Research Announcement

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The Archive Division of the University of Montreal owns personal papers of late professor Hugues Shooner concerning his lifetime project, the description of all the medieval manuscripts of Thomas Aquinas. It also holds the microfilm of Jean Destrez's notes concerning all the medieval manuscripts that he had examined for his famous research on the pecia. This material remains at the disposal of specialists. Contact: Univ. de Montréal, Division des Archives, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-Ville, Montréal H3C 3J7, Canada (archives@archiv.umontreal.ca).

The Árni Magnússon Institute and the Sigurður Nordal Institute each have one apartment at their disposal, which they lease to scholars from abroad who are staying in Iceland for research purposes. For further information on the apartment offered by the Árni Magnússon Institute, contact them at Árnagarður Su?urgötu, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland (011-354-525-4010; fax 011-354-525-4035; rosat@hi.is). The Sigurður Nordal Institute has information about an apartment that is being leased by Snorrastofa (The Snorri Sturluson Research Centre). Scholars studying the works of Snorri Sturluson, medieval Iceland, or the history and culture of Borgarfjörður will be given priority. For further information about the Sigurður Nordal Institute apartment, contact Snorrastofa at 320 Reykholt, Iceland (011-354-435-1491; fax 354-435-1492; bergur@snorrastofa.is).

The Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the launch of a website devoted to their collections of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts. The searchable website, which is supported by a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, features high-resolution images from western European codices and fragments, dating from the 11th to the 16th centuries. At the moment, the website represents about a quarter of the collections, but it will be updated every few months during the next year until it is complete. Until then, we invite you to explore some of our spectacular manuscripts through the following link: http://libwww.library.phila.gov/medievalman/

DFG Project: A Nation-Wide Online Information Portal On Open Access Issues
Since September 2006 the German Science Foundation [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG] funds the implementation of a nation-wide online information portal on Open Access issues that is operated cooperatively by the Universities of Bielefeld, Goettingen, Constance, and the Free University of Berlin, with support from DINI - German Initiative for Networked Information. The platform is intended to inform scientists, their professional societies, university administrations and the interested public comprehensively on objectives and use of Open Access, and support them with practical assistance on its implementation in practice.

Open Access Publications are conceived as scientific publications that are worldwide freely available on the Internet. The Open Access Movement's objective is the better utilization of this form of publication in order to maximize the diffusion and usage of scientific knowledge. As recent studies demonstrate [1], the reception of Open Access publications generally is already several times higher than that of traditional publications behind cost barriers. For individual authors as well as their institutions, this translates into a significantly...

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better "visibility" within the international scientific community. The signing of the "Berlin Declaration on open access to scientific knowledge"[2] by numerous national and international science organisations and funding bodies and a growing number of Universities underlines the importance for Open Access for Science Policy in general. A DFG survey on author's experiences with Open Access [3] showed that open access publication opportunities are still underutilized, but found much willingness to actively further Open Access in Germany. Therefore the DFG, as a cosignatory of the "Berlin Declaration," like many other national funding organizations, strongly encourages all project investigators to publish in refereed Open Access journals or to make available digital copies of their work on Open Access servers.

Until now Information on Open Access has been largely produced in an uncoordinated way and is mostly scattered widely throughout the Internet, much of it is dependent upon the local personal commitment of individuals. This fact is largely responsible for the discrepancy between the growing international significance of Open Access on one hand and the comparatively little publicity and practice with German scientists on the other hand. The new information portal sets out to counter this development in Germany. The offer addresses primarily scientific authors, university administrations and scholarly societies. Current deficits in information and use within the German Higher Education Landscape are sought to be removed by the concise presentation of relevant information on open access issues targeted to specific audiences. The information platform will also concentrate on concrete recommendations for action, know how and argumentation aids as well as the sharing of practical experience and all sort of information materials on Open Access.

After its completion in May 2007, the online platform will be open to all interested users and additional cooperation partners for exchange of information and experiences. DINI - the German Initiative for Networked Information, regards the new information platform as a chance to better promote the relevant open access activities of DINI. Platform development and operation are therefore supported by DINI. More information may be found on the website of the project: http://www.openaccess-germany.de/

artlibraries.net: Virtual Catalogue For Art History Re-Launched
The Virtual Catalogue for Art History, so far named VKK (Virtueller Katalog Kunstgeschichte), has been relaunched as artlibraries.net - Virtual Catalogue for Art History. Artlibraries.net is an international meta search interface based on the technology of the well known KVK (Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog), allowing the integrated retrieval of bibliographic records and other objects (archival materials, photographic collections etc.) of databases provided by distinctive art libraries. Currently, the VKK gives access to about 6 million records including a high percentage of records for articles in periodicals, conference papers, festschriften, exhibition catalogues and exhibition books, etc. The interface is multilingual (English, French, German, Italian). Please visit the new website. Thank you for updating pertinent links and bookmarks. www.artlibraries.net

Announcement of the official opening of CISSAL, Centro Internazionale di Studi sulla Scultura e l’Arredo in Legno (The International Centre for the Study of Wood-Carving) of the Institute of Art History and Aesthetics at the University of Urbino. The Centre promotes research on wood-carving from the Medieval to the Contemporary period. CISSAL’s mission is to support work in the disciplines of Art History, Wood-Carving Technique, Conservation, Restoration, Archives and Documentation at the Regional, National and International level through meetings, seminars, publications, exhibitions. Among The Centre’s specific objectives are to create a specialized library and to acquire monographs and literature on wood-carving, to make photostatic reproductions of articles and out-of-print books, to collect and catalogue materials using up-to-date methods of information technology in order to complement existing card catalogues, to create an electronic database identifying relevant local records and photographs, and to publish and diffuse the results of studies in our publication “Lignum” and/or the publication of meeting notes and/or Exhibit Catalogues as well as through our Web Site (currently under construction), to support studies and research on subjects pertinent to our mission including...
research and teaching as regards Faculty, Course Study in the context of Degree Programs, Institutes and Departments of the University of Urbino as well as other universities and Italian and foreign institutions, local, regional and provincial government agencies with regard to wood-carving. If anyone is interested in these areas of study and would like to work with us at The Centre as partner or sponsor, or simply express an opinion on this initiative, please contact me directly at either of the following email addresses: fachechi@uniurb.it or fachechi@yahoo.com; Maria Fachechi, Istituto di Storia dell'Arte e di Estetica, Università degli Studi di Urbino, Via Bramante 17 - 61029 - URBINO (PU) - ITALY


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