



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY  
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL D'ETUDES POUR LA CONSERVATION ET LA RESTAURATION DES BIENS CULTURELS

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**ICCROM FINANCE AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

**32nd Session**

**Rome, 3 and 4 May 1992**

**ABSTRACTING**

Object:

The purpose of this document is to report to the Finance and Programme Committee respecting the review of abstracting that it directed be undertaken.

Background/Discussion:

In November 1991, the ICCROM Council took the decision to reduce the 1992-1993 budget allocation for abstracting of publications received at ICCROM's Library from 37,000 \$ to 15,000 \$. It was suggested that the usefulness of this service and the appropriateness of the continuing role of ICCROM in the field be assessed together with options for possible collaboration with other institutions.

In order to seek the views of interested parties, a questionnaire has been sent to ICCROM's Associate Members and to other professional organizations to receive their comments (see enclosed documentation). Answers should be hopefully received by mid April and a preliminary oral report presented to the Finance and Programme Committee, and the Academic Advisory Board in May 1992.

It is proposed to continue the production of abstracts until the 1992 budget allocation is exhausted, approximately mid summer.

Decision requirement:

No decision is required on the basis of this document, however the staff may raise specific issues for consideration based on the results of the current enquiry.

4 March 1992

Dear Sir/Madam:

The ICCROM Council has requested the Library to ask Associate Members of ICCROM and other professional organizations for their views about the abstracts produced by ICCROM's Library and other sources from publications received and about options to continue this service. This information is extremely important for developing future policy regarding this activity.

In 1977, ICCROM's Library created a bibliographic data base in which each reference included, besides English and French key-words, a short abstract in English (although the system could accept input in the French language). Since that time, the data base has become larger and in 1985 it included about 35,000 references. At that date, thanks to the funding of the Getty Conservation Institute, it was merged with other data bases to constitute the Bibliographic data base (BCIN) of the Conservation Information Network (CIN) based in Ottawa (see attached sheet). One of the founding rules of the network was that each bibliographic reference should include an abstract. As the data base is a shared one, it was decided that the division of publications to be abstracted among the partners should ensure that duplication was avoided. The number of abstracts provided by ICCROM is between 3,500 and 4,000 each year, all for publications dealing with the conservation and restoration of cultural property.

As of 1991 the respective contributions of the partners to BCIN since 1985 have been the following:

	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
ICOMOS	6738	4
Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI)	10841	7
Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL)	30959	22
Art & Archaeology Technical Abstracts (AATA)	48764	32
ICCROM	<u>51602</u>	35
	148904	

AATA, one of the major contributors, relies on the efforts of numerous individuals around the world who select the literature and provide free of charge the relevant abstract. For its part ICCROM relies only on professional paid abstractors. Recently CAL and CCI have indicated that they could only produce abstracts for their own publications.

It is becoming more and more difficult for ICCROM to sustain the current level of activity. This service has, as its objective, service to the users' community and we would like to know the views and the interest of other institutions respecting an active collaboration in this field as a basis for determining what future role would be appropriate for ICCROM. The first need is to seek your views about the usefulness of the abstracting service. These abstracts are available on line on CIN or printed in specialized bibliographies produced by CIN.

Yours sincerely,

  
Marie-Christine Uginet  
Chief Librarian

### ***QUESTIONNAIRE ON ICCROM LIBRARY ABSTRACTS***

**What are the uses, if any, made by your organization of these abstracts and how has their availability specifically assisted your organization? Could you advise us if your institution is connected to CIN and the level of use and the importance of the abstracts for your activities?**

**Could you comment on the usefulness to you of bibliographic references consisting of title, authors, and subject keywords, as compared to those including actual abstracts?**

**Do you perceive a difference in quality, from the user's point of view, between abstracts prepared by conservation professionals, such as AATA's volunteers, and those prepared by ICCROM? Please elaborate.**

**Are there, in your experience as a user, specific areas in which ICCROM provides unique coverage? If so, what?**

**Could you also provide information about your own publications (number, language, subject frequency)? Do you provide abstracts for them, and if yes, are they available to the public and under what form? Are you already contributing to the AATA abstract service?**

If you do not produce abstracts, would you be prepared to collaborate with the data base for your own publications and possibly others in a field of interest for your organization? If you do not have the staff expertise or capacity for this task, would you be disposed to contribute financially to this service and at what level?

Your comments and suggestions will be extremely useful in helping us to evaluate options respecting the provision of the service, its impact on our activities and the perspectives for further development. Would you be so kind as to send them by 15 April to ICCROM, attention of Marie C. Uginet? (Respond by fax if you so wish.) ICCROM undertakes for its part to communicate the results of this review to all respondents.

Thank you for your help!

Signature.....Date.....