

[Opening slide] Good afternoon. I'm Katie Keller and I'm a Reference Librarian and a part-time cataloger in our Visual Resources Center. I'd like to give you a view from the trenches. Coming from the library side, I'd like to tell you about how the Stanford Art & Architecture Library and the Visual Resources Center came together and what we've been doing since Sept. 2006.

First, a little background. [History slide]

This merger was ten years in the making. With the advent of digital content, the Art & Art History dept. came to see the VRC as a unit needing more money, management and time than they were willing or wanting to spend. They had approached the Library in the past. The Libraries were able and willing to provide the management. When Peter Blank was made Head in 2006, he and the dept. chair pressed ahead on the merger. It took about three months. They saw the opportunity in merging a significant art image repository within the larger library system of digital resources and the harvesting options. In other words, the images and metadata were to become part of the resources and services mission of the libraries.

However, before the transfer occurred, an agreement was reached with the art dept. that would guarantee some services for the faculty and ease the transition from art department to University library-wide use. The most important of these is the care and feeding of the legacy slide collection. It remains in active use. Much of our work involves slide scanning so our workflow continues to include the refiling and related slide tasks. Another guarantee for the dept. were the assurances that staff levels would be maintained. We have a curator, Amber Ruiz, curatorial assistant, Huey-Ning Tan, a part-time cataloger and an average of nine student workers. The third consideration was that the art history faculty receive preferential treatment for their

immediate teaching needs. The faculty had a concern that going University Library-wide right away would make the faculty needs have lower priority.

Another legacy issue relates to the services provided by the VRC in addition to the production of slides and digital images. We provide a lot of technical support to faculty in image use, projection, and the use of digital presentation software. We hire projectionists, keep classroom keys, pointers, dongles and computer cables. In a sense, I feel the VRC is always in an organized frenzy – We're getting material ready for the current quarter and working on the next. There is rarely a lull. We have a front line position vis-à-vis the classroom

[First gear slide]

So, what changed? [Staffing and Equipment slide] In a nutshell, initial additional funding allowed us to buy new equipment and personnel time. A budget was established (which was always difficult for the Dept.) and this amount was transferred from the Humanities and Sciences. We were given 80% of an Academic Technology Specialist who helped us with technology support. Dena DeBry worked closely with VRC staff and provided recommendations for new computer equipment, software, servers and lighting. For example, our previously password-protected database which was only accessible to art dept. faculty, now requires Stanford authentication which limits use to those with Stanford IDs and allows us to serve a campus-wide audience. We revised our backup procedures, image standards and consequent workflow. Having this technical support allowed Amber and Huey-Ning to focus on other projects, such as preparing data for export to ARTstor, outreach and collection development.

Peter has taken on the management, supervision and programmatic components which had been lacking under the dept. These changes have allowed our curator to really curate rather than caretake.

Equipment: As mentioned earlier, we upgraded to IMacs which gives us a consistent work environment instead of mix and match computers as before. We were able to have our lighting revamped with new bulbs that were all the same temperature which allowed us to calibrate our monitors more accurately than we were able to before. We also remodeled our slide annex and replaced the glass on our light table. All sound small but were major improvements. Facilities support from SUL/AIR –Academic Information Resources is a major improvement for the VRC.

[Second Gear slide]

So, as part of Stanford Libraries, how do expand our mission? [Collection development slide]

We started by publicizing our collection through the normal channels (campus report, web site, email) and by word of mouth. Our collection use began to expand. People came in who had heard about us from Art History faculty. We ended up scanning collections owned by people from the following departments: Classics, English, History, the program in writing and rhetoric, and Asia languages. We scanned slides for these former “outsiders” and shot new images from books.

What’s new? We now work as a team. VRC staff are included in Library taught BI sessions held in class sections and in many departmental visits, both in and outside the department. We have showed our stuff during a libraries-wide all staff meeting. The VRC and the Library share a table

at the annual library-wide open house and are also featured at our annual art library open house. All library instruction includes mention of image products such as our Imagebase in addition to subscription-based services. We work together on our website and on rare book imaging projects. We share knowledge and expertise about upcoming library-wide changes affecting computer software, personnel recordkeeping and the like.

Rare materials: In a push to make our rare materials more accessible to the University community, we are putting up images of books and magazines on our website and making them part of Imagebase. Embark doesn't allow us to flip through a book as you can see elsewhere online, but perhaps in working with other library colleagues we will get there.

Likewise, some of our Imagebase is part of Searchworks, an experimental search interface for a variety of Stanford materials. We are hopeful that as usage of Searchworks increases, so will use of our Imagebase.

ARTstor: We will continue to contribute images. I look on it as complimentary to what we have; our collection is primarily research and course-driven.

The department of Film and Media Studies is now part of our department and a challenge for us is learning how to serve film clips.

[Third Gear: Location}

[Location slide]

We are in the basement, near the classrooms. We are on-call as mentioned earlier. It is not easy to communicate except via email or through meetings. While we are working together on many fronts, we are still learning about one another and finding new ways to collaborate. How can we improve on this? Perhaps with a new location in our new building.

New building: We are planning for a move to a new art dept. building which will bring us closer to the univ. art msuem, but farther away from the main library. The work requirements have been recorded. Where we will be within the building is yet to be seen. I can imagine that closer proximity to the library will benefit everyone.

[Let 'er rip slide] In the meantime, we are working on remodeling our image [bad pun] from production facility to library resource. VRC staff are taking on additional responsibilities with classroom teaching and presentations in addition to our "old" services. We are interacting with other areas of the library such as Digital Library Systems and Services, Preservation, the Metadata Dept., Technical Support and the Information Center. These are all new and exciting collaborations. The budget woes of the world are affecting us as well but we soldier on. We are still transitioning and perhaps our situation is indicative of the phrase that there is nothing constant but change. [Contacts slide]