



Quick Survey Results: Artist Rights Information Database

Survey Conducted: April 15 – April 23, 2003

Purpose:

Assess Member interest in developing a vehicle for voluntarily sharing artist rights contact information. It is hoped that such a system would reduce redundancy in rights related research, allowing Members to quickly determine if other Members have already gathered relevant contact information.

To facilitate this project, AMICO could develop a centralized repository for collecting and managing rights information, as well as a set of agreed upon policies and procedures to protect the accuracy and security of the information. The resulting database would only be accessible and modified by authorized AMICO Member staff.

Results:

Questions #1-4

Total surveys submitted = 20

Total number of Member Museums submitting = 20 (from a total of 39)

Titles of the individuals submitting surveys:

Head of CIA, Coordinator, Rights and Reproductions, Director of Rights and Reproductions, Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Coordinator, Rights & Reproductions, Photographic Resources Assistant, Assistant Director, Imaging Department, Rights and Reproduction Coordinator, Museum Associate, Rights and Reproduction Coordinator, Digital Resources Coordinator, Photographic Rights and Reproductions, Chief, Copyright, Rights & Reproductions Coordinator, Manager, Rights & Reproductions, Copyright Administrator, Head of Rights, Licensing & Visual Archives, Rights and reproductions/Registration Assistant, Associate Registrar, Rights & Reproductions

Question #5

Does your museum maintain artist rights contact information in a central location?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Yes*	16	80%
No	4	20%

Question #5 - *If yes, where?

- 1) R&R office database,
- 2) Rights and Reproductions and Curatorial Files
- 3) Collections Management Database
- 4) Object Files, and computer database
- 5) Loosely - On my computer & internet
- 6) Photography/Rights & Reproduction Department
- 7) A database maintained and accessible only by Imaging Department staff
- 8) Our TMS records
- 9) We are currently in the process of collecting it all in TMS
- 10) In our Registrar's Office
- 11) Collections Management Database
- 12) Actually, it's now being collected from dispersed venues and formats into one central location - namely, my own database of contacts, gathered from use via requests, and which will be built up further with directed research as time permits.

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- 13) Information is scattered between TMS, Raiser's Edge(membership records) and Rights & Reproductions records
- 14) Photographic Resources
- 15) In a plug-in to TMS.
- 16) Non-exclusive licenses and other rights related correspondence is stored within each artwork's object file. Our artwork database reflects basic rights status.
- 17) Registrar's Office

Question #6

In what form is this information maintained? (select all used)

Paper Files	Word Processing	Spreadsheet	Database	Collections Management System	Other*
75%	10%	20%	55%	50%	10%
15	2	4	11	10	2

Question #6 - *Other

- 1) Internet web sites - ARS, VAGA, etc.
- 2) Paper copies are for back-up

Question #7

Who directly uses this information? (select all users)

Rights and Reproductions	Publications/Design	Registration	Curatorial	Other*
95%	30%	35%	20%	30%
19	6	7	4	6

Question #7- *Other

- 1) IP and rights & repro
- 2) Cataloging/answering reference questions, etc.
- 3) Interactive Media
- 4) Communications, Director's Office, Retail, Develop
- 5) Education, Retail
- 6) All internal requests go through Rights and Reprod.

AMICO Quick Survey Summary: Print-on-demand

Question #8

Approximately how many artist rights records does your museum currently have on file?

1-99	100 - 499	500 - 999	1000 - 4999	Over 5000
25%	20%	20%	20%	15%
5	4	4	4	3

Question #9

Do you believe your museum would be willing to share this information with other AMICO Members if all contributors were given equal access?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Yes	8	40%
No	3	15%
Depends*	9	45%

Question #9 - *Depends (please specify)

- 1) The contact information is confidential
- 2) Permission to share information may be required
- 3) Most of this information is protected by law
- 4) Paperwork only for our own works
- 5) Scared of incomplete and wrong info on our end
- 6) Artist privacy thresholds vary
- 7) Not artists' home addresses only estate/rep
- 8) must explore legal restrictions (Privacy Act)

Question #10

Would your museum be willing to participate in a feasibility study requiring the contribution of a limited number of sample records?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Yes	8	40%
No	4	20%
Depends*	8	40%

Question #10 - *Depends (please specify)

- 1) Could help with records that are not confidential
- 2) If we had anything helpful which we don't
- 3) On how much time it would require from me
- 4) The time that would be involved
- 5) See 12
- 6) Should resolve privacy issue before going further
- 7) If everyone agrees along with AMICO Board Members
- 8) This would require a committee decision

Question #11

If your museum was to participate in the feasibility project, who would be the primary contact?

Listed contacts will be used for future Artist Rights Information Database related decisions.

Question 12: What interests and or concerns do you have in AMICO initiating this type of project?

- 1) It would be great if a resource like this existed (especially for estates), and I think it would be useful to have current ARS and VAGA artists listed in one resource. practically speaking though, many of the artists that we work with require that their contact information remain confidential.
- 2) In some cases R&R is instructed by artists to keep contact info private, including other museum employees. Therefore, the artist database can only be accessed by R&R staff.
- 3) With many institutions involved, the potential for updating contact information would be enhanced. On the other hand, the maintenance required in keeping information updated might be more work than some of us can manage. Sharing contact information may be fine for established estates or Trusts that keep business hours, but for working artists, this would need to be considered on a case by case basis.
- 4) If possible, to share a data bank of updated information on copyright holders.
- 5) Sounds interesting. I think it could be a very useful tool.
- 6) Very interested - perhaps just an overview of groups like ARS, VAGA, etc. - pointing out who we should go to for which artists
- 7) Contact information changes regularly AND We will note in our database a 'claim' of copyright ownership withholding investigation until need arises--I would hate to mislead colleagues AND limited staff resources on our end to contribute to the project
- 8) We only started the process of collecting this information fairly recently, and it is still in the process of being collected. Therefore, we might not be the best institution to use for sample records. However, this is certainly something that sounds like a very good idea to me - I am looking forward very much to seeing how this develops!
- 9) Artists would get barraged with requests and begin to say no. Although it would be nice to have a central location for all this stuff.
- 10) I'm not certain what the intentions of this survey is. Is it simply to obtain a database of artist contact information. When it comes to rights clearances, some museums may disagree with artist rights organizations on rights issues for specific works. The concept of obtaining blanket clearances from individual artists does not seem to be the same as addressing each individual work to determine what assessment of copyright protection is applicable.
- 11) Easy access to information would have great advantages and save a lot of research time. Our concern is to protect the privacy of copyright holders.
- 12) My primary interest AND concern is the 'fact checking' and maintenance of this information - that coordinated efforts are made note updates and to note them correctly, especially since many of us might be contributing and utilizing information

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- on the same rights holders. Otherwise, I think this would be a splendid and helpful idea for AMICO members.
- 13) Keeping the information up-to-date and on a secure database limited to AMICO members.
Has to be easy entries, not take a lot of data entry work on a form that is not exportable. Preferably from TMS export so that data isn't entered in different forms.
 - 14) There are some instances of confidentiality that would need to be respected
 - 15) We would want to discuss data standards and implementation process.
 - 16) Although we support the idea of unified efforts to obtain rights for AMICO, we do not have the time to contribute or maintain a rights information database. Other resources already exist for this type of information exchange (ie rights listserves).

**Please send any comments to the AMICO Rights Committee discussion list:
amico.rights@update.amico.org**