



ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

36th Annual Conference
Grand Hyatt, Denver, Colorado, May 1-5, 2008

Session: Scalable Digital Projects: How to Get Started with a Small Digital Project

May 3, 2008, 2-3:30 pm

Moderators: Ellen Petraits & Claudia Covert, RISD Library

Recorder: Patricia Kosco Cossard, University of Maryland Libraries

Presentation: Selection Criteria for Digital Projects

Speaker: Joan E. Beaudoin

Presentation: Dazzle Painting-Digitizing a Large Format Collection

Speakers: Claudia Covert & Ellen Petraits

Presentation: Collaborating to Create a Digital Swiss Poster Collection

Speaker: Mary Catharine Johnsen

The first presenter was Joan Beaudoin, a Ph.D. candidate in Information Studies at Drexel University. She is currently working on her dissertation which investigates the image behaviors of archaeologists, architects, art historians and artists. Prior to beginning her doctoral work she worked for over a decade in the field of visual resources, first at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and then at Bryn Mawr College. She holds a Master of Science degree in the Management of Digital Information from Drexel University, a Master of Arts in art history from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art history from Massachusetts College of Art. Working as an IMLS Intern for the Print Department at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Joan studied Best Practices for developing selection criteria for digital projects. She concluded that an assessment process is essential to developing criteria. Four main points must be attended to: review the mission and policy statements of the institution and/or collection; identify the major constituents and their needs; identify what holdings are most valuable; and, lastly, document your decisions.

Mary Kay Johnsen was the second speaker. She is the Special Collections Librarian and Design Librarian for the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries. She holds a B.A. in Art History from Stanford University, an M.A. in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of Library Science degree from the Catholic University of

America, and a Master of Public Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University. Currently, her chief projects include coordinating the Posner Center Internship Program of three exhibits a year in the Posner Center, and coordinating the Swiss Poster collection and Web site for posters donated by Dan Boyarski, Head of the School of Design. Her presentation discussed the collaborative opportunities that a digital project provides. For the Swiss Poster Collection, contributions came from the Libraries (space, both physical and digital, staffing for digital image capture and cataloging) and the School of Design (donor, subject expertise, website architecture, interface design, funding). This collection of 300 posters is used by design faculty for classroom teaching and assignments, because of their large size they posed a number of interesting challenges as well as opportunities.

Claudia Covert, Readers' Services Librarian, and Ellen Petraits, Reference Librarian, (RISD) gave the final presentation on their collaborative effort to digitize the RISD Dazzle Collection. Covert has been researching dazzle between Reference, Instruction, and Circulation duties. Her article on art and dazzle camouflage was published in the December 2007 issue of Art Documentation. Currently she is working on a dazzle exhibition and symposium for February 2009. Ellen Petraits is a practicing artist. She is the faculty liaison to the Painting, Interior Architecture, and Industrial Design Departments. She holds an MFA in Painting and Video from Northern Illinois University and an MLS from Rosary College. "Dazzle" is a form of camouflage that was used at the beginning of the 20th century to camouflage ships. The RISD collection consists of 455 dazzle plans. This collection is actively used in teaching assignments, however it was in need of preservation work and an inventory. Covert and Petraits designed a project to digitize and catalog this collection and formed an informal digital collections group to draft standards & guidelines to be used not only for this project, but for digital collections campus-wide.

Question and answers followed the presentations. Slides from each presentation are available at: <http://scalabledigital.wordpress.com/>

Virtual Posters were also included as a virtual part of this session:

- Treasury of World's Fair Art & Architecture: Selection with an Eye to Traditional Cooperative Cataloging Programs
- WPA Murals in California: a Small Digitization Project

They can be viewed at: <http://scalabledigital.wordpress.com/>

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Kosco Cossard