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# The Museum of Modern Art

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## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART COMPUTERIZES ENTIRE COLLECTION

The Museum of Modern Art has become the first museum in the world to computerize its entire collection. The computerized inventory contains indexed descriptions of 26,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, posters, photographs, design objects and furniture acquired by the museum since its founding in 1929. It is the most complete collection of 20th century art in the world and includes work by thousands of artists.

The index is part of the Museum Computer Network, with headquarters in The Museum of Modern Art. The Network is a consortium of museums committed to computerizing their inventories within the Network system with a view to the eventual pooling and easy exchange of data. When a large enough body of information has been transcribed and merged into a single data bank it will aid museums and scholars in locating otherwise unpublished materials pertinent to any research or exhibitions using museum objects. The Network insures that all files remain technically compatible and saves institutions the cost of writing their own programs. Membership in the consortium includes 27 institutions throughout the United States, five of which have begun to computerize their holdings.

The Museum Computer Network system has been developed through the combined efforts of the former Institute for Computer Research in the Humanities of New York University, The State University at Stony Brook and the Registration Department of The Museum of Modern Art headed by David Vance, Vice Chairman of the Network's Administrative Committee.

The development of The Museum of Modern Art's vast two million word catalogue system was made possible through the generous support of Mr. Arnold Zohn. It constitutes an inventory of holdings, indexed in almost total depth and capable of extending to include any type of information of interest to museum scholars -- documents, library

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sources, archeological sites, exhibitions and membership and mailing lists. Having successfully completed this first catalogue, the museum is now developing an additional catalogue of its film holdings. The same basic program package has found applications in library and bibliographic work. The system facilitates record upkeep, simplifies revisions and provides selective lists for publications.

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Additional information available from Joan Wallace, Coordinator of Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Telephone: (212) 956-7297;-7501.

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