

Re: Q: The scholarly use of CD-Roms (2)

Marion Deshmukh

Hello,

One CD-ROM which may be of interest to both historians and art historians is a series (Western Civilization, American History, World History) which a company by the name of Instructional Resources Corp. puts out.

Our dept. is putting together a series of TV scripts to be used in an introductory West. Civ. course and we are keying a number of images and video clips from the CD with the script. There are about 4000 images per CD-Rom and they include art objects, architecture, graphics, photos, maps, etc. grouped in thematic and chronological order. Each CD costs \$ US 90.

There is a website as well.

Best,

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From: RSarkissi@aol.com

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Subject: Re: Q: The scholarly use of CD-ROMS

I think new means of communicating images, such as through CDs, can be ideal in many respects, as you mention in the email: economically for students, an innovative method (the very function of art and technology), less heavy, etc.

If such an approach has not been welcome by many academics, as mentioned in your email, I suspect it is because the weight of work on the shoulders of the lecturer might become multiplied. There would need to be "prep" work and handouts of basic info and literature to students on a weekly basis. Yet I think the advantage of filtering art historical literature to key points through handouts can be quite productive, as it will allow students to

retain central ideas rather than elongated texts that many students may not have the will OR time to read and re-read in order to derive key concepts.

So I find the use of handouts supplemented by CD images and vice versa to be innovative pedagogical means. As much as I admire the wealth of information and interpretations in books and textbooks, I sense that the limited amount of time for a single course renders their use somewhat fictional (both for students and faculty). I am always open to explore new pedagogic approaches.

All the best,

R. S.

Reference:

Q: Re: Q: The scholarly use of CD-Roms (2). In: Arthist.net, Feb 22, 2001 (accessed Sep 15, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/24316>>.