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# Special Bulletin #12: Subject Classification for Visual Collections: An Inventory of Some of the Principal Systems Applied to Content Description in Images

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# Special Bulletin #12: Subject Classification for Visual Collections: An Inventory of Some of the Principal Systems Applied to Content Description in Images

## **Abstract**

With the harnessing of the computer for image access, numerous developments have taken place in the field of subject analysis and access. Early developments in this field relied heavily on bibliographic subject systems such as the Dewey, Sears, and Library of Congress Subject Headings Lists and attempted to apply what were essentially classification systems for text to images...With few models on which to base their systems, numerous independent and project-related subject classification systems developed...Despite the creation of numerous subject classification systems, there are few publications on their structure or format...The nearly fifty studies in this report detail either general classification systems or those specific to an individual project. Brief descriptions are given of each of the systems together with relevant references.

## **Author Bio & Acknowledgements**

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# VRA *Special* Bulletin

*Visual Resources*  
**Association**  

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*No. 12:*  
Subject Classification for  
Visual Collections

*Colum Hourihane*

Visual Resources Association  
Special Bulletin No. 12

Subject Classification for Visual Collections

An Inventory of Some of the Principal Systems  
Applied to Content Description in Images

Dr. Colum Hourihane  
Princeton University

Visual Resources Association  
1999

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## Introduction

With the harnessing of the computer for image access, numerous developments have taken place in the field of subject analysis and access. Indeed it is safe to say that this field, more than any other classification standard, has attracted the greatest interest since the computerization of image collections started. Various theories have been forwarded as to the origin and development of interest in this field. Recent surveys in the patterns of queries applied to image libraries have substantiated this suggestion (Enser 1993, 1995; Gordon 1996).

The publication of Panofsky's Meaning in the Visual Arts in 1955 is seen by some scholars as a benchmark in this area. It is claimed that this pioneering publication paved the way for a formal analysis to take place with regard to subject matter. Other historians believe that the development of the 35mm slide in the 1950s with the consequent increase in image use forced librarians to develop different approaches to classification, whereas other analysts believe that the interest in subject matter is a natural development from the creation of the large scale photographic library, which is a twentieth-century phenomenon.

Early developments in this field relied heavily on bibliographic subject systems such as the Dewey, Sears, and Library of Congress Subject Headings Lists and attempted to apply what were essentially classification systems for text to images.

Despite numerous studies detailing the inherent differences between these two media and apparent shortcomings as regards users' needs, bibliographic systems still continue to be used in image libraries. For example, PRECIS (Preserved Context Image System), developed by the British Library for the National Bibliography and recently abandoned by them, has been classified as an image retrieval system. In other cases modifications to bibliographic systems, such as the specialized Library of Congress Subject Headings for Graphic Materials, have attempted to build on existing systems while realizing that a difference does exist between these two types of materials.

With few models on which to base their systems, numerous independent and project-related subject classification systems developed. The greatest developments for image classification have taken place in photo archives and not in museums or galleries. The latter, by virtue of the size of their collections, are more easily classified without resort to large-scale developments in subject access systems.

Despite the creation of numerous subject classification systems there are few publications on their structure or format. Emphasis in those few publications has been on the processes of classification rather than on the methodology used.

It is only within the last ten years or so that systems have developed independently of any specific project, or that international and national attempts have been made to control subject classification. Cooperative projects such as the Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicum and the Repertoire International d'Iconographie Musicale have focused on particular subjects and have attempted to apply international cataloging standards and terminology for subject classification.

More recently, proposals have been made to apply systems such as the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) to image subject classification. The AAT is, however, excluded from this survey by virtue of the fact that it is an object classification system and not a subject classification system. Concepts, named people, places, or objects as simple as an apple are not iconographically classifiable using this system.

Few instructions are available within the museum world as, for example, within the museum documentation package Spectra, where general guidelines mention The Garnier System and ICONCLASS without specifying details. Some projects, realizing their need to match standards used on a wider scale outside their own projects, have attempted to run their own in-house system alongside international systems.

Of the systems studied here it is clear that different approaches to iconographical indexing are possible. It is not the purpose of this introduction to highlight these differences but to simply mention the possibilities.

Subject matter is usually divided into primary, secondary or tertiary fields, but their number is by no means set. The Primary terms are usually controlled in number and application. As a general rule no more than two or three terms can be applied and these refer to the overall theme of the image with no mention of details. Once the number of primary terms exceeds three it is frequently impossible to determine what exactly is the theme of the work. Normally the placement of terms within this category, as within any other division, reflects the cataloger's interpretation. The secondary field is sometimes used to catalog generic terms found within the image. Normally terms within this division are also controlled and unlike the previous division there should be no restrictions on the number applied. Again, the order in which terms are placed reflects their importance within the image. For example, a dog placed in a position of importance in this division is of more importance than a similar subject placed near the end. The third or tertiary division is usually used to describe the specifics of the image. This is usually a refinement of the previous division and may be used to classify the details specific to the depiction. Whereas in the second division the terms "bridge" or "city" or "portrait" may have been used, the specific details such as "Brooklyn," "London," or "Washington, George" may be described in the third division.



It is possible to use natural language, numerical notations, codes, or a combination of all three. Natural language systems may be either controlled or free-text indexed or again use a combination of both. It is usually found that natural language is more successful in terms of subject retrieval. Free-text descriptions enable the indexer to describe in unparalleled detail actual relationships within the image of specific details (red ball in the foreground; two or possibly three kites are shown in the blue sky). It is the most wasteful in terms of storage space and is also the least consistent. What may be described by one indexer is not necessarily what would be described by another and without guidelines or authority lists errors frequently occur. In such systems, studies have shown that singular or plural versions of the same terms are frequently found; upper or lower cases of the same word(s) are frequently found and formatting standards vary.

Controlled vocabulary indexing may use either key words or subject headings. Controlled words are usually structured in a thesaurus format, hierarchically or alphabetically. The thesaurus is the most widely used and it provides a framework whereby word lists can be incorporated or expanded. Although the numerical approach to subject classification is ideally suited to a computer environment, it is rarely used in a pure form.

The nearly fifty studies in this report detail either general classification systems or those specific to an individual project. They are scattered throughout the world and are found in a variety of contexts. Systems such as Seal Scan are included by virtue of their specialized thesaurus which may extend the interests of more generalized systems. The work in this report was initially undertaken as part of the Van Eyck Project, a European Union funded project, LIB-VAN EYCK/4-1054. In the initial report, thirty systems were studied. For this update, attempts were made to include more recent developments and, where possible, this is reflected in the report. Responses varied among institutions, hence, the completeness in some entries and the lack of material in others.

Brief descriptions are given of each of the systems together with relevant references. Where possible, contact addresses and telephone or fax numbers and Internet addresses are given for each project. More complete bibliographic references are listed at the end of this report. ICONCLASS has purposely been excluded from this survey, but a list of some of the users together with a bibliography of the system is included in the Appendix.

Thanks are due to the Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie for the information of the Dutch Portraiture Project; to the Witt Library, Courtauld Institute of Art, London, where this project was initially started and in particular, to Catherine Gordon; to The ICONCLASS Research and Development Group, Utrecht; to the contributors who answered my many questions; to Jenni Rodda, who proofread the article and

suggested many valuable additions and alterations; and to Marlene E. Gordon for her patience and perseverance.

Dr. Colum Hourihane  
Index of Christian Art  
Princeton University  
March 1999

## List of Systems

Art Information System, National Gallery of Art  
 Art Loss Register  
 Ausertung Ikonographischer Bildquellen: An Iconographic  
 Interpretation of Pictorial Sources  
 Australian National University Slide Collection and Iconographic  
 Index  
 The Beazley Archive Computer Project: Computerized Inventory of  
 Athenian Figure-decorated Vases  
 Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (BPI)  
 Bildarchiv zur Christlichen Ikonographie  
 Bildindex zur Politischen Ikonographie  
 Bridgeman Art Library  
 The British Government Art Collection Computer System  
 The British Museum Subject Classification System  
 Catalog of Italian Art with Iconographical Analysis, Università  
 degli Studi di Siena  
 Classification for Slides and Photographs, University of  
 Michigan-Dearborn  
 College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado  
 Data Imaging Project of the Guildhall Libraries and Art Galleries  
 Frick Art Reference Library  
 The Glass System (A Subject System for the Visual Arts)  
 Hill Monastic Manuscript Library  
 The Historic New Orleans Collection  
 Ikonoteket, Uppsala Iconographic Archive  
 The Image System, The Aga Kahn Program for Islamic Architecture,  
 Harvard University  
 The Index of Christian Art, Princeton University  
 The Index of Jewish Art, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
 International Repertoire of Musical Iconography (Repertoire  
 International D'Ikonographie Musicale)  
 The Jewish Museum  
 Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials  
 Mary Evans Picture Library  
 Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie  
 Seal Scan: An Iconographical Analysis of Minoan and Mycenaean  
 Seal Design Using Computer Aided Techniques  
 Sears List of Subject Headings  
 SIBYL: The Database of Classical Iconography  
 Slide Classification System, University of California, Santa Cruz  
 Smithsonian Institution Subject Term Guide  
 Stichting Ikonografische Bureau (IB)/Research Centre for the  
 Documentation of Dutch Portraiture  
 Subject Catalogues of Paintings in Public Collections, Great  
 Britain  
 Thesaurus of Iconographic Terms, The Picture Division, The Public  
 Archives of Canada  
 Thesaurus Iconographique Systeme Descriptif des Représentations  
 (Garnier System)  
 Visual Resources Collection, Architecture and Allied Arts  
 Library, University of Oregon

Warburg Library Photographic Collection Classification  
System/Census of Antique Art Known to the Renaissance  
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine  
Witt Library, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London  
Yale Center for British Art, Yale University

## Systems Descriptions

### **Art Information System, National Gallery of Art**

Robin Dowden  
Department of Data Processing  
National Gallery of Art  
Washington, DC 20565  
202-842-6394

**Collection:** This system has been applied to the photographic archives research collection of black and white images, microforms, and reproductive prints which document works of art and architecture from western Europe and America. The collection consists of over 1,020,000 photographs (including prints of the entire Alinari/Anderson/Brogi Collections), 150,000 negatives, (including all Parke-Bernet auction catalog images from the 1950s to 1972), 2,900,000 microform images (including the Witt and Marburg Indexes).

**System:** Computerized database; adapted MARC-Audio Visual format. Data is entered on OCLC Library network. The original system was IBM 4331 Group II Processor.

**Subject:** The subject index includes information from the subjects entered in 600-650 tags. These include people and objects represented in the work, personal name subject entries, building name subjects entries, decorative arts subject entries and another catch-all field for other subjects. Subject matter is entered in general primary terms such as Mythology, Literature, and History. These are extended to include secondary terms which are always tagged to the primary term.

**Reference:** Gibbs, Andrea and Pat Stevens. "MARC and the Computerization of the National Gallery of Art Photographic Archives." Visual Resources 3 (Autumn 1986): 185-208.

### **The Art Loss Register**

13 Grosvenor Place  
London SW1X 7HH  
England  
0171-235-3393  
0171-235-1652 (fax)

666 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10110  
212-391-8791  
212-391-8794 (fax)

**Collection:** This is a computerized inventory of 60,000 works of art ranging from tapestries to prints from locations throughout the world which have been reported as stolen or missing. The project was started in 1991, and it is hoped that over 100,000 objects will be classified by 1999.

**System:** QUEUE on IBM.

**Subject:** The subject matter in this system is classified in a free-text narrative where as many words as possible are used to describe the content. An attempt is made to describe the object and subject on both a professional and a simple level. Although the catalogers work in a group, the standards vary and particular emphasis is placed on the skills and knowledge of the indexer. An attempt is made to distinguish the two approaches outlined above. The lay description is given, in considerable detail with all of the possible permutations given whereas the art-historical description of the subject matter is brief and concise.

### **Ausertung Ikonographischer Bildquellen**

#### **An Iconographic Interpretation of Pictorial Sources**

Elizabeth Vavra

Institut für Mittelalterliche Realienkunde Österreichs

Kornermarkt 13

3500 Krems

Austria

43-2732-4793

**Collection:** This project is based on the classification of Austrian Pictorial Sources from the middle ages to modern times with specific emphasis on iconography. The collection being classified is that of the photo archive of the Institute.

**System:** The project uses the program CLIO on IBM.

**Subject:** An in-house thesaurus was developed for the project and consists of controlled vocabulary terms, the Glossarium Artis. Subject matter is classified in two areas. The physical description includes the field "Iconographical Theme," while a separate division within the record has a statement on the "Iconographical" description. Details such as persons and objects are classified here.

**Reference:** Kuhnelt, Harry. "CLIO: Computer Program Supporting the Interpretation of the Iconographic Content of Medieval Pictorial Sources." In CENSUS: Computerization in the History or Art, vol.1. Edited by Laura Corti. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore and Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Trust, 1984: 238-39.

### **Australian National University Slide Collection & Iconographic Index**

Canberra, ACT 0200

Australia

**Collection:** 100,000 slides have been cataloged from the University's collection using this system. The images range in date from the early Christian period to contemporary Australian art. The project was devised in 1977 and begun in 1979. The slides are cataloged on a system based broadly on that

employed at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, while the subject system is again related to a European model.

**Subject:** An in-house subject thesaurus was forced on the University due to economic pressures. A series of main headings and subheadings was devised in a coded form. Each heading corresponds to a unique number, in a system similar to ICONCLASS but without the letter. There are seventeen main headings such as portraits and landscapes, and 5,600 subheadings. Presently the subject classifications are not computerized. A free-text description also accompanies the image to augment the controlled subject matter.

**Reference:** Lentsch, Francis. "The Australian National University Slide Collection and Iconographic Index." International Bulletin for Photographic Documentation of the Visual Arts 15 (Spring 1988): 35-36.

### **The Beazley Archive Computer Project Computerized Inventory of Athenian Figure-decorated Vases**

John Boardman  
Beazley Archive  
Ashmolean Museum  
Beaumont Street  
Oxford OX1 2PH  
England  
0865-278000

**Collection:** This project is a computerized inventory of Athenian figure-decorated clay vases from the period c625 to 350 BC.

**System:** DEC, VAX cluster.

**Subject:** By 1986, over 18,000 clay vases had been cataloged based on the photo archives of the Beazley Collection of more than 200,000 prints. The project started in 1979 with an emphasis on the iconography of these figure scenes. An in-house thesaurus of controlled vocabulary terms was developed which, due to the nature of the material, focuses heavily on the figure, the animal and mythology. Non-figurative decoration is briefly described and only when it is part of a figurative scene. A written description of the subject matter also accompanies the subject headings.

**Reference:** Carpenter, T.H., D.C. Kurtz and John Boardman. "The Beazley Archive Computer Project: An Inventory of Athenian Figure-decorated Clay Vases c625 to 350 BC." In Automatic Processing of Art History Data and Documents, Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore, September 24-27, 1984: Papers, vol. 1. Edited by Laura Corti. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore and Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Trust, 1984: 141-53.

**Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (BPI)**  
Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou  
75191 Paris, Cedex 4  
France  
<http://www.bpi.fr/>

**Collection:** A computerized database of the 120,000 slides in the Centre's library representing a variety of subjects from prints to sculpture.

**Subject:** This project was started in the early 1980s and has divided subject matter into two areas. The first of these is the "Theme" where the Dewey Decimal Classification System is used. This represents an interesting, but not unusual, application of a bibliographic system to visual material. The second, iconographic division is "Subject" where an average of two terms from an in-house system is applied. The subject headings list is a series of controlled vocabulary terms.

**Reference:** Albiges, Luce-Marie. "Le Traitement de l'Image à la BPI." In Le Traitement Documentaire de l'Image Fixe. Paris, Bibliothèque Publique d'Information, 1986: 84-87.

**Bildarchiv zur Christlichen Ikonographie**  
Professor Martin Warnke  
Universität Hamburg  
Warburg Haus  
Heilwigstraße 116  
20249 Hamburg  
Germany  
040-4123-6148

**Collection:** The nucleus of this collection was founded by Gertrude Schiller, who bequeathed her collection of images to Hamburg University. It originally consisted of 12,000 images which were ordered according to her classification of Christian iconography, as expounded in her publications (1946-1991). The images are largely western in nature and represent works from the 10th to the 15th centuries. There is a particular emphasis on works from southern Europe.

**System:** The collection is not computerized.

**Subject:** The images are arranged in boxes. Each image is filed under its respective subject heading (nine in all, Genesis-St. John's Apocalypse, Saints, Mary, The Church, etc.). There is a narrative arrangement to her divisions, largely Biblical in structure, and this has been complemented by three additional subject headings (Genesis, Saints, St. John the Baptist).

**Examples:** Genesis:

- Box 1: (1) General Depictions of Genesis  
(2) How God Created the World  
(3) Images of God the Creator  
(4) Division between Light and Darkness



- (5) Days of Creation
- (6) Creation of Adam and Eve
- (7) Adam and Eve Prior to the Fall
  - Adam and the land
  - Adam warned by God

Box 2: (1) Fall-Tower of Babel  
Box 3: (1) Moses-Isaac  
Box 4: (1) Solomon-Jesse  
Box 5: (1) Daniel-Tobias

Boxes 2-5 are also subdivided and are included within the overall primary heading of Genesis.

**Bildindex zur Politischen Ikonographie**

Professor Martin Warnke

Universität Hamburg

Warburg Haus

Heilwigstraße 116

20249 Hamburg

Germany

040-4123-6148

**Collection:** This project was started in the early 1990s and consists of 150,000 photographic cards which are mounted on board. The images are largely political in content, but this interpretation is a subjective classification and includes what could be called mythological and historical subject matter in other systems. The collection is mainly Germanic in origin and covers all periods from the Middle Ages to the present with particular emphasis on the early 20th century.

**System:** The collection is not computerized.

**Subject:** The images are arranged according to an in-house system of 100 Primary headings. These range from Agitation/Demonstrations to Architecture to Medals to Theory of Art. Each subdivision is further subdivided. There is an alphabetical listing under each heading.

**Example:** 285 Medals

- 10- Of Honor
- 20- Military Medals
- 30- Political
- 40- Civil
- 50- Other Medals

**Bridgeman Art Library**

17-19 Garway Road  
London W2 4PH  
England  
0171-727 4065  
0171-792 8509 (fax)  
Info@bridgeman.co.uk  
<http://www.bridgeman.co.uk/>

**Collection:** 60,000 high-quality images of works of art, principally western in nature, have been cataloged using this system. A large selection of the images is available on CD-ROM. The commercial library was developed in 1971 by Viscountess Bridgeman in collaboration with the photographer A.C. Cooper; it is used mainly by publishers and printers.

**System:** Several thousand images are available in electronic form the the Library, a sample of which is also represented on the Internet site.

**Subject:** A series of 188 subject headings have been developed to classify the subject matter. These include a combination of broad and specialist terms such as, "Travel and Transport," "Mother and Child," "Hunting Scenes" and "Portraits." Although all of the images are not available electronically, the textual records are. An image database runs in the library on a custom-built free-text-based search system. Apart from the standard cataloging field of image content access is also provided from such fields as "Title" and "Description."

**The British Government Art Collection Computer System**

Penny Johnson, Director  
Government Art Collection  
2 Sheraton Street  
London W1V 4BH  
England  
0171-734-1115  
0171-734-1181 (fax)

**Collection:** This computerized database was designed to control 12,600 works of art owned by the Government and distributed among 700 British Government buildings throughout the world. These works include paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, tapestries, and photographs. There are 4,000 works outside of the core collection: ephemeral items, works on loan, and works that the Government Art Collection has some form of administrative relationship with. There are also 3,500 records of de-accessioned items (mostly returned loans). The first computer system was installed in 1982.

**System:** Originally Infomix on Zenix; now Argus Classic (Questor Systems Inc., Pasadena, CA). UNIX, via terminal emulation program from Windows. This is the third system to be installed.

**Subject:** An in-house single term subject heading system limited by computer restrictions to six characters was devised to

classify the subject matter. These primary broad categories and their expansion are controlled. These terms are abbreviated within the computer record.

**Examples:**

P	Portrait
BE	Building-exterior
TS	Townscape
ST	Still Life
MY	Mythological

There is no limit to the number of terms that may be applied to any image. The subject matter, although restricted by computer space, is augmented by the free-text field in "Title" and an additional free-text field, "Miscellaneous Data," where a more detailed description of the subject matter can be given.

**Reference:** Beal, Mary. "The British Government Art Collection Computer System: The User's View." In Computers & the History of Art. Edited by Anthony Hamber, Jean Miles, and William Vaughan. London: Mansell Press, 1989: 144-154.

### **The British Museum Subject Classification System**

Tanya Szrajber  
 Department of Scientific Research  
 British Museum Collections Data Management Section  
 Bloomsbury  
 London W11B 3DG  
 England  
 0171-323-834

**Collection:** This system has been mainly applied to the computerized records of the Department of Prints & Drawings and to a lesser extent to those of the Department of Japanese Antiquities and Coins and Medals within the British Museum. It is planned to eventually extend its use to every department.

**System:** MAGus Software on a Prime Supermini 6650.

**Subject:** An in-house subject thesaurus was initially devised for the Prints & Drawings Department and to date 20,000 works have been computerized, the majority of which have been classified using this system. The initial thesaurus was based on The Glass System proposed by the Victoria & Albert Museum, using an expandable thesaurus with a series of (1) Narrow, (2) Broad, (3) Related Terms, and (4) Scope Notes. New terms are added as necessary, although care is taken to maintain a manageable size to simplify data entry and retrieval. The thesaurus was constructed in collaboration with curators, and new terms are checked with them before being incorporated. The principle underlying the Subject Thesaurus is that in most instances it should function as a higher-level form of indexing. More specific terms falling under many of the categories listed can be retrieved via the Description field. Thus the term "mammal" (itself a narrow term of "animal") is listed in the thesaurus,

but "dog" is not and must be retrieved from the Description. The Subject Thesaurus is complemented by other fields which are not thesaurus-controlled, and which cover topography, names of people, place name, historical events, and book titles. Thus the term "battle" is a Subject Thesaurus term, but "Battle of Waterloo" would be retrieved from the Historic Event field. A peculiarity of the Thesaurus is that it includes combination terms such as "Sport/Pastime," a method which reduces the number of individual entries and hence relationships, and also facilitates data entry in ambiguous cases. The Thesaurus is in the process of being expanded to include an upper or even more general level. Non-preferred terms are also included.

**Examples:** ANIMAL  
                   NT Amphibian  
                   Arachnid  
                   Bird  
                   Crustacean  
                   Fish  
                   Insect  
                   Mollusk  
                   Mammal  
                   Reptile  
                   RT Animal-Baiting  
                   Animal-Fighting  
                   Animal-Housing  
                   Stock breeding

**Reference:** Ravenscroft, Jill and Tanya Szrajber. "British Museum Thesauri." In Terminology Working Group, Thesauri for Museum Documentation, The Proceedings of a Workshop held at the Science Museum, London, February 24th 1992. Museum Documentation Association Occasional Papers 18, 1992.

### **Catalog of Italian Art with Iconographical Analysis Università degli Studi di Siena**

**Collection:** This project deals with thirteenth-century Sienese paintings and is computerized.

**System:** STAIRS.

**Subject:** Subject access is divided into three different free-text fields each of which differs in levels of specificity. The first of these (DESCR) is a short description usually confined to two lines. The second field is the iconographic subject from printed bibliographic sources (BIBLIOG). The source is first specified in abbreviated form with page and illustration references given where these are available and this is followed by a verbatim transcription of that source's description. The third field is the cataloger's detailed iconographic description (DES-ICON) where all the primary and secondary material is included.

**Reference:** Bisogni, Fabio. "Un Catalogo Memorizzato dell'arte Sienese." In Automatic Processing of Art Historical Data and Documents, Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Sept. 24th-Sept. 27th, 1984, Papers, vol. 1. Edited by Laura Corti. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore and Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Trust, 1984: 127-39.

**Classification for Slides and Photographs**

**University of Michigan-Dearborn**

Visual Resources Collections

Marlene E. Gordon

1165 Administration Building

Dearborn, MI 48128-1491

313-593-5463

313-593-5452 (fax)

mgordon@umich.edu

**Collection:** The system is based on the classification system of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor which is based, in turn, on the system in use at Harvard University. Each site where it is used adds local variations.

**System:** The cataloging for the areas of science and history were developed using ICONCLASS. The archaeology section was developed using the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT).

Computerization was started in 1986. The initial system was the Michigan Image Collection System (MICS) with migration of the system to Filemaker Pro begun in 1995.

**Subject:** The system is divided into the following areas:

- 000 Maps
- 100 Architecture
- 200 Sculpture
- 300 Painting
- 400 Work in Minerals
- 500 Work in Metals
- 600 Work in Wood
- 700 Work in Organic Material
- 800 Textiles, Tapestries and Embroidery
- 900 Graphic Arts
- 1000 Theater Arts
- 1300 Happenings, Installations, Performance and Video Art
- 1500 Archaeology
- 1600 History
- 1900 Science and Industry
- 2200 African Art
- 2300 pre-Columbian

Architecture (100) is divided into nine sections; the numeral nine appears on the third line of the slide label and designates the structure as funerary architecture.

**Examples:** 9A Altar tombs

9C Chamber tombs  
9CA Hypogea  
9CC Megalithic chamber tombs  
9CCG Gallery graves  
9CCP Passage graves  
9CP Chullpas  
9CV Cist graves  
9CM Mastaba  
9CP Pyramid  
9CR Rock-cut tomb  
9CRY Royal tomb  
9CS Shaft grave  
9CTT Tower tomb

**Reference:** Irving, Betty Jo. Slide Libraries: A Guide for Academic Institutions and Museums. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1974: 40-44.

**College of Architecture and Planning**  
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303-492-6163 (fax)  
lickteig@spot.Colorado.edu

**Collection:** The Visual Resource Center consists of a collection of 25,000 35mm slides. These cover topics relating specifically to the University's curricular needs which are mainly architectural (85%), "The History of Architecture from Ancient times to the Present" and "Urban Planning Issues" (13%). A small collection of landscape and design theory is included although they represent only about 1%-2% of the holdings.

**System:** VIMS (Visual Information Management System) specifically developed for the department in 1988 by Westar Systems, Colorado Springs. VIMS was originally written in dBase III+ but was subsequently upgraded to dBase 5.0. It is a relational database. This systems is currently being replaced with new software written in Oracle.

**Collection:** A specifically designed in-house system was developed in 1988. This is based on the Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT) Categories and focuses primarily on architecture and related subjects and consists of primary headings which are extended into secondary terms.

**Examples:** Primary Headings:

Detention:

Dwellings  
Rooms and Spaces  
Educational

Exhibition  
Barriers  
Parts of Structures  
Agricultural Structures  
Civic or ceremonial

**Secondary Headings:**

Barriers: Walls  
Gateway  
Fences

**Data Imaging Project of the Guildhall Libraries and Art Galleries**

Oliver Vicars-Harris

Corporation of London Data Imaging Project

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury

London EC2P 2EJ

England

0171-332-3097

0171-600-3384 (fax)

**Collection:** This project has been developed to catalog 40,000 works presently in the collection of the Corporation of London. These are derived from the Permanent Collection of Works of Art (to be housed in the newly developed art gallery). There is a particular emphasis in the collection on Victorian works although many schools and periods are represented. The system is also to cover the Prints, Maps and Drawings Collection which are permanently housed within the Print Room of the Guildhall Public Reference Library. This is the world's primary source for pictorial material relating to the history of London.

**System:** Presently being developed.

**Subject:** The core collection is to be centered on 40,000 works from both of these sources. All of the works in the Permanent Collection of Works of Art are to be included and a selection from the Prints, Maps and Drawings. Subject access is provided under a specific field which is to be controlled. This is to consist of a dedicated index of keywords which are searchable. The present London Classification Scheme (specifically developed for the manual system in the library) is to form the basis although the eventual system will be a newly created list of terms. It is envisaged that this system will be a high level series of terms with little provision made for the details of the work. An example of the proposed index term is as follows:

Group Scene>political event

The London Classification System consists of a series of Primary Headings which are further subdivided into Secondary and Tertiary terms. A number of the Primary Headings are also extended.

**Examples:** Ecclesiastical History  
Social Life

Social Life-Administration-Public Bodies  
Social Life-Administration-Special Subjects  
Arts and Learning----Culture in London  
Literature-Literary Associations  
Libraries  
Fine arts  
Music  
Architecture  
Individual public buildings  
Domestic

**Reference:** Vicars-Harris, Oliver. "Picturing Guildhall's Treasures COLDIP: The Corporation of London Data Imaging Project." Computers and The History of Art 6, pt. 1 (1996): 47-64.

**Frick Art Reference Library**

Deborah A. Kempe, Chief  
Office of Collection Management and Access  
10 East 71st Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212-288-8700 x483  
212-879-2091 (fax)  
kempe@frick.org

**Collection:** This large photographic collection is arranged by national school, then by artist, then by subject categories within the body of that artist's work. The archive was founded in 1920 by Miss Helen C. Frick to complement the large collection of paintings in the museum and was modeled on the Witt Library, now in the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, England.

**System:** The system has not been computerized but plans have commenced for electronic access.

**Subject:** Each national school is given a number derived from the Dewey Geographical Numbering System, 1-9.

- 1 American
- 2 Britain
- 3 Holland
- 4 Flemish School
- 5 French School
- 6 German School
- 7 Italian School
- 8 Spanish School
- 9 Minor Schools

Minor schools are also given an alpha-numerical abbreviation such as Ar9 Argentinean, Au9 Austrian etc. The subject categories (of which there are 500) are numbered according to the in-house classification system. This consists of a series of Primary Subject Headings, each of which is given a numerical abbreviation.



**Examples:**

00 Bible  
 01 Bible: Old Testament  
 02 Bible: Apocrypha (Old Testament & New Testament)  
 03 Bible: New Testament  
 03-1 Bible: New Testament: Life of Christ: Annunciation  
 03-2 Bible: New Testament: Life of Christ: Immaculate Conception  
 03-3 Bible: New Testament: Life of Christ: Visitation  
 20-1 Genre: Politics  
 20-2 Genre: Domestic

The shelf number must be used with the name of the artist and this consists of the school number with the subject category and the alphabetic letter given to the particular works within that subject category.

**Reference:** Knox, Katharine McCook. The Story of the Frick Art Reference Library: the Early Years. New York: Harbor Press, 1979.

**The Glass System (A Subject System for the Visual Arts)**

Victoria and Albert Museum  
 Kensington  
 London SW7 2RL  
 England

**Collection:** This system was first published in 1969 and was developed in relation to the Prints & Drawings Department in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, by Elizabeth Glass. The system forms the basis for other classifications such as that employed at the British Museum.

**System:** The collection has not been computerized.

**Subject:** The two volume work consists of a system of subject headings and a thesaurus of format terms. The thesaurus terms are expanded to a secondary and tertiary level and are capable of further expansion. The list is alphabetically arranged and is presented in a series of columns. Apart from the primary entry (always capitalized) in the first column there are three further divisions. The second of these presents a series of notes and indicates where further details can be gathered on the primary entry and also includes subdivisions of the primary term. The third column has references to allied subjects and to related concepts.

**Examples:**

FURNITURE: DOMESTIC	See CABINETS Canterbury's	see MUSIC-Cabinets TRAYS
CRADLES Cribs	See: CRADLES	
CUPBOARDS		See also: WARDROBES

The second volume consists of cross references only and acts as a guide to related subjects for particular terms.

ACTORS                                      See: PEOPLE & PORTRAITS  
THEATER

ALCOHOLISM                                See: ADDICTS

Equal importance is given to all subject matter within an image and the subjects are listed alphabetically. No proper places or names are allowed within the system. The present computerized catalog of the Victoria & Albert Museum does not include The Glass System and no account is made as yet for subject access. The Glass system continues to be used within the Prints & Drawings Department.

**Reference:** Glass, Elizabeth. A Subject Index for the Visual Arts. 2 vols. London: H.M.S.O., 1969.

**Hill Monastic Manuscript Library**  
Fr. Eric Hollas  
St. John's Abbey and University  
Collegeville, MN 56321  
320-363-3515  
320-363-3222 (fax)  
ehollas@csbsju.edu  
<http://www.csbsju.edu/hmml/intro.html>

**Collection:** An inventory of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts.

**System:** This is a manual iconographical index.

**Subject:** Each image is accessed through a main entry point which consists of a primary category followed by a qualifier. This format closely follows the Princeton Index of Christian Art system. A series of cross references follows in which the secondary subject matter is described in thesaurus format.

**Reference:** Bryce, Lynn. "The Visual Image: Its Immediacy and Tradition." Visual Resources 1 (Spring 1980): 19-31.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection**  
Chuck Patch  
Director of Systems  
Historic New Orleans Collection  
533 Royal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-523-4662  
504-598-7108 (fax)  
chuck@hnoc.org  
<http://www.hnoc.org>

**Collection:** This collection documents the history of New Orleans and the surrounding area through approximately 150,000 photographs, prints, and paintings and was started in 1984. The collection itself, though, is older and was established in 1966 by General and Mrs. L. Kemper Williams.

**System:** MINISIS on a Hewlett-Packard mini-computer.

**Subject:** Subject access to primary and secondary matter is provided through two distinct phases. There is, firstly, the pre-iconographical description of the subject matter and this is classified through an in-house thesaurus of controlled vocabulary terms. Less than 100 terms per image are given in this phase and archaic terminology, spellings, and nomenclature are preserved to maintain historic integrity.

**Examples:**

- Advertisements
- Amusements
- Architecture
- Battle of New Orleans
- Cemeteries
- Churches
- City Views and Street Scenes
- Civil War and Reconstruction

Iconographical analysis is given a separate field and ICONCLASS is used for this purpose.

**Reference:** Sarasan, Lenore. "Visual Content Access: An Approach to the Automated Retrieval of Visual Information." In Automatic Processing of Art History Data & Documents, Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore, September 24-27, 1984: Papers, vol. 1. Edited by Laura Corti. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore and Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Trust, 1984: 387-406.

#### **Ikonoteket**

**Uppsala Iconographic Archive**  
Professor Anna Brigitta Rooth  
Institute of Ethnology  
University of Uppsala  
St Johannesgaten 21  
S-752 35 Uppsala  
Sweden

**Collection:** The Iconographic Archive is a project at the Department of Ethnography, University of Uppsala. Developed by Professor Anna Rooth in Lund in the 1960s, the project transferred to Uppsala in 1973. The collection comprises 40,000 black and white photographs, 3,000 slides, 40,000 microform images and 22,000 negatives from a private collection. There is an emphasis on cultural and natural history, everyday life and folklore.

**Subject:** Various broad terms are assigned letter codes and these are fixed in number to twenty-four. Specific details within each

of these divisions are assigned numbers. Each detail within an image is therefore allocated an alpha-numeric code. The secondary terms are limited generic terms and are not expandable. This system is similar to ICONCLASS in its approach to using codes based on an alpha-numeric sequence.

**Examples of broad terms:**

- A. Religious, mythological and other fictional pictures
- B. Studies of Nature, Flora, Fauna, Minerals
- C. Historical paintings
- D. Portraits
- E. Pictures of Landscapes

- A. Religious, mythological and other fictional pictures
  - 1. Biblical, Christian tradition in general (representations of God see A 32)
  - 2. Mary and her life, Anne and Joachim
  - 3. Annunciation
  - 5. Madonna and Child
  - 7. Holy Family

No provision is made for naming specific and identifiable subject matter such as people or places.

**Reference:** Rooth, Anna. Ikonoteket: Systematic Code Catalogue of the Uppsala Iconographic Archive for Registering Pictorial Material of Ethnological & Culture Historical Interest. Uppsala: University of Uppsala, 1984.

**The Image System**

**The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture**

The Aga Khan Visual Archives

Harvard University and The Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Ahmed Nabal, Archives Specialist

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Rm. 7-304

Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

617-253-2955

617-253-9331 (fax)

annabal@mit.edu

**Collection:** The videodisk entitled "Images of Islamic Architecture: The Aga Khan Collection" was developed in the early 1980s. It was designed as part of The Image System which is a computerized database of 30,000 black and white photographs which are the property of The Aga Khan Visual Archives. The database contains both text and images and although primarily dealing with architecture, art is also included. The main purpose of this project was to provide faculty and students with easy access to visual materials related to buildings in the Muslim world.

**System:** PC/FOCUS and GEM with customized software, IBM XT and AT. Two databases were developed specifically for this project.

These are The Index and The Architectural Images Retrieval Vocabulary. The former provides brief descriptions of the images numerically by the videodisk frame number while the second is arranged alphabetically by the descriptive phrase.

**Subject:** An in-house specialist architectural system of single vocabulary controlled terms known as The Aga Khan Architectural Images Vocabulary was specifically developed for this project. Terms are arranged in a hierarchical list and divided into thirty-six general categories such as "Maps," "Master Plans," "Settlements," "Urban Phenomena," "Public Spaces," and so on. After initial experimentation of in-depth subject analysis, it was decided to classify the image content on a basic level with the future potential for expanding the information. The subject terms are also supported by a free-text description of the content. The videodisk includes more than 30,000 images arranged according to twelve geographic divisions (North Africa, Arabian Peninsula, and so on). Within each division, the images are arranged alphabetically, first by country, then by city or site, and finally within each city or site the images are classified according to form or function--residential buildings, religious buildings, etc. There are ten such divisions. The videodisk can be consulted only by appointment.

**References:** Kamisher, Lisa M. "Electronic Images: The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architectural Videodisk Project." In Computers and the History of Art. Edited by Anthony Hamber, Jean Miles and William Vaughan, London: Mansell Press, 1989: 57-64.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Image System: Videodisk and Database Integration for Architecture." Optical Information Systems 6 (November-December 1986): 501-03.

### **The Index of Christian Art**

Dr. Colum Hourihane, Director  
Princeton University  
Department of Art and Archaeology  
107 McCormick Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
609-258-6363  
609-258-0103 (fax)  
cph@Princeton.edu  
<http://www.Princeton.Edu/~ica/>

**Collection:** This was originally a manual listing of subjects and objects of early Christian art up to c1400 AD. The system has been applied to a large file index of 500,000 objects. The Index consists of a series of photographs and card files. The Index was founded in 1917 and currently holds 250,000 images.

**System:** The computerized conversion of the card files started in 1991 and is still in progress. The software used is Aleph, an international library cataloging system developed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It currently runs on Digital equipment,

but can also run on UNIX platforms.

**Subject:** The system consists of 26,000 different subjects which are alphabetically listed. It is a thesaurus format which grew from the subjects encountered while indexing. There are five primary categories which are further subdivided. The secondary division is again subdivided. The secondary and tertiary divisions are the only two to appear on the index card and are capable of expansion. Language is controlled throughout. An alphabetic subject file includes lists of persons, scenes, and objects, etc. A free-text description is given on the subject card of the details of each image. ICONCLASS also accompanies the Princeton system and runs in tandem on the database but not on the card files.

**Examples:** Christ: Crucifixion, Three Crosses, with Longinus  
Stephaton, and Centurion  
Longinus of Jerusalem  
Heraldry, French: Moreuil  
Heraldry, French: Count of Grandpre  
Heraldry, French

The Princeton classification standards have been used in conjunction with ICONCLASS in the Index to Iconographic Subjects in 223 Anglo Saxon Illuminated Manuscripts at Purdue University, Indiana and at the Morgan Library, New York. Modifications of this system have led to the creation of the Index of Jewish Art. There are four copies of the manual system and computerized access to the database available at the Vatican Library, Rome; Biblioteek Rijksuniversiteit, Utrecht; Dumbarton Oaks Research Center, Washington, DC; and The University of California at Los Angeles. An Internet application of the database is available on a subscription basis.

**References:** Cassidy, Brendan. "Computers and Medieval Art: the Case of the Princeton Index." In Computers and the History of Art 4, pt.1 (1993): 3-16.

Hourihaane, Colum, editor, "The Index of Christian Art." Visual Resources 12, no. 3-4 (1998).

#### **The Index of Jewish Art**

Dr. Aliza Cohen-Mushlin, Director  
Index of Jewish Art  
Centre for Jewish Art  
Hebrew University  
Jerusalem

**Collection:** This project was established in 1971 to compliment the Princeton Index of Christian Art. No time limits were imposed on the art under study. The index is compiled in various countries. It was firstly a manual card system with over 300 subscribers throughout the world.

**System:** IBM CLEO, now ADABAS.

**Subject:** The Index consists of cards each of which has a detailed description of the object and subject. Textual iconographic references are given on each card and the thesaurus is similar in structure to that used by the Index of Christian Art. The Index is divided into four sections, Archives of Ancient Jewish Art; Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts; Synagogue and Ritual Art; and Fine Arts. Each card consists of a full description, a photograph and literary references. The Index is computerized for main and secondary subjects. The field "Subject" refers to the general iconographical subject depicted in or on a ceremonial object or in Fine or Folk Arts. In cases where there is more than one subject a secondary card is required.

**Examples:** Samson and Delilah  
Menorah  
Lamp  
Rabbi

**Reference:** Narliss, Bezalel and Gabrielle Sed-Rajni. Index of Jewish Art, Iconographical Index of Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts, vol. 1. Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Science and Humanities, 1976.

**International Repertoire of Musical Iconography**  
**(Repertoire International D'Iconographie Musicale)**  
Barry Brook, Project Director  
City University of New York  
Research Center for Musical Iconography  
33 West 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10036

**Collection:** This project catalogs for research purposes works of art with musical subjects. The project was founded in 1971 and has to date cataloged 15,000 images from twelve countries.

**System:** SPIRES, customized program on IBM.

**Subject:** An in-house thesaurus was developed with special emphasis on the nature of the subject matter being cataloged. This thesaurus consists of controlled vocabularies (RIdiM Thesaurus of Indexing Terms) which, it is hoped, will form a standard for the classification of musical iconography in the future.

**The Jewish Museum**

Barbara Treitel  
Visual Resources Collection  
The Jewish Museum  
1109 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, NY 100129  
212-423-3250  
212-423-3232 (fax)  
Treitel@aol.com

**Collection:** The Collection and museum was founded in the 1940s. The Collection consists of 20,000 images largely based on Jewish culture. These images consist of negatives, lantern slides, 35mm slides, prints, and glass negatives covering various media including sculpture, ceremonial objects, coins, medals, decorative arts, textiles, folk art, and archaeological artifacts.

**System:** IBM clone using MUSE.

**Subject:** The images of Judaica are filed firstly on the basis of a geographical classification. Within that overall division there is a series of refinements which are based on date and subject. The subject analysis reflects the material in the collection and is an in-house system. Primary index terms are subdivided.

**Example:** Subject: Container: Alms  
Lamp: Hanukkah  
Lamp: Hanging Sabbath  
Lamp: Memorial  
Torah: Ark  
Torah: Shield  
Torah: Finial

**Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials**

Elizabeth Parker Betz  
Picture Catalog Specialist  
Prints and Photographic Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540  
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1/>

**Collection:** This system was developed for the Library of Congress Prints and Photographic Division where a collection of approximately 10 million works representing all types of graphics is kept.

**Subject:** The system is based on the bibliographic classification system used in the Library of Congress Subject Headings and represents a modification from a written to a visual image. Many terms from the Library of Congress Subject Headings have been applied without change to the prints and photographic system while others have had to be modified or reconstructed. New headings have been created and cross references have also been included. Each image has a maximum of four subject headings. The system was primarily designed for automated material and



indexing systems for use in MARC. The most recent release of this system includes geographic, chronological, topical and national subdivisions. Art historical and iconographical concepts are excluded. This system was ideally constructed for general collections of historical images; however, recent releases have extended its scope. The Thesaurus conforms strictly to the American National Standard Institute Guidelines for Thesaurus Construction. The system consists of 5,504 controlled subject heading terms together with 4,324 cross references which are all alphabetically arranged. Despite these modifications, from the written to the visual image system, several projects continue to use the older of the two Library of Congress systems and apply it to image collections.

**Examples:** Liberty  
               Liberty bell  
               Liberty cap  
               Liberty loans  
                   use War bonds & funds  
               Liberty tree

These systems are used at the following projects either singly or in combination with others:

The Art Department Slide Library Computerization Project of the  
     State University College at Cortland, New York  
 The Catalog of American Engravings Project, American Antiquarian  
     Society, Worcester, Massachusetts  
 The Iconographical Index to the Principal Manuscripts of the  
     Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique  
 The Interactive Video for the National Gallery of Art,  
     Washington, DC  
 The Program for Art on Film, The Critical Inventory of Films on  
     Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
 The University Survey of Photographic Resources, California  
     Museum of Photography

**References:** Parker, Elizabeth Betz. The Library of Congress  
 Thesaurus of Graphic Materials: Topical Terms for Subject Access.  
 Washington, DC.: Library of Congress, 1987.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Controlled Vocabulary for Indexing Original and  
 Historical Materials." In Terminology for Museums. Edited by A.  
 Roberts. Museum Documentation Association, 1990: 254-58.

**Mary Evans Picture Library**

59 Tranquil Vale  
London SE3 OBS  
England  
0181-318-0034  
0181-852-7211 (fax)

**Collection:** This commercial photographic library begun in 1964 by Mary and Hilary Evans concentrates on high quality reproductions of prints, photographs, and ephemera dating from the medieval period to 1939. There are some later additions to the collection which is on open access in files.

**System:** The collection is not computerized.

**Subject:** An in-house system was devised to cope with a specific collection. There are eight Primary divisions, and these are: People, Places, Events, Science, Technology and Transport, Arts, Entertainment and Sport, Natural History, Daily Life, Fringe Activities. These are, in turn, subdivided into hundreds of secondary headings. The secondary headings are not controlled but are devised as needs arise. Many of these secondary headings, such as "Games," "Law," "Lighting," "Plants," and so on are classed as primary headings in other systems. Specifics are not provided for except under the generic headings. For example, "Waterloo Bridge" would be found under "Places, Bridges," etc.

**Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie**

Jan van der Starre  
P.O. Box 90418  
2509 LK The Hague  
Netherlands  
070-347-1514  
070-140-450 (fax)  
starre@rkd.nl  
<http://www.rkd.nl/>

**Collection:** The Netherlands Institute for Art History was opened in 1932 and owes its existence to a gift made to the nation by Dr. C. Hofstede de Groot. His collection of 100,000 photographs and reproductions of some 300,000 personal notes on Netherlandish art was supplemented by several thousand auction catalogs. The collection presently has four million art historical documents.

**System:** BDS was installed in 1995 and is now fully operational in the Department Of Old Netherlandish Paintings. The system runs under Adlite software.

**Subject:** Particular emphasis is placed on iconography in the Rijksbureau. The collection of images is filed under various in-house subject headings. These are referred to as "Trefwoorden" and number nearly 200. They reflect a strong bias towards Dutch subject matter with terms which are particularly common in Dutch painting relegated to a primary status.

**Examples:** allegories  
architecture  
anatomy  
brothel scene  
body  
baptism

Since the computerization program started the value of subject access has been further emphasized. There are three distinct fields within the database that are now used. The first of these is the General Subject. This has a maximum allocation of two keywords drawn from the Trefworden. The second field is called the Specific Subject and here ICONCLASS is used. Preceding this ICONCLASS code there is a free-text field used to classify the representational theme. A maximum of three ICONCLASS codes is allowed with a ruling that the first code has to indicate the main subject. The third field is called Append Identification. This field is used for an in-depth analysis of the subject matter and can be written by researchers and staff of the RKD to represent their own personalized opinions. Suggested standards within this field are the Trefworden and AAT Terms. This field may have restricted access depending on the contributor's wishes.

**Seal Scan: An Iconographical Analysis of Minoan and Mycenaean Seal Design Using Computer Aided Techniques**

Janice Crowley, Project Director  
AAIA (Hobart)  
University of Tasmania  
Box 252C, G.P.O.  
7001 Hobart, Tasmania  
Australia  
61-002-2-2293

**Collection:** It is hoped that this project will create an iconographical classification for all Minoan and Mycenaean seal designs throughout public collections worldwide.

**System:** Double Helix on Apple Macintosh.

**Subject:** Three iconographical steps are envisaged in this project, which has yet to be implemented. In the first stage, there is to be an iconographical analysis of all seal designs. The second stage will be the creation of a complete iconographical classification system which will incorporate all the iconographical descriptions. The third stage will be the creation of a database which will contain all the standard seal data and provide retrieval of this data by means of keywords. The development of an in-house controlled vocabulary subject system is presently in preparation.

## **Sears List of Subject Headings**

**Subject:** This system was called after its compiler Minnie Earl Sears and is similar in construction to the Library of Congress Subject Headings List. It is used as a simple guide for classifying image content, particularly throughout the small libraries and museums in America. It was first published in 1923 and has the same limitations as the Library of Congress Subject Headings List since proper names or iconographic content are not encompassed within the system. The fourteenth edition, edited by Martha T. Mooney, was published in New York in 1991.

## **SIBYL: The Database of Classical Iconography**

Jocelyn Penny Small

Rutgers University

Alexander Library

U.S. Center for Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae

169 College Avenue

New Brunswick, NJ 08903

732-932-7404

jpsmall@rci.rutgers.edu

**Collection:** SIBYL has been developed by Jocelyn Penny Small, Director of the US Center of the Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (LIMC) at Rutgers University, as a project totally independent from the LIMC in order to catalog and manage the classical objects in American collections with mythological scenes.

**System:** SIBYL began as a DOS database in the program Advanced Revelation. It currently resides in Access. An Internet application is envisaged as well as a CD-ROM publication.

**Subject:** SIBYL consists of two major core tables, "Objects" and "Scenes." All information pertaining to an individual object is recorded in the Objects file with the information about the individual scenes recorded in the Scenes file. One of the major strengths of the database lies in its method of recording iconographical information. Not only can different interpretations be entered for individual scenes, but SIBYL also keeps track of every single element within a scene including all figures, architecture, vehicles, animals, flora, and so on. Moreover, each figure is defined with its attributes and dress. The result is that SIBYL can do searches such as finding all women who hold shields or all men who wear chitons. SIBYL is also able to find the object if you have a published reference. It has the only concordance to all major abbreviations for journals in the fields of classics and classical archaeology. SIBYL currently has over 60 related tables with an estimate of over 200,000 records. An extensive free-text description accompanies a set of controlled descriptors.

**Examples:**

Elements	Dress/Attributes
Porch	
Priamos	Beard; Himaton; Staff
Hekabe	
Achilleus	Chiton, Short; Greaves; Helmet Shield, Triskeles
Hektor	Beard; Inscription
Snake	Beard
Iris	Chiton; Himation; Necklace; Wingless
Term: Warrior	
Synonyms: Hoplite	
Soldier	

Usage: Male figure whether fully or incompletely armed. However, not to be confused with the athlete who may have a javelin.

**References:** Small, Jocelyn Penny and John B. Smith. "Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae." CENSIS: Computerization in the History of Art, vol.1. Edited by Laura Corta. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore and Los Angeles: The J. Paul Getty Trust, 1984: 247-249.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A Database for Classical Iconography." Art Documentation 7 (Spring 1988): 3-5.

**A Slide Classification System for the Organization & Automatic Indexing of Interdisciplinary Collections of Slides & Pictures, University of California, Santa Cruz**

**Collection:** This system was developed in 1968-1969 with special reference to the slide and picture divisions of the University of California at Santa Cruz. It was envisaged that the system will be applied to other collections of an interdisciplinary nature. The primary subjects of this collection are Science, Art & History.

**Subject:** The Santa Cruz method of organizing slides is to apply two labels to the frame. The top label bears the call number and descriptive information about the content of the slide. The bottom label contains additional information about the location of the object pictured and the source of the slide. Subject is allocated Sort Field 6. Within the area of Art the subject matter is divided into Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Book Arts, Graphic Arts, Photography, Ceramics and Glassware, Greek Vases, Fashion and Fabrics, and so on. Each of these sections has a series of subheadings. The primary letter allocated to the main section is extended with that of the subdivision to form the classification entry.

**Example:**

Art-Subject Divisions & Subdivisions  
Period  
Country  
Medium  
Style  
Origin  
Subdivided by Subject

**Painting by Subject:**

A Abstraction  
B Altarpieces  
C Animals and Plants  
D Asiatic Religious subjects  
F Cycles or series  
G Architectural interiors or exteriors  
H Busts  
I Figure, groups  
J Figure, male  
K Figure, female

**Reference:** Simons, Wendell W. and Luraine C. Tansey. A Slide Classification System for the Organization & Automatic Indexing of Interdisciplinary Collections of Slides & Pictures. Santa Cruz: University of California, 1970.

**Smithsonian Institution, Subject Term Guide**

Christine Hennessey  
Research Databases Coordinator  
National Museum of American Art  
Gallery Place  
8th & G Streets NW  
Washington, DC 20560  
202-786-2607  
<http://www.nmaa.si.edu/>

**Collection:** This system was developed in the late 1970s for the Slide & Photographic Archive at the museum. Since that time, it has been expanded to include the Permanent Collection & Research Databases and the Inventory of American Painting and Sculpture. The Research Resources Department was founded in 1977 to coordinate developments within the various branches of the Smithsonian.

**System:** Originally SELGEM, now INQUIRE on IBM.

**Subject:** This system employs a hierarchical thesaurus format on a three-level basis. The first level, the Primary Terms, are broad overall classification headings and are forty-six in number (originally forty-one). The list is not expandable. Unlike other systems where the cataloger defines terms without reference

to a definition, the Guide provides a unique set of descriptors for the meaning of each term.

**Example:** "Abstract" is explained as: "Use for artworks which appear to have no reference to known visible objects (Alexander Calder) as well as for works in which identifiable objects have been distorted (Lipchitz cubist work). Always use title of artwork as indication of additional primary terms; e.g., 'Abstract Figure' would be assigned two primaries: 'Abstract' and 'Figure.'"

The full terms are not used but are encoded in abbreviated form, examples of which include:

ab Abstract  
ak Allegory  
am Animal  
ao Architecture  
ae Architecture exterior  
ai Architecture interior  
ca Cartoon

The second level is called Secondary Terms and lists specific names, persons, places, and things and is expandable. An example of this is: "Landscape-United States-Vermont." The third level allows the indexer to add additional terms which do not yet have a generic secondary grouping and is expandable. All terms are alphabetically arranged within each subdivision of the hierarchy. In classifying a work of art six Primary Terms and their appropriate Secondary and Tertiary Terms may be assigned. A total of eighteen terms may be selected. Although the Smithsonian considered introducing ICONCLASS, the Art & Architectural Thesaurus and The Library of Congress Subject Terms List alongside their own system, financial, staff and resource limitations have prevented this from taking place. The Smithsonian Art Index and the Pre-1877 Art Exhibition Catalog Index are both projects within the Smithsonian Institution which classify their subject matter on the basis of title as the actual image are not available.

**Examples:** CITYSCAPE-ENGLAND-LONDON

CITYSCAPE-WEATHER-RAIN

**References:** Fink, Eleanor. "Subject Access to the Photographic Reproductions of American Paintings in the National Collection of Fine Arts." In Data Bases in the Humanities & Social Sciences: Proceedings of the IFIP Working Conference on Data Bases in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Dartmouth College, Hanover NH, August 23-24 August 1979. Edited by Joseph Raben and Gregory Marks. Amsterdam, New York, Oxford: North-Holland, 1980: 229-32.

Fink, Eleanor and Christine M. Hennessey. "Testing the Flexibility of the MARC Format." Spectra 15 (Spring 1988): 10-11.

**Stichting Iconografische Bureau (IB/Research Centre for the Documentation of Dutch Portraiture, 's Gravenhage**  
Koninklijke Bibliotheek  
Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5  
P.O. Box 90407  
2509 LK The Hague  
Netherlands

**Collection:** This collection consists of a card index for 100,000 portraits which have either been painted, drawn or photographed. The original images come from either Dutch collections or abroad. There is also a collection of 50,000 reproductions, many with accompanying negatives, thousands of portraits, prints and photographs and a collection of family albums with calling card portraits.

**System:** IBUS on Compac System Pro/UNIX.

**Subject:** There is a card index to portrait documentation arranged alphabetically according to surname. Access is also permitted through artist, date of execution and collection. Computerization started in 1987. Subject matter is classified through an in-house subject system. Terms such as "costume," "profession," and "artistic technique" are used.

**Reference:** Delaforterie, C.W. Overzicht van de Verzamelingen berustende bij het centraal bureau voor genealogie en het Iconografische Bureau. 's Gravenhage: Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, 1989.

**Subject Catalogs of Paintings in Public Collections, Great Britain**

Celestine Dars  
Visual Arts Publishing  
82 Sinclair Road  
London W14 0NJ  
England

**Collection:** This is a series of computerized and printed catalogs of paintings in public collections throughout Great Britain. Images are not included in the database but are in the second and third of the three volumes published so far. The commercial project was founded by Celestine Dars and is intended for both popular and specialist users. Coverage to date: Vol. I, National Gallery, Wallace Collection, Wellington Museum; Vol. II, Tate Gallery (Historic British Collection); Vol. III, English Heritage, Geoffrey Museum, Guildhall Art Gallery, Royal Holloway College, Thomas Coram Foundation.

**System:** Microsoft on Apple Macintosh.

**Subject:** An in-house controlled subject heading system with sixty-five defined terms was developed for this project. Specifics are arranged alphabetically within these broad general categories.



**Examples:** Males, Biblical  
Male, Figures  
Males, Mythology  
Male Nudes  
Male Portraits  
Male Saints  
Males Unidentified

**Thesaurus of Iconographic Terms, The Picture Division,  
The Public Archives of Canada**

Gerald Stone, Chief, Descriptive Services  
Visual & Sound Archives Division  
National Archives of Canada  
344 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0N3  
613-996-7790  
613-995-6575 (fax)  
gstone@archives.ca

**Collection:** Although this system was developed in 1980-1981 for use in 150 Canadian federal, provincial and municipal museums to provide a standardized form of subject classification for one million objects, it has yet to be implemented. Instead the community has used the Art & Architectural Thesaurus for object description. As it presently stands, art objects are not iconographically described. The following system is described in this report purely in terms of historical value and has no immediate application.

**Subject:** The three-level thesaurus consisted of ten fixed, primary broad terms which were not expandable. A secondary level consisted of five to ten subdivisions for each category which were also fixed, and a third and expandable level of some 10,000-15,000 specific indexing terms. A list of qualifiers was also available for each level.

**References:** Brooks, Diane. "System-system Interaction in Computerized Indexing of Visual Materials: A Selected Review." Information Technology & Libraries 7 (June 1988): 111-23.

Vezina, Raymond. "The Computer: Passing Fad or Thorough-going Revolution?" Visual Resources 1 (Fall 1980/Winter 1981): 204-18.

**Thesaurus Iconographique Systeme Descriptif des Représentations  
(Garnier System)**

**Collection:** Development began on this system in 1976 and was completed in 1984 with its publication by the French Ministry of Culture. It was started without reference to any particular

project and aims to be a universally applicable system. It is hoped by the Ministry of Culture that this system will become the French national standard for subject description.

**Subject:** The Thesaurus is a controlled word system which is capable of limited expansion. There are twenty-three primary divisions which are broadly divided into two sections. There are fifteen Themes and eight Subjects. These divisions loosely correspond with the Proper and Generic divisions in the Yale Center for British Art Subject System; a similar division exists in ICONCLASS. The first of the Themes is given over to *Caractères Généraux de la Représentation* where stylistic and object related details are included. The general headings do not appear on the classification entry but act as a guideline for the classifier and user. There are four further subdivisions of these general headings, none of which are capable of expansion except for the last. Each of the divisions modifies its predecessor in thesaurus format. The controlled words are not arranged in alphabetical order in the system proper but a general alphabetic list is to be found at the end of the publication. A limited amount of stylistic information is included within this system. There is no limit to the number of entries for any image. Each word is called a descriptor and there are 3,200 of these within the system. Relationships between descriptors is indicated by a colon.

**Examples: THEMES:**

1. *Caractères Généraux de la Représentation*
  - 1.1 *Genre de la Représentation*
  - 1.2 *Déterminant de la Représentation*
  - 1.3 *Localisation de la Représentation*
2. *La Nature*
  - 2.1 *L'Univers*
  - 2.2 *Matière inanimée*
  - 2.3 *Le temps*
  - 2.4 *Vegetal*
  - 2.5 *Animal*
7. *Armement-Vie Militaire*
  - 7.1 *Armement*
    - 7.1.1 *Arme*
      - 7.1.1.1 *Arme Défensive*
        - armure*
        - cuirasse*
        - bouclier*
        - casque*
        - cotte de mailles*
    - 7.2 *Architecture militaire*
      - 7.2.1 *Architecture militaire*

The system displays a western bias in the descriptors used and the selection has been criticized as 'hasty' (Bruckman, 1986).

Published users of this system include the following:

CARRARE-Documentation of the Sculpture in French Museums,  
Ministère de la Culture, Paris.

JOCONDE-Documentation of Paintings & Drawings in French Museums.  
Ministère de la Culture, Paris

MEDIUM-Institute de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris and  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. A database  
analyzing Medieval manuscripts. Images et Documents du Musée  
d'Orsay, Paris.

**Examples:** Groupe de figures (Paysan, femme: asis, enfant: sommeil,  
chein, gallinacé, charrette: foin, garçon: flûte à bec, fillette:  
garçon: garde: porc, récipient)

**References:** Bruckmann, Denis and Richard Philippe. "Le Systems  
d'Information Iconographique du Département des Estampes et la  
Photographie de la Bibliothèque Nationale." In Le Traitement  
Documentaire de l'Image Fixe. Paris: Bibliothèque Publique  
d'Information, 1986: 21-36.

Garnier, François. Thesaurus Iconographique: Systeme Descriptif  
des Représentations. Paris: Ministère de la Culture, 1984.

#### **Visual Resources Collection, Architecture & Allied Arts Library**

Christine Sundt

AAA Library

Lawrence Hall, Room 300

University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403

541-346-2209

541-346-2205 (fax)

**Collection:** This collection was established in 1947 and has  
approximately 300,000 slides and 20,000 mounted illustrations.  
There is a complete manual shelf list of the collection; since  
1985 over 100,000 new items have been entered into the SLIDES  
database.

**System:** Pentium-based PC, 1GB hard drive, manufactured by Dell;  
17 inch SVGA Monitor. Software: Windows 95 with an interface to  
DOS-based DataEase program. Over twenty separate pre-formatted  
queries can be used to obtain results.

**Subject:** An in-house system has been devised. This is a  
conflation of headings used in the manual system. These have been  
combined in a table of eighty-two item choices ranked from most  
frequently used to least used. Catalogers are instructed to  
select from the most frequently used where possible and to use  
the remaining choices only if none of the former is applicable.  
The headings are not based on any known controlled vocabulary,  
table or thesaurus. In that eighty-two terms have been applied to  
more than 100,000 records they have become their own controlled  
vocabulary. Several of the database search strategies work with

selections of the list that apply specifically to the discipline being searched, e.g. Architecture, Paintings, Sculpture, and so on.

**Examples:** 1. Planning  
2. Landscape  
3. Religious  
4. Residential  
5. Civic  
6. Educational  
7. Business  
8. Other

The above choices apply to planning, landscape and architectural material.

9. C10 self-portrait	12. C17 Group Portrait
10. C11 Male Portrait	13. C21 Eastern Religions
11. C141 Female	

**Warburg Library Photographic Collection Classification System/  
Census of Antique Art Known to the Renaissance**  
Census of Antique Art  
Warburg Institute  
Gordon Square  
London  
England  
0171-580-9663  
<http://www.sas.ac.uk/Warburg/>

**Collection:** This was originally the private collection of Aby Warburg and illustrates the survival of the classical tradition. The photographs are mainly of western art and illustrate works from the middle ages to the end of the seventeenth century. Some examples from the contemporary period are also included when they are of interest to the Institute. Many works of Classical art are also in the collection, including those of the Census of Antique Art Known to the Renaissance.

**System:** The holdings of the Photographic Collection are not computerized, but those in the Census are. The latter use an Olivetti M380.

**Subject:** The Photographic Collection uses a system of Primary Subject Headings which is subdivided into Secondary Divisions. The Primary Headings are two in number, Religious and Classical. The order of the Secondary Headings may be alphabetical, chronological, Biblical or arranged on various other criteria. For example, the Virgin and Child with Fruit (Secondary Heading) may be subdivided into what types of fruit (listed alphabetically). The Primary Headings are: Antiquities, Gods and Myths, Magic and Science, Secular Iconography, Portraits, Literature, History, Social Life and Religious Iconography. Photographs of illuminated manuscripts are kept separately,

arranged by library and indexed by author and subject. The Census of Antique Art and Architecture Known to the Renaissance was established by Phyllis Pray Bober in 1947 and was intended to document the knowledge of classical works of art up to the time of the sack of Rome (1527). (Copies of the Census are also held at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, and at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. The latter copy is an incomplete working draft.) More recently the framework has been extended to 1600 and also includes architecture. The project has developed a Subject Headings list, similar to the structure of ICONCLASS. Subject access is also possible through the Title field which is free-text or in the Description Details field which is also free-text. It is here that natural language, free-text description is given without any use of controlled words. The project is now administered by the Humboldt University in Berlin. An Internet application is planned.

**References:** Summary Guide to the Photographic Collection of the Warburg Institute. London: Warburg Institute, 1985.

**Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine  
Iconographic Collections Videodisk**

William Schupbach  
Iconographic Collections  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE  
England  
0171-611-8582  
0171-611-8703 (fax)  
<http://wihm.ucl.ac.uk>

**Collection:** This collection includes the prints, drawings, photographs, paintings and moving-image films that Sir Henry Wellcome and his agents collected between 1880 and 1936. The works date from the middle ages to the present and include works by such artists as Picasso. Although based primarily on the depiction of medicine the collection is far-reaching in its subject matter and is one of the most important documentary collections in the world. The collection is still being extended.

**System:** WILDCat Software (Wellcome Institute Library Database and Catalogue). This is a customized version of the URICA System (McDonell Information Systems Ltd.(MISL)). Records are cataloged to UK MARC standard.

**Subject:** The textual records are stored separately from the images which are available on videodisk; 57,000 different images have been cataloged. These range from prints and drawings to moving images. The subject matter of the images is classified on a series of in-house subject terms which are arranged alphabetically. The terms are derived from the Library of Congress Subject Headings list (LCSH) or else structured using Anglo-American Cataloging Rules to correspond to the LCSH. Those terms that are derived from the Library of Congress List are

indicated as such. The user of the system is presented with an alphabetical list of the terms which also includes people and places with qualifying extensions. There is an inherent rational order to these terms which is derived and based on that of the nine divisions in the ICONCLASS System. As a published system it acknowledges its debt to ICONCLASS.

**Examples:** Goiter (LCSH)  
 Gold(LCSH)  
 Gold Industry  
 Gold Jewelry  
 Golden Age (Mythology)  
 Golden Calf (Bible)  
 Golden Temple (Amristar, India)  
 Goldsmind, Isaac Lyon, Sir

The general search covers topics, genres, names and techniques. People and Institution terms are also included and these are structured using Anglo-American Cataloging Rules.

**Witt Library, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London**  
 John Sunderland  
 Somerset House  
 The Strand  
 London WC2R 0RN  
 England  
 0171-873-2745  
 0171-873-2772 (fax)  
<http://www.Courtauld.ac.uk>

**Collection:** Since its foundation in the 1890s the Witt Library has had it's own in-house system which has been used to catalog one and three-quarter million images of Western art from the later middle ages (1200) to the present period.

**System:** Images are filed principally on the basis of national school, and secondly on an alphabetical criterion. Within each artist's work a series of principal subject headings is used which may be further subdivided into secondary subject matter. There are twenty-four primary subject headings which are fixed and not expandable. These include Old Testament, Still Life, Saints, Fruits and Flowers, and so on. The secondary headings within the New Testament are fixed but otherwise this division is expandable. For example, Portraits may be subdivided into Half Length with Hands, etc., Landscapes may be subdivided into those with certain features or without them, e.g. Landscape with water, with bridges etc. The Library is presently being computerized using ICONCLASS.

**Yale Center for British Art, Yale University**

Anne Marie Logan  
1080 Chapel Street  
P.O. Box 2120 Yale Station  
New Haven, CT 06520  
203-432-2846  
203-432-9695 (fax)

**Collection:** This subject index has been applied to the Photographic Archives held at the Yale Center. These document British Art from 1500 to 1915 from public and private collections throughout the world. The project started in 1974 and has to date cataloged 36,000 images from the entire collection of approximately 80,000 black and white photographs.

**System:** Cataloging was originally begun using GRIPHOS on an IBM 370 os/VS but now uses FOCUS.

**Subject:** Subject matter is divided into three categories. The first of these is the Overall Subject Matter, fixed in number to thirty-seven Primary Terms and not expandable.

**Examples:** animals  
architecture  
art  
catastrophes  
cityscape  
dress  
education

A set of short guidelines for the cataloger accompany this listing:

animals animals are of primary interest, other than sport and  
portrait  
genre contemporary scenes of everyday life

The secondary division is called the Proper Subject and it is here that specific details of the image are classified. These include named people and places. The list is expandable and to date includes approximately 14,000 terms. The Tertiary division lists generic terms and is also expandable. It is here that everyday subject matter depicted within the image is found. 3,000 terms are included within this division. An average of three to six terms is applied to every image.

**Example:** Westminster bridge-London-Lord Mayor's Day-Thames River  
architecture: bridge  
landscape: water: rivers  
marine: boats  
townscape

**Reference:** Sobinski-Smith, Mary Jane. "The Yale Center for British Art: The Photographic Archive and Iconographical Access." Visual Resources 1 (Fall 1980/Winter 1981): 173-87.

## **Appendix and Selected ICONCLASS Bibliography**

ICONCLASS is by far the most widely used subject classification system with, it is estimated, over 1300 copies of both the printed and electronic versions distributed throughout the world. The following projects are among the known users of the system where it is used either singly or in combination with other classification methods:

### **Austria:**

Dekant der Grund- und Intergrativissenschaftlichen Fakultät der  
Universität Wien  
Vienna

Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Plakate-Sammlung  
Vienna

### **Belgium:**

Koninklijke Musea voor Schone Kunsten van België  
Brussels

### **Bulgaria:**

Soros Centre for Arts  
Sofia

### **Canada:**

Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN)  
Ottawa

National Gallery of Canada  
Canadian Art Department  
Ottawa

### **Denmark:**

Kunst Index Danmark  
The National Database of Art in Danish Museums  
Copenhagen

Statens Museum for Kunst  
Copenhagen

### **Finland:**

The Finnish National Gallery  
Helsinki



**France:**

Connaissance du Patrimoine de Haute-Normandie  
Rouen

**Germany:**

Bildarchiv Foto Marburg  
Marburg

Fachhochschule für Bibliotheks- und Dokumentationswesen  
Cologne

Fachhochschulbibliothek  
Hannover

Freiburger Bücherdienst  
Freiburg

Krause Büro-Informationstechnik  
Hannover

Museum für Kunsthandwerk  
Leipzig

Niedersächsische Landesverwaltungsamt, Institut für Denkmalpflege  
Hannover

Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg  
Hamburg

Wallraf-Richartz-Museum  
Cologne

**Hungary:**

Eötvös Loránd University  
Budapest

**Italy:**

Fratelli Allinari, Istituto di Edizione Artistiche  
Florence

ICCD, Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione  
Rome

Scuola Normale Superiore  
Pisa

Scuola di Paleografia e Filologia Musicale  
Cremona

**Japan:**

National Museum of Western Art  
Tokyo

**Netherlands:**

Amsterdamse Hogeschool v.d. Kunsten, Reinwardt Academie  
Amsterdam

Bibliotheek Ritman  
Amsterdam

Department of Art History, Leiden University  
Leiden

Department of Art History, Utrecht University  
Utrecht

Dienst voor Schone Kunsten  
The Hague

Historisch Museum  
Rotterdam

Katholieke Theologisch Universiteit  
Utrecht

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands  
The Hague

Museum Boymans-Van Beuningen  
Rotterdam

Nedbook International  
Amsterdam

Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie  
The Hague

Rijksmuseum  
Amsterdam

Universiteit van Amsterdam  
Amsterdam

**Norway:**

Institute for Art History  
Oslo

Norsk Folkemuseum  
Oslo

**Switzerland:**

Databank Schweizerischer Kulturguter  
Bern

Historisches Museum Basel  
Basel

**United Kingdom:**

English Heritage  
London

Leeds Polytechnic  
Leeds

National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside  
Liverpool

Oxford University  
CTI Centre for Textual Studies  
Oxford

Victoria and Albert Museum  
London

Witt Computer Index  
Courtauld Institute of Art  
London

**United States of America:**

Cleveland Museum of Art  
Cleveland, OH

Corbis Corporation  
Bellevue, MA

Fine Art Library, Fogg Art Museum  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

Getty Information Institute, Provenance Index  
Santa Monica, CA

Indiana University Libraries  
Bloomington, IN

Pomona College  
Claremont, CA

Princeton University  
Index of Christian Art  
Princeton, NJ

Sonoma State University  
Rohnert Park, CA

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown, MA

Trinity College  
Hartford, CT

University of North Texas  
Denton, TX

University of South Florida  
Tampa, FL

University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX

Yale Center for British Art  
New Haven, CT

Further information can be acquired from:

The ICONCLASS Research and Development Group  
Department of Computers and Humanities  
Universiteit Utrecht  
Achter der Dom 22-24  
Utrecht  
Netherlands  
31-30-253-6426  
31-30-253-9221 (fax)  
iconclass@let.ruu.nl  
<http://iconclass.let.ruu.nl/>

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Gordon, Catherine and Colum Hourihane. "The ICONCLASS Browser." In Thesauri for Museum Documentation, Proceedings of a Workshop Held at the Science Museum, London, 24 February 1992. Cambridge: Museum Documentation Association, 1992: 38-43.

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