
by Smithsonian Institution Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu

Creator: Museum Computer Network

Title: Records


Quantity: 11.5 linear meters.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7432, Museum Computer Network, Records

Historical Note

The Museum Computer Network promotes the use of computer technology by museums. It was established in 1967 by a consortium of New York City museums. In its early years it focused on the development of an object-cataloging database system called Griphos. This system was designed to enable creation of a union catalog of museum objects. In 1972 the consortium was incorporated into the nonprofit Museum Computer Network (MCN) headed by David Vance. Until 1978 MCN functioned as a Griphos users group, but by that year Griphos had become obsolete and MCN opened itself up to users of other computer systems. In 1985 Ron Kley became president and acting executive director until 1988 when Deirdre Stam became executive director.

Introduction

This finding aid was digitized with funds generously provided by the Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee.

Descriptive Entry

This collection contains the administrative files kept primarily by the executive directors. The records concern the daily operations of a nonprofit professional organization including preparation of the journal Spectra, planning for annual conferences and workshops, correspondence, grant proposals, annual reports, member surveys, and publications concerning computerization.
Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
Computer science

Names:
Kley, Ron.
Museum Computer Network
Stam, Deirdre Corcoran.
Vance, David, 1926-
Container Listing

Box 1


The New Yorker, article mentioning MCN, April 1973.


MCN, Annual Meeting, Registration and Inquiries, 1984.

MCN, Annual Meeting, 1983.

MCN, Annual Meeting, Advance Registration, 1983.


MCN, Annual Meeting, Registration, 1981.


MCN, By-Laws, as amended, May 1, 1979.


MCN, Annual Meeting, 1983.

MCN, Prospectus, 1982-1983.


MCN, Annual Meeting, 1981.

Box 2


MCN, Annual Meetings and Meetings of the Board of Directors, 1979-1981.

Access, software application system for museums, 1971.

Adhoc, software application system for museums, 1982.

AllMS, software application system for museums, 1978.
Artlog, software application system for museums, 1980.

Daris, software application for museums, 1982.


Judith Dupre/Artwork.

GEAC

Cultural Systems Division.


GIS package descriptions, Museum Data Bank Coordinating Committee, 1974.

Corner Stone, 1984.


Istare, 1982.

Laventhal and Horwath, museum consultants, 1980.

CURATOR (dbms).


SIIR, SELGEM.


Sofia, France, 1974.

Box 3

Correspondence and documentation on museum computer systems and projects, worldwide, arranged alphabetically by city, c. 1967-1975: Albany - New Orleans
Box 4

Correspondence and documentation on museum commuter systems and projects, worldwide, arranged alphabetically by city, circa 1967-1985: New York City (Museum of Broadcasting) - Rome, Italy

Box 5

Correspondence and documentation on museum commuter systems and projects, worldwide, arranged alphabetically by city, circa 1967-1985: New York City (Museum of the City of New York) - Rome (Italy)

Correspondence and documentation on museum computer systems and projects, worldwide, arranged alphabetically by city, circa 1967-1985: Rome (Italy), cont'd - Washington, D.C. (Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden)

Box 6

[no longer exists]

Box 7

Correspondence and documentation on museum computer systems and projects, worldwide, arranged alphabetically by city, circa 1967-1985: Washington, D.C., cont'd (Marine Corps Museum) - Williamstown

Federation for Natural Sciences, collection research meeting, Manchester Museum, 1984.

Correspondence and newsletters pertinent to museum activities in automation: Federation Internationale de Documentation - Carl G. Allen (International Foundation for Technology in the Humanities)

Box 8

Correspondence and newsletters pertinent to museum activities in automation: International Archive of Art

[At this point organization breaks down, and there appears to be no order. This is probably due to the original boxes being out of order. The remainder of the series probably continues later; another series also begins later and is taken up in the following order.]

ISIS

Kress Foundation

MESH, 1973-1977

MDBC, 1972-1977

A. W. Mellon Foundation

Mid-Atlantic States Arts Consortium

Modern Language Association
Museum Data Bank Research Report, 1-10, 12
Museum Data Bank Projects
Museum Documentation Association
Museological Word-List, Hungary
Dictionarium Museologicum, Hungary, 1979, 1981
Alphabetical List of Descriptors, International Council of Museums (ICOM), 1984
E. Elein, "Scientific Documentation," 1968, Museum and Research, ICOM.
ICOM/ CIDOC, "Terminology."
ICOM / CIDOC, Bulletins.

Box 9

Information Retrieval Group of the Museums Association, IRGMA Record Cards, 1976.

Box 10

Organizations (material):
American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta
Archives and Documentation Centers for Modern and Contemporary Art, and Bulletin
Museum Documentation Association (documentation systems and occasional papers) (Folder 1 of 2)

Box 11
Museum Documentation Association (documentation systems and occasional papers) (Folder 2 of 2)

American Society for Information Science

Computer and the Humanities

Dia Art Foundation

Educom

Articles, proceedings, studies about computers and museums arranged alphabetically by author: Scott Abbey - Virginia Burton

Box 12

Organizations (material): Mary Ann Calo - New York Public Library

Box 13

Articles, proceedings, studies about commuters and museums arranged alphabetically by author: Akitumi Oikawa - Derryl Young

Journals regarding scientific investigations:

Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bioticos, Xalapa, Veracruz

Bioteca, 1979-1984

Box 14

Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bioticos, Xalapa, Veracruz

Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

Social History and Industrial Classification

Outline of Cultural Materials


Italian journals on automation

The Film Catalog: A List of Holdings in the Museum of Modern Art, 1985, using GRIPHOS

A Guide to Inventorizing Ethnological Collections, edited by Mary Jane Schneider, 1970


A Universal Slide Classification System with Automatic Indexing, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1969

James A Peters, MUDPIE (Museum and University Data, Program and Information Exchange), 1968-1972

"Commuter Applications to Collection Management in Herpetology and Ichthyology," Alan Leviton et al., 1982

Materialien ausdem Institute fur Museums kunde SMPK Berlin

Box 15

Publications on automated collections in museums:
Mammal collections in North America
Geology in Great Britain (bibliography and index)
German publications on archeology, folklore, museum collections
Museum Document Association Publications
Computerized Inventory Standards for Works of Art, conference, 1979
Material from Museo Nacional de Antropologia, 1969-1977
Newsletter of Computer Archeology, 1972
Museum Computer Conference, 7" audio tape, lecture seven (?), Ruth Bowman, undated

Box 16

Newsletter of Computer Archeology.
Bibliography cards.
First International Conference on Automatic Processing of Art History Data and Documentation, 1978.
Robert G. Chenall, Museum Cataloguing in the Computer Age.
Using the UTM Grid System to Record Historic Sites, 1977.

Box 17

All in Order: Information Systems for the Arts, 1981.


SELGEM manual, workbook.

Stairs.

Stipple.


TAXIR.

Village Systems.

Central Federal, 1974-1978 (savings account).


Box 18

New York State Bureaucracy, 1977-1983 (state returns)


Tax Exemption.


National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (MCN grant proposal), 1977.

Box 19


MCN Data Sheets.

MCN correspondence, 1967-June 1968.


MCN correspondence, minutes, policy statement, 1976-1978.


Netherlands.

Network for Information Retrieval in Mammalogy.


Box 20


Network for Information Retrieval in Mammalogy, 1975.


National Science Foundation, 1983.


OCLC


Oxford Text Archive.


Public Archives of Canada.

Various Working Papers prepared under the Public Archives of Canada.

RAHN (Zurich).


Quodata, 1982-1983.

Research Libraries Group.


Reynolds, R. J., 1976.


Box 21


Twentieth Century Fund, 1969.


Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, 1986.
Wetzel, 1981.
Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence:
Smithsonian, 1968-1977
W, General
XYZ, General
SA-SC, 1974-1983
SD-SZ
T, General
U, V General
N General
O General
Q General
R General
New York City (2 Folders)
New Haven (Yale Center for British Art)
M General
Box 22
K General
L General
H-J General (3 folders)
E General
Fayetteville (Arkansas Archaeological Survey)
F-G General (2 folders)
Cologne (Kunst-u. Museumbibliothek)
C-D General (2 folders)
B General
Bowling Green, Kentucky (Western Kentucky University)
C-Chicago (miscellaneous)

Augusta, Maine (Maine State Museum Commission)

A General

Box 23


Spectra (there may be extra copies): Volume 1, number 1 (1974); volume 2, numbers 1-2; volume 3, numbers 1-4; volume 4, numbers 1-4; volume 5, numbers 1-4 (number 2 missing); volume 6, numbers 1-4; volume 7, numbers 1-4; volume 8, numbers 1-4; volume 9, volumes 1-4; number 10, volumes 1-4; volume 11, numbers 1-4; volume 12, numbers 1-4 (number 3 missing); volume 13, numbers 1-4; volume 14, number 1.


MCN Brochure, 1981.

One envelope, unorganized correspondence, 1985, along with membership cards.

One envelope, return to sender, along with additional names and addresses of members (?).

One envelope, accounts, 1985.

Volume 12, number 2, draft.

Volume 13, number 1, draft.


Correspondence files, S-Z (7 folders).

Box 24

[no longer exists]

Box 25

Mexico (anthropology).

Hamilton, Ontario.

Jewish Museum.

Albright-Knox.

Semitic Museum.

Skating Hall of Fame.

Individual Members.

Dallas Museum of Fine Arts
Denver Natural History Museum
Oklahoma Historical Society
Menil
H. F. Johnson Museum, Cornell
Ralph Forster Museum
Birmingham Art
Arkansas Consortium

Other Museums and Organizations, early correspondence, circa 1972-1983.

Box 26

Box 27
General Correspondence, mostly membership information:
1976-1987
By Name (9 folders)
1978-1985 (35 folders)
Membership cards (by state and museum), 1979-.
Dead Membership Cards.

Box 28
Centre National de la Recherche Archaeologique
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Informatique et Sciences Humaines