

CASE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 4

Metropolitan University

Casey Connor is the art librarian at Metropolitan University, a private institution with 12,000 students, half of whom are graduate students. The school focuses on the arts and humanities and has a national reputation for high-quality academic programs. Metropolitan University offers undergraduate majors in both art history and fine arts and has two graduate programs: master's of art history and master's of fine arts. The school does not offer doctoral programs. Casey is responsible for selecting resources in all formats to support the students and faculty in these programs. A graduate of the M.F.A. program, who is a very successful commercial artist with a computer software firm, has given the library a \$1 million endowment to support the acquisition of digital resources to support the arts programs. The only condition is that no funding currently allocated to the arts collections be redirected to other subject areas. Casey is interested in adding indexes, abstracting tools, and, perhaps, some full-text resources. For the purposes of this exercise, assume that Casey does not need to direct part of the

new money to her serials budget and that cost is not a consideration.

Activity

Select two electronic reference resources that support instruction and research in art history and fine arts. Each product should be considered separately, but an analysis should compare various delivery media (CD-ROM, print, online) for the same content, and, where logical, the two products may be compared and contrasted. Using the selection criteria introduced in chapter 4 and in this chapter, evaluate each product. Consider such aspects as coverage, currency, content, output options, ease of use, search options, unique features, quality of graphics and images, training needs, and cost. Possible products to analyze are *Art Abstracts*, *Art Full Text*, *ARTBibliographies Modern*, *Bibliography of the History of Art, Design and Applied Arts Index*, and *Grove Dictionary of Art*. Locate information through consulting product reviews and from the publishers' web sites.