

Israeli artist files

1. Name:

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The Information Center for Israeli Art, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IMJ)

2. Background information:

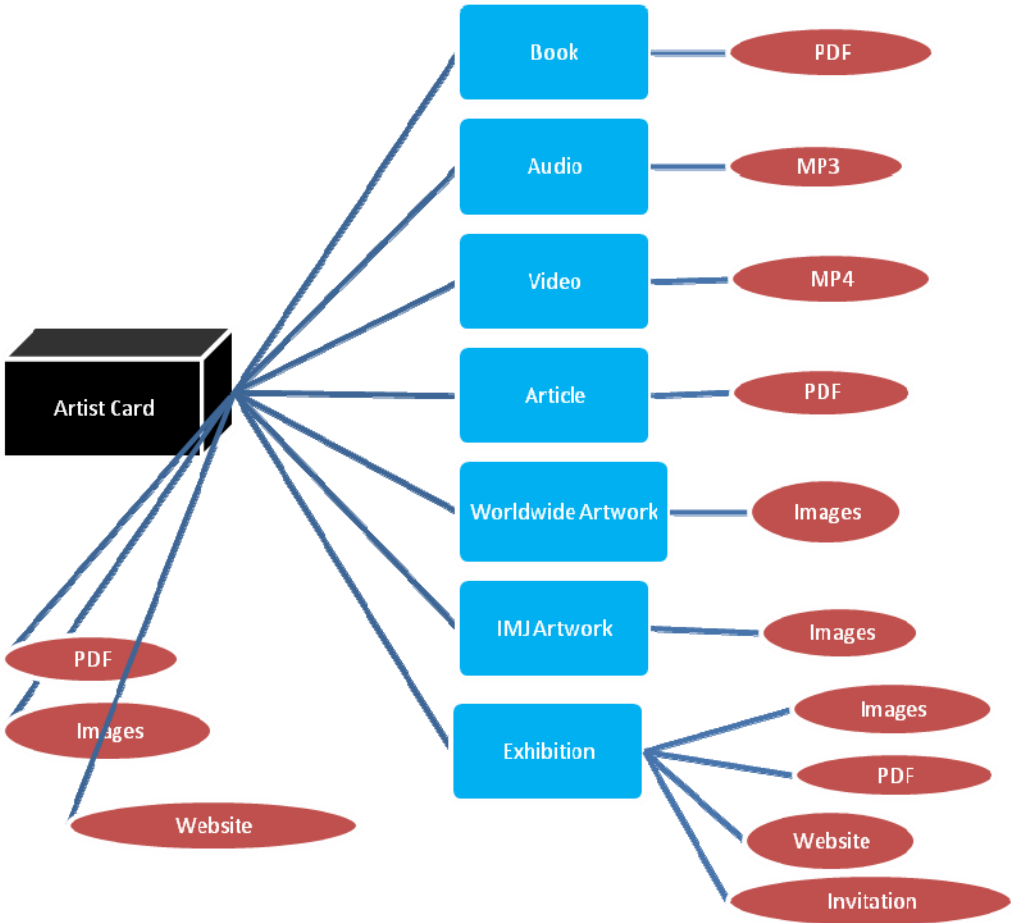
- a) Documents and catalogs information about Israeli art and artists from the very beginning of Israeli art till today.
- b) Publishes a bilingual selection of over 5,800 Israeli artist biographies online. (See link at the end of this document)
- c) The material is collected into physical and virtual artist files, from prominent artists as well as those who have not been widely-exhibited. The database and artist files include biographical information, newspaper clippings and articles regarding art shows in Israel and abroad, invitations to exhibitions, videos, slides, catalogs and photographs or artwork.
- d) Only a small portion of IMJ's art collection items are currently shown on Europeana (5000). A future export may include the 12,000 artist cards, 17,000 exhibitions, 5,000 artworks from worldwide collections, 500 video and audio items, and 5,000 newspaper articles.
- e) The Center recently participated in a Wikipedia GLAM project publishing some 50 biographical articles on Israeli artists in Wikipedia in a number of languages (English, Hebrew, Chinese, Dutch, German, etc.)
(See link at the end of this document)



Physical storage of the 12,000 Israeli artist files

3. Definition of hierarchies for the domain:

f) The artist files and its components are organized in a 2 level hierarchy. Each type of information is catalogued as an item (level 2 - blue) and linked to the artist's digital file (level 1 - black). Each item may have multiple digital multimedia files (red) linked in various formats. All information is bilingual (Hebrew and English) so in essence there is a duplicate linked card for each item in the opposing language:



4. Use Case Scenario:

The figures below illustrate webpages presenting the application of the aforementioned hierarchy. For instance, the artist file found in the Center's database dedicated to Larry Abramson is apportioned on the Information Center's site, so that the viewer may browse starting at the artist's biography (level 1) and then review the linked items (level 2) - worldwide artwork, exhibitions, and audio or video items - in an organized and easy-to-follow format.

Additionally, there is the option to search through artist names alphabetically and by decade. Exhibits, too, are broken down thoroughly into geographic locations within Israel and chronologically using a timeline.

Figure 1 - Larry Abramson on the Information Center's intranet site, the artist file including biography (level 1) and links to (level 2) items

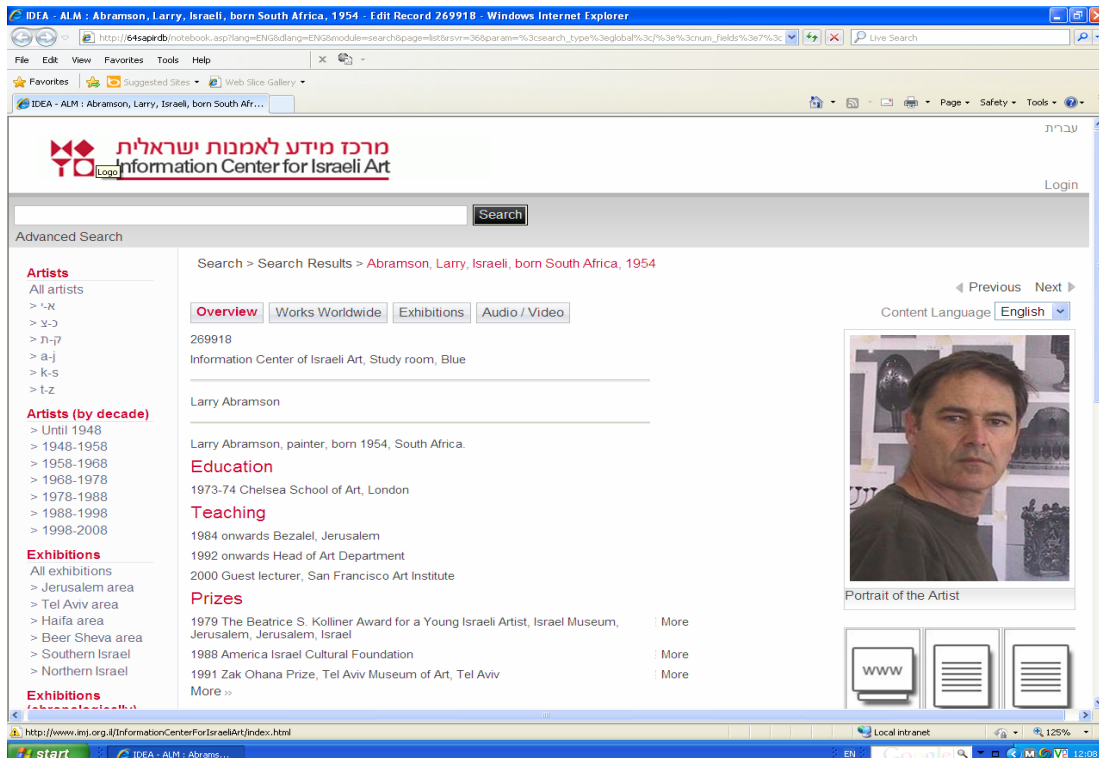


Figure 2 – Tab listing worldwide art collection items (level 2) linked to Larry Abramson’s card (level 1)

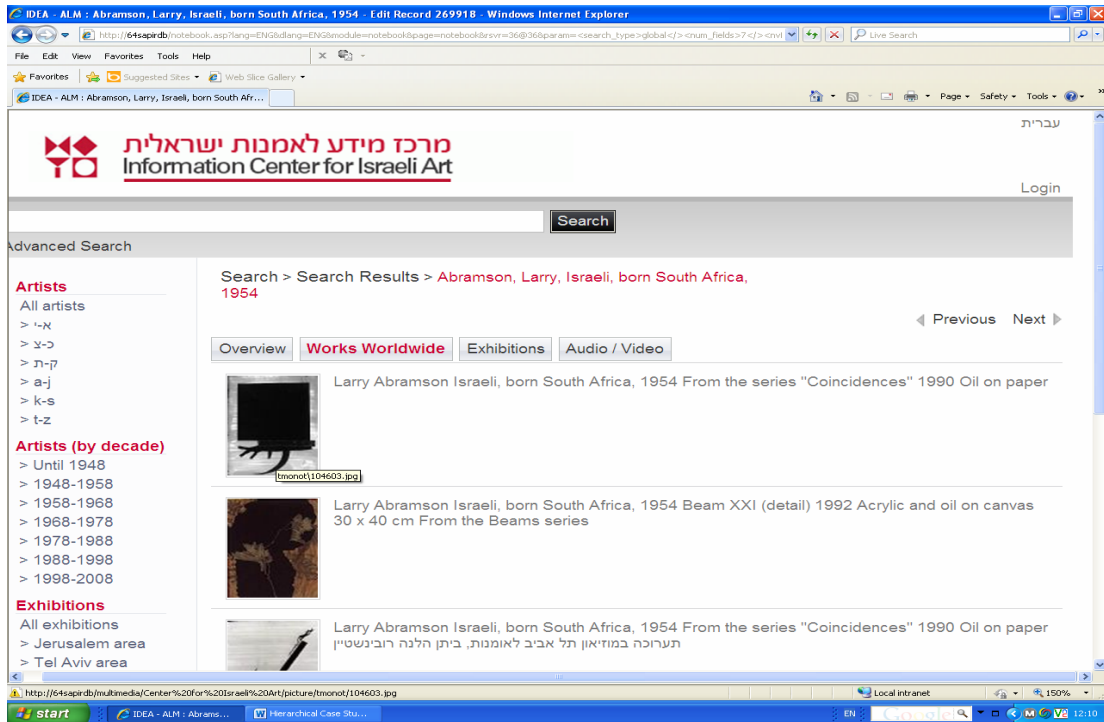


Figure 3 – Tab listing exhibition items (level 2) linked to Larry Abramson’s card (level 1)

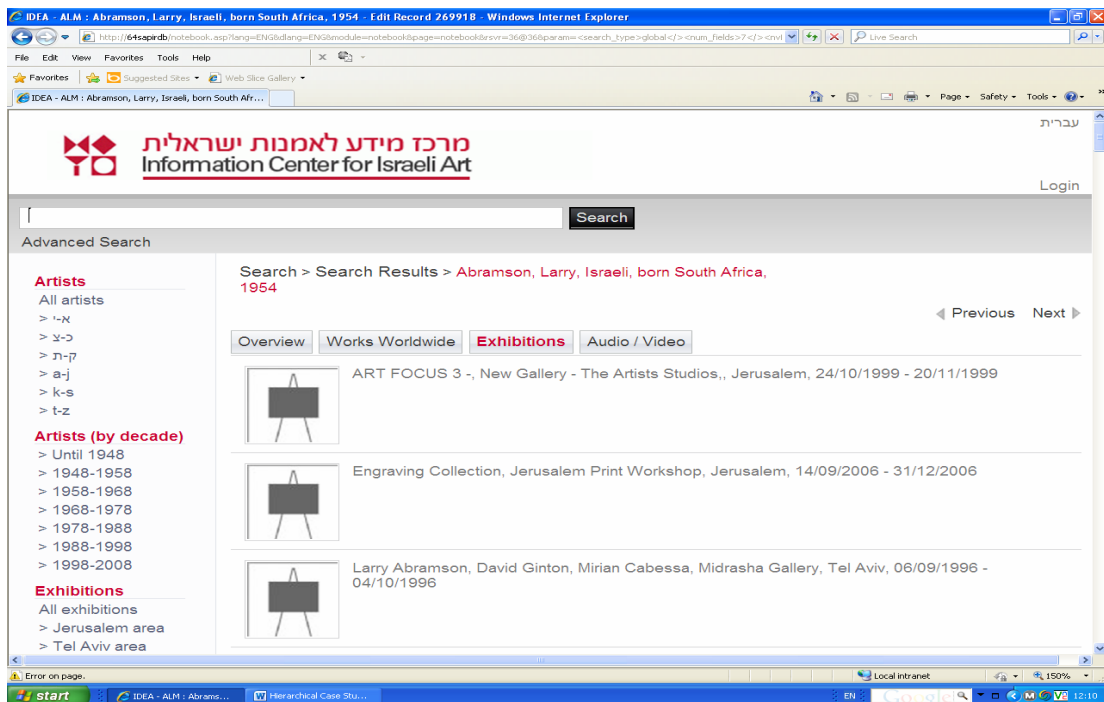
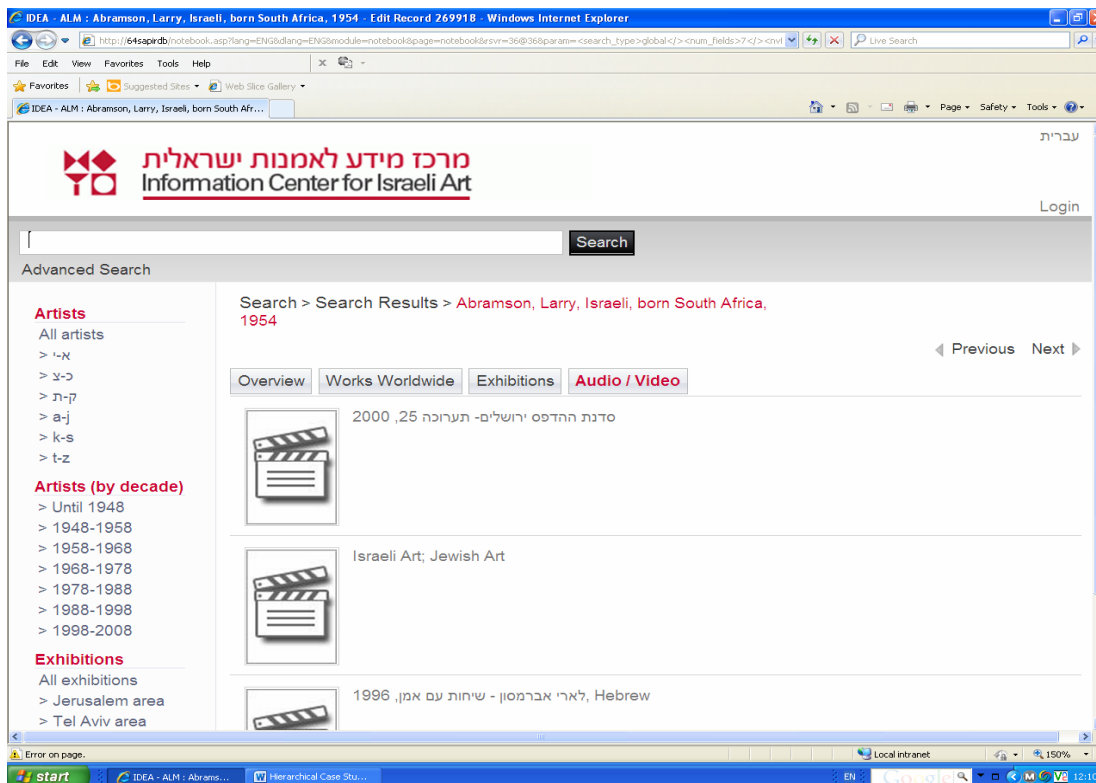


Figure 4:



5. The EDM properties:

- dcterms:isPartOf
- dcterms:hasPart

are suitable to relate the artwork within an exhibition. And

- edm:wasPresentAt

is suitable to relate the artist to the sites they lived in, or studied at, worked or exhibited in.

6. Problems and Limitations:

- a) The hierarchy posted in this case study simplifies the true structure found in the Center which is not truly linear in its construction. Instead of a presenting the information in an artist file centric fashion one might approach it via an exhibition centric perspective. In this way the exhibition card is level 1 and the artwork, articles, audio / video material relating to the exhibition are level 2.
- b) There is also a relationship between the books / catalogues and the exhibition which creates a triangulation between the artists mentioned in the catalogue, and the catalogue about the exhibition. Not to forget the artwork by the artist in exhibition found also in the catalogue.

7. Proposed solutions for Europeana:

Similar to the archival format of presenting each item as part of a node, an artist file item would be noted in the item section by using DC "isPartOf" and then stating the artist name. This would be employed for each item creating the hierarchy. It must be noted that often times there is

more than one artist in an exhibition or article or catalogue and therefore more than one recommends would be present for each artist name.

On the Europeana site I would recommend a presentation of the information as an item (level 1) with tabs, one for each item (level 2) type (similar to the current method of presenting a query result with image, films and text with each presented on separate tabs.) In addition, queries might be visually presented on a timeline or on a geographic map which would help to clarify relationships between items.

Note:

The topic of artist's files is not unique to our institution but rather a topic which is in the process of being discussed between some 300 libraries, archives and museums under the auspices of the Art Libraries Society of North America (see the link below to the Artist Files Online Directory). Most institutions boast large collections (we have some 12,000 artist listed and our Center is not unique). The Artist Files Online Directory was created as a centralized repository for cultural institutions to promote their collections related to artist files. It was established with members from US & Canadian museums and institutions on its working committee and is opened to international membership. This group recommends standards in the schema of the information available in digital artist files. In the future many of the other institutions who hold artist files might consider following the recommendations mandated by this taskforce.

Additional links:

- [Information Center for Israeli Art at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem \(English\)](#)
- [Information Center for Israeli Art at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem \(Hebrew\)](#)
- [The Artist Files Revealed Online Directory](#)
- [Artist Files Revealed Documentation and Access, Art Libraries Society of North America, 2010](#)
- [Example of single artist page "Larry Abramson" from the Artists list of the Information Center for Israeli Art at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem \(English\)](#)
- [Sample wikipage of single artist page "Larry Abramson" created by using published texts from the Artists list of the Information Center for Israeli Art at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem \(English\)](#)