

CAML ON THE WEB: <http://www.caml.yorku.ca>

CAML has made its presence felt on the Web for about a year now, having been launched into cyberspace on April 1995. Conceptually, it is a huge leap from limited exposure to ubiquitous presence, but practically speaking, it was simply a question of downloading some free software, installing it, and marking up a few pages in HTML. The economical and efficient nature of the web has given us an opportunity to broadcast our mission at little or no cost--as long as I don't trip over the power cord the site will stay up.

So far, our site has been a kind of online brochure, duplicating what we have in our printed brochures with a set of links to related music sources on the web.

We're also using it to promote upcoming conferences and activities of the Association. It is a useful function, particularly since we're listed on sites like CultureNet and have had our site indexed through a number of the Internet search engines. And usage statistics indicate that visits are increasing, perhaps because of the Internet links collected under "Other sites of possible interest."

But the possibilities of the medium cry out for more than the display of brochure-type information. We have the ability to turn the site into an information rich environment: databases, position papers, guidelines, and, when the Internet becomes more responsive, sound. (Check out the **MLA Clearinghouse** at: http://www.music.indiana.edu/tech_s/mla/index.htm to get an idea of what I mean.)

This spring, Carol Ohlers, music cataloguer at York University, will begin the first phase of the Music Collections Directory project with an online form accessible through the CAML home page. She hopes that this initial collection of data will facilitate her work, since the data entry will be partially automated. When the Directory is complete, we hope to put it up on the Web as a searchable database (in addition to making a print copy available).

I would welcome any suggestions and submissions for the CAML site. We could expand on the Internet listings or expand onsite content. Either way, there's lots of room for experimentation and growth.

Please send me your comments!

Rob van der Blik
Music Librarian
Sound and Moving Image Library
York University
4700 Keele St.
Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
(416) 736-2100 ext 88880; fax: (416) 736-5838
bliek@yorku.ca

