BHA Advisory Committee

2004 Annual Report


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Report:

I attended the annual meeting of the BHA Advisory Committee held at the Getty Center on December 14, 2004. This committee “advises the managing committee of the BHA on policies related to BHA’s compilation, production, and access with respect to the needs and interests of the art history research community.”

The following items were of primary interest:

Proposed revision of classification: At its meeting of December 12, 2003, the committee decided that the classification for the period 1945- present should be divided into two parts: 1945-1965 (period 5) and 1965-present (period 6); the broad medium category “New media” be eliminated and replaced with “Film and video art” (periods 1,4,5,6), “Digital art” (period 6), and “Installation art” (period 6); and “Theater and performance” be replaced with “Theater and performance art” (periods 5 and 6). The last category is intended to cover the 1970s concept of performance art as well as more contemporary forms of interactive art such as “flashmobs.” The committee agreed with the renaming of categories, but disagreed that the period needed to be divided into two chronological periods.

BHA CD-ROM for use by individuals: Marc Guichard (INIST) presented copies of the new BHA CD-ROM available to individuals for a one-year subscription of E150; subscribers may acquire updates subsequent years for a reduced price. The CD contains 300,000 citations and allows searching by descriptors, author names, and keywords anywhere in the bibliographic record. The CD is for use on a single PC, thus not networkable, and does not operate on Macintosh workstations; records are not exportable. The committee felt that smaller institutions would be interested in obtaining a limited networkable version at a cost less than that offered via current distributors.

Planned study of BHA users: Tim Hart (Getty Web Services) described a proposed user study that would improve upon early attempts by gathering information from users via distributors (RLG, Ovid, NISC) as well as targeted listservs.
**Getty Abstracting and Indexing Application (GAIA):** Terence Ford (Getty) reported on the development of a new production system that would support daily updates and provide integrated access to authority files for all indexes. The prototype was scheduled for release in early 2005, with the first production run from July-September 2005.

**Distribution:** National Information Services, Inc. (NISC) now offers BHA (including RAA and RILA entries from 1973) through its BiblioLine utility, joining Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, DIALOG, Ovid, and RLG.

**RAA conversion:** Repertoire entry text scanning from 1910-1973 is completed; indexes will provide pointers to the scanned text images. First availability is expected in December 2005.

The next meeting will be held in Paris in mid-December.