

The Art Discovery Group Catalogue Project: progress report 2014 - 2016

It is a great honour to speak in Florence on the occasion of the 7th International Conference of Art Libraries. In this presentation I will report on the developments of the Art Discovery Group Catalogue Project since my presentation about goals, development, organisation and future prospects of this project in Copenhagen 2014. It is only less than 2 and a half year ago that the group catalogue was launched in May 2014. I am happy to give you this update as the project manager representing the international committee working group within the context of the Future of Art Bibliography initiative, with the members of the artlibraries.net committee acting as the core *taskforce*.

Let me introduce the members of the committee who are working on this project:

Geert-Jan Koot (Library of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) (Project manager)

Wendy Fish (Library Royal Institute of British Architects, London, Great Britain)

Sandra Ludig Brooke (Librarian Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University)

Véronique Goncerut Estèbe (Bibliothèque d'art et d'archéologie des Musées d'art et d'histoire de la Ville de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland)

Rüdiger Hoyer (Library of the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich, Germany)

Deborah Kempe (Library of the Frick Collection, New York, USA)

Paulo Leitão (Library of the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal)

Michael Rocke (Biblioteca Berenson, Villa I Tatti – The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy)

Kathleen Salomon (The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, USA)

Jan Simane (Library of the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-Planck-Institut, Florence, Italy)

The committee members have working meetings every year in May, one day in Amsterdam hosted by the Rijksmuseum and the next day in Leiden at the OCLC offices. During the year, some members meet and discuss progress, sometimes together with OCLC representatives at IFLA and ARLIS conferences.

Goal

The main goal as formulated by the *Future of Art Bibliography Working Group* has been to find a stable, sustainable, and above all functional platform to allow unified searching of the bibliographic data from art libraries worldwide. In 2013 the FAB Group joined forces with the Artlibraries.network Committee. Based on the experiences with the Amsterdam group catalogue in WorldCat we realised this new tool for discipline specific retrieval. Queries for bibliographical information are satisfied with access to records of connected libraries. The retrieval, or the discovery process, is enriched with additional sources like bibliographical databases, foremost for journal articles, full-text repositories, and image collections. We needed a critical mass of participants. The Art Discovery Group Catalogue started with 30 participating libraries and currently we have about 60 libraries connected, some individual, some through networks. Also important is the geographical division over 15 different countries which, in my view, is impressive.

What happened to *Artlibraries.net*? More and more libraries signed off during 2015. Not only the success of the new group catalogue but mainly because of the financial difficulties of the internet firm Janus Media that stopped maintenance of the interface, *Artlibraries.net* was shut down at the end of 2015.

Members

We are extremely grateful for the financial support of the Getty Research Institute and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. The application for Samuel H. Kress funding for the funding of the one-time costs of the data-loads resulted in a grant of over \$ 50,000. The Getty Research Institute (GRI) administered the grants and made substantial financial contributions. Seven libraries could join the Group Catalogue because of this financial help:

- Albertina, Vienna, Austria
- IRIS Consortium excluding Berenson Library, Firenze, Italy
- Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland
- Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal
- Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD), The Hague, Netherlands
- British Architectural Library (RIBA), London, UK
- Pinacoteca do Estado de Sao Paulo, Brasil.

Other recent participants are the Danish National Art Library in Denmark, Denmark, the Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD) in The Hague, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts and the Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library, both in Antwerp, Belgium.

This Summer we also could welcome two new prominent participants: the first library in South-America: the Pinacoteca in Sao Paolo, and the Polimoda International Institute of Fashion Design & Marketing in Florence. Congratulations!

The expectation is that the libraries to go live on Art Discovery later this year are the National Museum of Sweden, Oslo, The Gulbenkian Library in Lisbon, Portugal and the Werner Oechslin Library, Einsiedeln, Switzerland. Congratulations!

Several libraries expressed their interest but have not yet been signed up: The Rubenianum in Antwerp, the Bibliothèque Musée Kandinsky, and the Bibliothèque du Musée des Arts Décoratifs, both in Paris.

The relation to OCLC

Art Discovery is a product of the international art libraries community, managed by the committee, powered by WorldCat. Art Discovery is not a service provided by OCLC, but it is using the infrastructure developed for WorldCat. The Group Catalogue is the result of a strategic collaboration between Artlibraries.net and OCLC EMEA (which stands for European Middle East and Asian) based on the Project Implementation Document. The Project ends in 2017 – the ADGC will be handed over to the OCLC Support Department. It is obvious that good relations with OCLC are vital for its existence. At the IFLA Conference in Columbus Ohio, members of our task force had an appointment with Managing Director OCLC EMEA & AsiaPacific Eric van Lubeek to talk about the strategic future of the group catalogue after the project phase comes to an end. Van Lubeek declared that the group catalogue is of great interest for OCLC as an example for promising products and an example for the future of OCLC. He shared our concern that development could be slowed down when the product becomes part of the Support Department. In his opinion the catalogue should be given a boost in a new direction. Art Discovery is a group catalogue view of Worldcat. The dependency of the Worldcat interface might obstruct the potential of the catalogue as a discovery tool. Kathleen Salomon will give her thoughts about the future relationship with OCLC in the next presentation.

After our former contact persons at OCLC Boaz Nadav-Manes left, Eric van Lubeek appointed Titia van der Werf as our new liason. Titia van der Werf is the Senior Program Officer in OCLC Research based in OCLC's Leiden office. Titia coordinates and extends OCLC Research work throughout Europe and has special responsibilities for interactions with Research Library Partners in Europe. She represents OCLC in European and international library and cultural heritage venues. As we believe that the power and possibilities of the Art Discovery Group Catalogue can be expanded beyond our imagination, we are very happy to have Titia on the train. You will hear more about her initiative to connect the Art Discovery Group Catalogue with the CATVis visualisation project driven by a research team supported by two Dutch universities.

Last but not least we enjoy a most inspiring relationship with Senior Implementation Consultant Frank van Klaveren. He solves problems on the spot, explains most complex technical issues, and is responsible for the technical design and implementation of the interface. Frank is here in person and will surprise you with his presentation.

Some insights about the price of participating

The initial prices were fixed by OCLC and are subject to an annual rise according to the price index of the Netherlands and exchange rates. A short overview:

1. Annual subscription fee

Categories 1 and 2 = libraries that meet all prerequisites through existing agreements with OCLC:

Collection size	EUR 2014	USD 2014	EUR 2016	USD 2016
< 10,000	358.75	484	366	494
< 200,000	461.25	625	471	637
> 200,000	666.25	900	680	918

Category 3 = libraries that have no current agreement for WorldCat on FirstSearch or (in EMEA) an agreement for visibility in WorldCat.org:

Collection size	EUR 2014	USD 2014	EUR 2016	USD 2016
< 10,000	871.25	1,176	889	1,200
< 200,000	973.75	1,315	994	1,341
> 200,000	1,076.25	1,455	1,098	1,485

This fee only includes participation in the WorldCat Group Catalog. It does not include WorldCat on FirstSearch, it does not include cataloging and does not include a metadata conversion or batchload.

2. One-time set-up fee

EUR 2014	USD 2014	EUR 2016	USD 2016
307	414	318	428

New interface

Late 2014, OCLC introduced the new user interface and experience for Art Discovery. In the new experience, looks and feels have been improved. But most important is that it paved the way to integrate the SCIPIO database of auction catalogues. SCIPIO is a gateway to more than 300,000 auction and sales catalogues from the sixteenth century to the present. The metadata of this important, license-based source are now searchable in the Art Discovery environment. Catalogue can be searched in combination, since the superset of all indexes became available. This is a feature unique to the Art Discovery Group Catalogue.

This development could result in the integration of more databases important for art historical research. Recently we were approached by Brill Publishers. Brill offers the metadata of the ASCO (Art Sales Catalogues Online) and Arkyves databases for free for

inclusion in the Central Index of Worldcat, and preferably to be searched in the ADGC as a separate database (as SCIPIO). Without a group subscription, these databases will be accessible for individual subscribing libraries (like JSTOR).

Website

The website is maintained by one of our committee members, Paolo Leitao of the Gulbenkian Foundation. On the home page there are three boxes under the image carousel. The first box became the information/news item box.

- <http://www.artdiscovery.net> is maintained by the Gulbenkian Foundation
- The Art discovery search box is embedded within the site
- Also on the home page: News about past and forthcoming events and introduction of new members
- Tab with lists and links to the participating libraries
- Tab with links to papers about the AGDC in the news and events section
- Tab for sponsors and partners
- Tab for information about the history of the project

The committee is currently working on improvements of the website to provide more information as a result of questions asked.

Upcoming:

- Footer with contact information of the project manager artdiscoverynet@gmail.com
- Implementation of a web form for questions
- Information about the content including added value
- Information about searching the catalogue
- How to become a member and pricing information
- RSS feed
- Tagline: "research gateway to art literature".

Marketing and publicity

Although the website is our main promotional vehicle, there were a lot of activities developed by the OCLC marketing team, resulting in the short video-clip which is available on Youtube. OCLC representatives told me that the video was used at training sessions and in non-stop sequences at conferences and meetings. It was official launched at the OCLC EMEA Regional Council Meeting in February 2015 in Florence (10-11 February). Eric van Lubeek stated continuing strong commitment to the project as 'the best place to start for art-related content discovery'.

More publicity features have been published on the OCLC website. Have a look at the *member story* of the Rijksmuseum focused at facilitating research through group catalogs: <https://www.oclc.org/member-stories/rijksmuseum.en.html>

As an example of *Collaborating on a global scale* our project could not be more visible on the second page in the OCLC Annual Report 2014/2015: <https://www.oclc.org/en-US/annual-report/2014/our-members.html>

At the OCLC EMEA Regional Council Meeting in February 2015 in Florence Jan Simane and I gave a presentation about The Art Discovery Group Catalogue.

Jan Simane presented The Art Discovery Group Catalogue at the Schweizer OCLC Informationstag 2015 (Zurich, Zentralbibliothek, 26/03)

Kathleen Salomon and Rachel Longaker moderated a session about the Art Discovery Group Catalogue during the ARLIS/NA – 43rd. Annual Conference (FortWorth, Texas, March, 19-23, 2015).

At this ARLIS/NA conference Wendy Fish gave a paper called The Art Discovery Group Catalogue : a brief update, at the ARLIS/NA Future of Art Bibliography Session, (Saturday March 21, 2015)

Art Libraries Journal published an article of 8 pages introducing the group catalogue in 2015.

Véronique wrote an article for the French language journal RESSI.

Kathleen presented the Art Discovery Group Catalogue at ARLIS/NA 2016 in Seattle at two different sessions sponsored by OCLC Research in the USA.

For the IFLA Section of Art Libraries satellite meeting in Chicago and the IFLA general Conference in Columbus, Ohio, August 2016, the Getty Research Institute produced a bookmark to promote our product. Hundreds of bookmarks have been distributed, not by dropping a bunch of bookmarks, but by presenting them personally to colleagues.

This is only a brief selection. Committee members gave presentations and instructions in their institutions. There were many more promotional activities on a regional and local level for instances messages in news bulletins, on websites, at mailing lists, blogs and at national art libraries meetings. Most of these presentations have been targeted at the community of librarians and information professionals. Not without reason. It is up to the art librarians community to promote the discovery catalogue to the target groups, the users. But use could be better, and feedback as well.

Use and feedback

User statistics <https://basecamp.com/2640069/projects/5930373/messages/49843833>

November 2015: 663 users

December 2015: 796 users

January 2016: 925 users

February 2016: 1,538 users

March 2016:	2,307 users
April 2016:	2,151 users
May 2016:	1,979 users
June 2016:	1,885 users
July 2016:	1,664 users
August 2016:	1,734 users
September 2016:	1,663 users

At several occasions, during Question and Answer sessions, questions about added value and specific benefits were pertinent. What is the added value of the group catalogue?

- First discipline-specific view of Worldcat records
- It enables discovery of aggregated bibliographic data from participating libraries
- Simultaneous searching of 1900 databases + millions of journal articles and e-books from WorldCat Central Index
- Searches are easily expandable to the whole of WorldCat
- Scalable – unlimited number of libraries and unlimited users
- Incorporating digital content such as archives and images
- Digital Collection Gateway tool enables uploading of metadata digital content
- Operational capacity to become an increasingly comprehensive tool for art history study, scholarship and research
- Participating improves the exposure of your records

Future plans and developments

Which is about setting priorities for ADGC. At our last meeting in May several issues were discussed. I name just a few:

- Interface improvements such as the organization of result lists, recent editions first, facet improvement, improve the user experience, improve cover art, different formats to include (non-book formats: such as pictures, archives, works of art)
- Feedback form
- Reveal hidden pieces of collection
- Filter out the non-specialist libraries Texas, Princeton and Columbia University
- Include more valuable databases like the Art Sales Catalogue Online (ASCO), the Getty Research Portal and the Bibliography of the History of Art and its predecessor RILA
- Expand the reach of the Art Discovery Group Catalogue
- Survey of users.

Issues concerning the interface have been taken up with great energy by OCLC's Senior Implementation Consultant Frank van Klaveren. He will talk today about the progress he made and present the new features in the future interface.

At the OCLC Leiden office a brainstorm session has been held, together with the committee members at the meeting in May, about visualization of bibliographic information using the ADGC. Several use cases have been formulated. A presentation of this CATViS project is also on the agenda for today.

To conclude this report: There is a lot of initiative, improvement, development and experimentation going on. Despite all the energy, time and cost spent by the committee members and OCLC representatives, the next and vital step should be to reach and teach the users. We have to make clear that the Art Discovery Group Catalogue should be supported as the new and dominant bibliographic source. Be convinced of the added value art discovery provides for art historical research.

To end with a quote from John F. Kennedy: "Don't ask what the country can do for you, ask what you can do for the country".

Geert-Jan Koot

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Presentation at the Artlibraries.net meeting in Florence on 29 October 2016

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