

Instructions for Use [Avant-Garde/Neo-Avant-Garde Database]

System Requirements: Access 2000 or a newer version. It might be necessary to download the database onto your PC in order to use it.

When opening the Access database, the user will find a green switchboard with the options “Queries”, “Reports” and “Maintenance”. The “Queries” form features the options “Artist/Writer”, “Movements” and “Topics”. These are the three main search functions of the database, and enable the user to search for key artists/writers discussed, literature on specific movements and specific topics, such as “futurist literature” or “sound poetry”. Just click on the respective search query, and a window will pop up. Enter the last name of an artist/writer for query one [example: Ball], a movement name for query two [example: Cubism], or a main topic [example: dadaist art]. The “main topic” field can either be used to bring up everything “dadaist”, by entering “dadaist” or “futurist” without further specification, or it can be used to bring up only literature on specific manifestations within movements, such as “dadaist performance”, or, finally, information on specific techniques or genres, such as “visual poetry” or “collage”.

The database will then bring up all entries on literature featuring information on these specific requests on a datasheet in tabular form. The information displayed in these entries includes creator, title, place and date of publication as well as name of publisher, ISBN or ISSN numbers, title of source and name of source creator in case of non-independent publications such as essays, as well as information on translators and the title key number.

In the second form called “reports”, the user can view all the movements and keywords and names of writers/artists which feature in the database. Please note that in some cases, for instance “Cubism” and “Abstract Expressionism”, we have not broken down the entries into main topics, since these movements are pure art movement, and the category “abstract expressionist art” would be tautological. There are other cases where movements only specialise in one art form, and these non-interdisciplinary movements can generally only be looked up in the movement section. We have also used “avant-garde” or “neo-avant-garde” + “art”, “literature” and “film” etc only in cases where individual creators can not be attributed to a specific movement. Since everything in this database is either “avant-garde” or “neo-avant-garde”, these categories are not very useful search tools, and are only used in situations when it is not possible to categorise or specify more precisely. Guillaume Apollinaire’s poetry for instance is marked as “avant-garde literature”, but F.T. Marinetti’s poetry is marked as “futurist literature”. “avant-garde literature” or “avant-garde art” will thus only bring up literature which can not be attributed to specific movements. Please have a look at the lists to check what is searchable and how to do it best.

The “maintenance” section enables the user to look up specific entries for additional information. By opening the “edit existing entries” window, the user can click through all entries in the database successively, or can look up a specific entry for additional information by typing the title into the “find title” field at the top right hand corner and then pressing “enter”.

Furthermore, when the database has been downloaded, the user can also add his or her own research material to it, by using the “add a new entry” command and by filling out all the required fields.

Additionally, for those users who are proficient in the use of Access, the window behind the switchboard allows users to create their own queries, reports and lists, matched to their own specific requirements. By using the wizard, users can choose the bibliographical information which they find useful and want to be displayed.