable the user to launch an ARTstor search without leaving Grove. In ARTstor, each metadata record would have a link allowing the user to search for related articles in Grove. More generally, each resource would visibly point the user to the other. In addition, ARTstor has also licensed the browsing indexes that underlie the Grove Explore feature – a feature warmly appreciated by those in attendance. ARTstor hopes to find ways to use this taxonomy to begin to associate individual artists (for example) with cultures, periods and styles in the same way Grove does. An added benefit of this is that it would open the door to deeper linking between the two resources.

Ann Haas (Bowdoin College) asked about linking from Grove Art bibliographies to other bibliographic databases, abstracting/indexing services and implementing Open URL. Kuan reiterated that the metadata work has already been implemented in order to have Open URL compliant bibliographies for the redesign.

One attendee recommended linking to the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects; to the various St James Press biographical dictionaries, most of which focus on contemporary art and architecture; and the new Atlas of Contemporary Architecture (Phaidon).

Conclusions: Most of the discussion focused on content and functionality. While the possibilities for linking to other (OUP and non-OUP) publications were warmly

received, most attendees expressed the sense that the top priorities should be enhancing Grove's own content and usability.

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