

Invitation to Summit Meeting

From: Mariet Westermann

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2005 9:56 AM

To: "Summit meeting invitees"

Subject: Invitation to Scholarly Publication Summit at Institute of Fine Arts

Dear [Summit Invitee]:

I write to invite you to a summit meeting of publishers, art history editors, senior scholars, leaders of research institutes, and foundation officers that will conclude a comprehensive study of the State of Scholarly Publication in Art and Architectural History. Hilary Ballon, Professor at Columbia University and Editor of the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, and I have been conducting this project for the past several months; the study has been funded by a generous grant of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The meeting will take place on Friday, March 3, 2006, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. at the Institute of Fine Arts at 1 East 78th Street, New York. We hope that you are willing to lend your broad experience and deep expertise.

The purpose of our study is twofold: to diagnose the challenges to publication from the perspectives of both publishers and scholars, and to suggest possible responses to the issues that have been identified in the study. We have been gathering comprehensive quantitative and qualitative information about scholarly trends and the state of publishing in art and architectural history. We have also been holding group meetings as well as individual conversations with scholars at different career stages and with art history editors. Our study was motivated by the shrinking opportunities to publish scholarly monographs, but the research to date points to a more complex set of problems and underscores the pivotal need for the exchange of information and creative thought among editors, scholars, and other leaders in the discipline.

At the summit meeting, we shall be presenting the preliminary results of our research. In the subsequent discussion, we would like your views on a range of topics relating to the publishing process, including the implications of current publishing opportunities for the advancement of art and architectural history, and the possibility of rethinking current assumptions about tenure, peer review, and the relationships between articles, scholarly monographs, and other types of publication. The new challenges and opportunities offered by digital publication will be on the agenda as well.

The data-gathering effort is being coördinated by Dr. Lawrence T. McGill, Deputy Director of the Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies at Princeton University. He will join our meeting on March 3. Kate Wittenberg, Director of the Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia, serves as a consultant for this study, and she will also attend.

The findings of our project, to be completed by May 2006, will guide our development of a proposal to address the challenges of scholarly publishing. The Summit Meeting is crucial to this forward-looking goal, and your input will be vital. We very much hope that you will be able to attend the March 3 meeting, and look forward to your reply by December 20.

Sincerely yours,

Mariët Westermann

Judy & Michael Steinhardt Director
Professor of Fine Arts
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