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World Biographical Dictionary of Artists-- Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon (Review)

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even a native English speaker. In one exercise, the user is asked to fill in the blanks in a transcript of an interview with a fictional rich and famous actor. "No, ___ my fourth wife. She's my sixth wife," says the actor.

If students set the system to provide immediate feedback for every correct answer, they will see "Well done!" and hear applause. For an incorrect answer, the system gives the correct answer with an explanation. Students who log in (with name but no password) will be able to track their progress and make notes in an electronic scratch pad. In this and other ways, the disc makes good use of its multimedia capabilities. Also included on the disc is an Authoring Kit, which allows a teacher to create grammar exercises using the various Tense Buster exercise formats.

The Bottom Line: *Tense Buster* will be a good addition to the CD-ROM collections of academic and public libraries that count non-native English speakers and their instructors among their patrons.—*Carrie Macfarlane, Instructional Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

CD-ROM **WORLD BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF ARTISTS (ALLGEMEINES KUENSTLERLEXIKON)**

K.G. Saur Verlag
(+49 089 769 02-269;
CustomerService_Saur@csi.com).
www.saur.de
Windows 3.1+. 2002.
ISBN 3-598-40717-3.

Price: \$1093 or \$233 for purchasers of the printed *Allgemeines Kuenstlerlexikon*.



This disc affords digital access to a resource that has been in progress throughout the 20th century. The *Thieme-Becker Dictionary of Picture Artists from Antiquity to the Present*, Volume 1 (1907) to 37 (1950), formed the basis of the *Allgemeines Kuenstlerlexikon (AKL)* project, begun in 1969. The first three volumes of the *AKL* were published by 1991 by Seemann Publishers. Since 1991, when K.G. Saur took over, not only were all three Seemann volumes republished, but Volumes 3–30 (A–Dunlap) have now appeared. The CD-ROM *World Biographical Dictionary of Artists—Allgemeines Kuenstlerlexikon* provides electronic access to the articles included in the 30 volumes of the *AKL* and to the "structural data" from the *Thieme-Becker/Vollmer* biographical dictionary (A–Z) upon which the *AKL* is based.

Basic data for over 385,000 artists are included. Countries represented range from France (96,703 entries), Italy (74,229), and the United States (33,068) to Azerbaijan (136), Thailand (38), and Venezuela (519). While there is certainly

an emphasis on Western artists, the number of countries and civilizations represented is astonishing. Every listing includes basic biographical, i.e., "structural," data for each artist, such as names, date of birth and death, place of birth and death, specialty, and occupations. While this content is flawlessly accurate, it could be more specific. It would be very helpful if location data included countries, not just city or town names. For example, the entry for Leonardo Da Vinci lists his place of death simply as "(Schloss) Cloux (Amboise)." The average user will probably deduce that Chateau Cloux, Amboise is in France, but why should one have to seek out another reference work to confirm?

For each artist with a last name beginning with A through Dunlap, the "structural data," shown in English, is followed by a full entry of further biographic data that is in German. These entries include more detailed information: the artist's influence on his/her culture or time, a selection of the artists' works with their locations, a selection of exhibitions on the artist, and a bibliography of the artist's autobiographical and other writings. Since only entries found in the first 30 volumes are included, with this level of detail in the CD-ROM, one can find a complete list of sculptor Camille Claudel's works and where she exhibited, but not this kind of detail about the arguably more significant (or at least better known) Auguste Rodin.

The search interface is fairly simple and intuitive. One can search by many data elements such as name, occupation, period, and geographical reference. Browsing each index of these fields is possible as well. Boolean operators "and" and "or" can be used to limit and refine searches within each field or between fields.

The Bottom Line: *World Biographical Dictionary of Artists* is easy to use and is a tremendous resource for biographical data on artists of every age, country, and civilization. One hopes that publication continues at its current speed so significant artists at the end of the alphabet, e.g., Vermeer, will soon have a full bibliographic entry. American libraries need to be aware that full use of this CD requires a reading knowledge of German. Recommended for large public libraries, academic research collections supporting art history programs, and museum research collections.—*Elizabeth*

Readers and producers should contact Cheryl LaGuardia, Instructional Services, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-496-4226; FAX 617-496-9802; <claguard@fas.harvard.edu> with feedback and suggested electronic products for review.

McKeigue, Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.

CD-ROM **WORLD GUIDE TO LIBRARIES PLUS, 2001/2002**

K.G. Saur Verlag
(800-877-GALE; info@saur.de)
www.saur.de
Windows 95/98/NT. 2001.
ISBN 3-598-40476-X.
Price: \$179.

Name a source that will answer the following: 1) What is the phone number for the Johnson County Library in Franklin, IN? 2) What are the special collection's holdings of the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's library in the Monte Cristo Cottage in New London, CT? 3) What is the URL for the web site of the Karaganda State University of Kazakhstan?

The answer is: K.G. Saur's impressive *World Guide to Libraries*. Now in its sixth edition in CD-ROM format is *World Guide to Libraries Plus, 2001/2002*. Like the print version, the disc has more than 56,000 entries covering over 200 countries. Most significantly, public, special, national, research, government, and academic libraries are all included. There are other directories that can give a user more detail about some particular types of libraries, but no other single guide offers such breadth of information on such a wide range of institutions.

Using this product is remarkably easy. It has a variety of search modes: Expert, Form, and Quick. It also allows users to browse any of the indexes, from institution names to cities. Included in many records are e-mail addresses and web sites, all of which are hotlinked. It has succinct but useful assistance in the form of tutorials as well as context sensitive help.

And the accuracy of the entries? Any directory is susceptible to criticism on the timeliness and completeness of its records. Being employed by one of the largest (and organizationally complex) academic libraries in the world, I used my employer as a test case. (It was perhaps an unfair test: it is hard for those of us who work at Harvard to understand fully the extent of our organization. Can we reasonably expect an outside source to do so?) But in all fairness, a search on Harvard did produce an admirably long list of library resources. Unfortunately, it did not include the Widener Library and its holdings, an oversight I hope will be amended in the next release.

The Bottom Line: *World Guide to Libraries Plus, 2001/2002* is recommended for large public, academic, and research libraries everywhere. The cost may be prohibitive for some, but it is indispensable for many of us. Like all guides, its material may be dated or incomplete; however, the presence of an increasing number of web sites offsets that concern.—*Caroline M. Kent, Research Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*