

The scholarly use of CD-ROMS

H-ArtHist (Mahnke)

[Liebe Listenmitglieder, mit dieser Anfrage moechten wir Sie ermuntern, CD ROMS, die von speziellem Interesse fuer Kunst- und KulturhistorikerInnen sind, fuer die Liste zu rezensieren. Bitte wenden Sie sich mit Vorschlaegen an die Redaktion.

Dear listmembers with this query we would like to initiate the reviewing of CD ROMS of special interest for scholars of arthistory and cultural studies. For suggestions, please address the editorial board. I.M.]

Having produced a multimedia, interactive CD-ROM on a kind of conveyance arts in Bangladesh--the paintings and other decorations on the three wheel cycle rickshas--I seek to know from list members their views on the degree of interest among art historians and scholars, or lack of it, in CD-ROMs as educational resources in the EU.

I would also like to get an idea of the degree to which publishers/distributors in art fields have an interest in CD-ROMs--are they being produced and distributed
Are they valued or rejected
in art education fields

I have tried using the internet for answers but have have had little success.

I do know that in the USA, of which I'm a resident and citizen, academics in art disciplines tend to dislike this digital medium for a variety of reasons--no need to list all of them here. However, it seems to me that a large part of this rejection is because of pure conservatism--not only about visual features, but also about marketing. Books--no matter how weighty and awkward to use, how expensive to produce, and how costly at the bookseller--are still de rigeur. I recently checked the required list for an Asian art history course at a local university bookstore, and among the modestly priced items were a used book on Asian Art priced at \$83.00. One can be sure that very few undergraduates at this university could afford such prices. Science and tech students are more likely to pay

exorbitant textbook prices in their fields because the jobs which they will eventually secure will permit them to borrow to replay their educational costs. Not so in art fields!

I would appreciate any views or information in regard to these queries.

Joanna Kirkpatrick
Bennington College, USA; emerita

Despite the fact that in digital media DVD-ROMs are now available, CD-Roms can be run on a DVD driver. So the technology in that respect is not an issue.

Reference:

Q: The scholarly use of CD-ROMS. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 20, 2001 (accessed Jul 8, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/24310>>.