

ARLIS (UK & EIRE) Survey of 'In-House' Retrospective Indexes

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The ARLIS Committee for the National Coordination of Art Library Resources has been conducting a survey of specialised indexes to periodicals that have been compiled by libraries or individuals. Such indexes might be to single journals or several periodicals; they might cover all aspects of art or a particular topic (e.g. architecture or fashion), or a particular type of material (e.g. obituaries, illustrations or book reviews); their status might be modest, incomplete, in progress, or 'on ice' for whatever reason.

The objective was to identify journals which have been retrospectively indexed, to record what the indexes cover and to note their accessibility; to provide a listing of specialised indexes for librarians and researchers; and to promote the publication of existing indexes and to identify areas where indexes are particularly needed. The following presentation gives an overview of the results of the survey.

The total number of responses was 65. Of these, 41 were from organisations which held no relevant indexes, or whose indexes were insufficiently systematic to be included in the survey, or whose indexes counted as published sources. The positive responses from the remaining 24 organisations yielded a total of 27 separate indexes.

Most of these 27 indexes can be divided into those which cover a specific journal, or small number of journals, and those which cover a subject, as represented in a larger number of journals. Examples of the former are the indexes to *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism 1941-68* (Goldsmith's College); *Byggekunst 1919-75* (Norske Arkitekters Landsforbund); and *Studio 1893-* (Exeter College). Examples of the latter include the *Fine Art Department Index* at Edinburgh City Libraries (art journals not covered by *Art Index, 1936-*); and the *Index de*

Revistas de la Biblioteca de l'Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona (art, architecture and design, 1950-).

Most of the responses came from British organisations, but the geographical coverage of the subject- (as opposed to journal-) oriented indexes was generally international. A number of organisations (Canterbury College of Art, Coventry and Kingston Polytechnics) showed a particular interest in indexing illustrative material from magazines such as colour supplements. Two indexes were defined by a specific 'angle' on art: the *Black Art Index* and the *Feminist Issues in Art Index*, both at Chelsea School of Art.

Unsurprisingly, traditional 5" x 3" cards were the most frequent format, with occasional sheaf binders or A4 typescripts. However, in several cases the index took the form of a computer diskette, usually accompanied by A4 printout, or in one instance a small Datagem database (Canterbury College of Art). Access to the indexes was generally unlimited, by post, telephone or in person, except in the case of the Architectural Association Library, the Royal College of Art Library, and the National Gallery Library. However, a number of organisations stressed that staff time and expertise was at a premium, so that unlimited assistance to exploit indexes could not be promised.

Publication was being considered in the case of four indexes: the *Black Art Index* and the *Feminist Issues in Art Index* at Chelsea School of Art; the *National Gallery Library Index*; and the *Royal College of Art Periodicals Index*. Definite plans for publication had been formulated for 3 indexes: the *IVRI Index* at Canterbury College of Art; the index to *Landscape Research 1968-* at Exeter College; and the *Grey Books Index* to the work of RIBA members illustrated in the architectural press 1900-74 at the British Architectural Library, currently being filmed by World Microfilms.

A number of suggestions were received for gaps in current coverage, either for specific journals such as *Artscribe* and *Art Monthly* or for subject areas, in particular the following: local journals such as the *Scottish Arts Review*; specialist

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jewellery and crafts periodicals not covered by *Design and Applied Arts* index; fashion; advertisements; and Russian and East European periodicals.

The committee is grateful to everyone who participated in the survey for their time and efforts.

A list of the 27 indexes included in the survey appears below.

- Antique Dealer and Collector's Guide Index*,
Surrey County Library
- Architectural Association Journal Index*
- Architectural Association Periodicals Subject Index*
- Black Art Index*, Chelsea School of Art
- British Architectural Library Periodicals Subject Index 1934-*
- British Journal of Aesthetics Index*, Exeter College of Art & Design
- Byggekunst Index*, Norske Arkitekters Landsforbund
- Chelsea School of Art Main Catalogue Index*
- Cleveland College of Art & Design Index to Studio, Art Journal and Apollo*
- Crafts Magazine Index*, Crafts Council
- Edinburgh City Libraries Fine Art Index*

- Feminist Issues in Art Index*, Chelsea School of Art
- Goodhart-Rendel Index to 19th Century Church Builders*, British Architectural Library
- Grey Books Index to the Work of RIBA Members Illustrated in the Architectural Press 1900-74*, British Architectural Library
- IVRI Index*, Canterbury College of Art
- Illustrators Index*, Exeter College of Art & Design
- Index de Revistas de la Biblioteca Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona*
- Journal of Aesthetics & Art Criticism Index*, Goldsmith's College
- Kingston Polytechnic Art & Design Library Index*
- Landscape Research Index*, Exeter College of Art & Design
- MINDEX*, Coventry Polytechnic Art & Design Library
- National Gallery Library Periodicals Index*
- Newcastle Polytechnic Art & Design Index*
- Portsmouth College of Art Design and Further Education Index*
- Royal College of Art Inhouse Periodicals Index*
- Studio/Studio International Index*, Exeter College of Art & Design
- Wimbledon School of Art*, Art Abstract Bulletin

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