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Lugt's Répertoire Online, created by IDC Publishers in close cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Art History RKD in The Hague, is an impressive resource tool and welcome addition for researchers who require information located within the complex arena of auction house art sales catalogs. Also referred to as art sales catalogs, auction catalogs are valuable sources of information on the provenance of art objects, the history of collecting, and historical market trends. Locating auction sales information can be one of the more challenging tasks for a researcher. There are literally thousands of auction house sales catalogs produced worldwide each year, and it is often difficult for a researcher to pinpoint which catalog holds the desired information. Researchers usually turn to union lists of sales catalogs, such as Frits Lugt's *Répertoire des catalogues de ventes publiques*.

Lugt's Répertoire Online, the first volume of which was released by IDC in January 2003, is the electronic version of Lugt's *Répertoire*, a union list of sales catalogs that has been critical to researchers for more than half a century. This immense printed work in 4 volumes appeared between 1938 and 1987, and although it has been out of print for years, Lugt's Répertoire is still one of the most widely consulted art historical reference works as it essentially functions as a finding aid for art sales catalogs. In the print version of the Répertoire, which covers the period 1600 to 1925, Lugt lists more than 100,000 art sales catalogs from libraries in Europe and the United States. He not only describes the collections of the larger libraries, such as the Paris Bibliothèque de l'Art et de l'Archéologie, but also catalogs the contents of minor collections. Volume 1 of the Lugt's Répertoire Online lists catalogs from the period 1600 to 1825. Volume 2 (1826-1860) has recently been added and therefore more than doubling the current number of records, and the additional volumes will follow sometime soon thereafter.

The creators of Lugt's Répertoire Online have not only produced a copy of the original work but have increased its value as a research tool by adding many recently discovered catalogs and making corrections to the original work. In the print version of the Répertoire, all catalogs are arranged in strict chronological order, giving date, place, order or provenance of each property, type of sale (whether pictures, prints or *objets d'art*), number of lots, auctioneer, library in which the catalogue may be consulted and details of any annotations in the catalog described (prices, names, additions, remarks). As with most electronic databases, the online Répertoire features a multitude of search options that enables the researcher to search a variety of fields such as Lugt number, date of sale, place of sale, provenance, auction house, and existing copies. The interface is very clean and simple to understand, and researchers can construct advanced queries using boolean operators. A 'browse list' option is available for some of the fields. This is tremendously helpful for such variables as location of auction house, where the name of the city might have changed over time or may be spelled differently in different languages. Searching or querying by date of sale can be tricky for even the most advanced researcher as the form of date in auction sales is always expressed numerically by year, day, then month (yyyyddmm).

Lugt's Online takes full advantage of the capabilities of the electronic database and enables the user to search by date in a variety of ways including searching multiple dates at once, using date ranges, and searching with partial dates. This option is very clearly and thoroughly explained on the search page. It is of particular importance that Lugt's Online focuses on this field because the print version arranges entries chronologically by date of sale, and the additional attention to this field online should definitely improve the efficiency of the search. It is important to note that the database can be consulted both in French and English.

An impressive quality of the Lugt's Répertoire Online is the integration of other relevant research sources. One such feature is the libraries database. This provides the opportunity to search through libraries with holdings of art sales catalogs. Also, many of the records in the database contain references to additional tools and locations that might assist the researcher with that particular record. Where relevant the Provenance index number has been added to the records.

This number refers to the identification number of the sale catalogs in the Getty Research Institute's Provenance Index, another valuable resource that contains information related to the history of collecting and the provenance of individual works of art, primarily Western European paintings. Also present on some records are references to the microfiche collection if that particular record is available on microfiche through the IDC Publishers. Since 1987, IDC has been publishing art sales catalogues on microfiche, and now microfiche copies of these catalogs can be ordered directly via the IDC website (<http://www.idcpublishers.info/>). IDC has announced that as of early June 2003, they will expand their service by introducing the option to order paper copies of the art sales catalogs that they have available on microfiche.

IDC Publishers recently announced their future plans for the Lugt's Répertoire Online. According to their website, Volume 2 (1826-1860) has just been added to the current online publication. With almost 15,000 new records, the total number of records available is now approximately 26,344. The publishers claim that this addition of Volume 2 will not lead to an increase of the subscription price. Currently the price for an annual subscription is 175 euro/dollar. Volume 3 (1861-1990) is to follow in the summer of 2003.