Revolutionary Models for Managing and Sharing Image Collections:

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Masjid-i Shah, Isfahan, Iran
© Aga Khan Visual Archive, MIT
Alarming Trends

- Mergers
- Layoffs
- Closings
ARTstor’s Shared Shelf

- Catalog Online
- Access Shared Vocabularies
- Manage Digital Assets
- Release to the Web

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Use of images on campuses for teaching and research is rising

A growing number of disciplines are using images to teach and for scholarship and research

Common solutions are needed for managing heterogeneous and “scattered” image collections
Emerged out of the notion that the stand-alone model is no longer viable

Revolutionary impact on local business

Powerful transformative product

Keeping pace with trends in pedagogy

Steady schedule of content ingest, tool development and software upgrades
Shared Shelf

Catalog Online

Access Shared Vocabularies

Manage Digital Assets

Release to the Web

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Why Shared Shelf

- System that can integrate local and remote collections is ideal
- Multiple platforms is not cost-efficient
- Less interest in buying, building, customizing and supporting metadata and workflow systems
- Need common solutions for working intra-institutionally
Advocating for Visual Resources Management in Educational and Cultural Institutions
Advocating for Visual Resources Management in Educational and Cultural Institutions

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Prepared by the Visual Resources Association http://www.vraweb.org/
The White Paper Task Force can be contacted via e-mail at the following address:
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Are we prepared?

Images courtesy Wikipedia
G.W. Bromley & Co.,
Atlas of the City of Boston, from Actual Surveys and Official Records; City Proper, Volume 1, 1883

Friend Street, Boston, 1954
Nishan Bichajian, Courtesy of Kepes/Lynch Collection, Rotch Visual Collections, MIT

Images courtesy of Rotch Visual Collections, MIT Libraries
The Co-Dependency Culture
a new era of relationships

- Faculty image needs continue to be met with supplemental local collections
- Strong community desire to eliminate the redundancies of the past
- Dependence on external, subscription-based collections and networked resources
- Higher incentives to share
- Opportunities to redefine our focus on cataloging unique collections
Find opportunities to “push up” local collections to a universal level

“Be strategic and opportunistic”

Local digitization centers are the means not the end

Top-down curated “collections of distinction”
Metadata!

Opportunities and Challenges

- Chance to share development of standards and continue the best practices we have begun
- Learn how we can breach the disparities between domains—LAMS (libraries, archives, museums)
- Migration of legacy data
- Opportunity to expand our knowledge of non-art/architecture images and the metadata
What about Preservation?

Challenges

- Long term preservation strategies for the ARTstor Digital Library and hosted collections
- Follow library practices?
- A key element of our stewardship role in libraries
- Maintain local preservation archive?
Other concerns

- Will niche vendors get pushed out?
  - Unique collections
  - Fill a void
  - Offer solutions to campuses where ARTstor may not be possible
Open Source communities for software development are now more mature and have carved out a place in libraries.

Open Access is gaining ground and helping open doors for new forms of scholarly communication.
The Co-Dependency Culture

- Shared expertise, common goals, mutual trust
- BUT,
  - Can mean a greater reliance on business risk
  - Could compromise ethical principles of librarianship
  - May lead to commercialization of services
  - Corporate control of pricing
  - Will there be incompatibilities between our local institutional goals and mission and those of the vendor
The Co-Dependency Culture

Too BIG to Fail?
Too IMPORTANT to Fail?
Is this a relevant concern?
Working inter-institutionally

- CLIR Report (Council on Library and Information Resources), 2008

- “Research Libraries should be redefined as multi-institutional entities.”

- “Digital networks, emerging digital libraries and research environments should be exploited”
SAHARA is a new digital image archive developed in 2008 and 2009 by the Society of Architectural Historians in collaboration with ARTstor. Funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, SAHARA allows SAH members either to upload their own digital photographs and QTVR panoramas to a shared online archive or to download images from the archive for teaching and research. The SAHARA collection is being built for all who study, interpret, photograph, design and preserve the built environment worldwide.

SAHARA launched on April 1, 2009 with 10,000 images that were contributed by scholars at MIT, Brown, University of Virginia, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by independent photographers and historians. If you are a current SAH member and need your user name or password, please send an email inquiry to membership@sah.org. If you are not a current SAH member and want to access SAHARA, please join the Society now. To renew your SAH membership, click here.

Not sure if SAHARA is an online resource that is of interest to you? Starting in January 2010, SAH will begin offering seven-day guest accounts to SAHARA so you can try it and see if it serves your research and lecture needs. To request guest account, please send an email to membership@sah.org.

Please contribute to SAHARA by uploading your architectural and landscape images today. Also, please send yourself of the collection of images that have been contributed by your peers. Visit it often because the collection will be constantly growing as SAH members share their photographs and QTVRs for the advancement of teaching and research in our profession. Contributions by established scholars, students, architects, preservationists, and those who have chosen architectural history as an avocation are welcome.
Beyond the Silos of the LAMs
Collaboration Among Libraries, Archives and Museums

Diane M. Zorich
Information Management Consultant

Günter Waibel
Program Officer

Rickv Erwav
How can the community play a pivotal role in shaping a future in which outsourcing is more prevalent

- Community involvement
- Decisions and strategic directions
- Balancing commercial and professional goals
library vendors have a unique interest in the professional development, technological expertise, and philosophical considerations of a vocal customer base. There are several ways in which both sides can capitalize on the codependent nature of their relationship.”

Andrew K. Pace, The Ultimate Digital Library
SHARE, CARE and be FAIR

Is this possible?
Thank you

Pei Cobb Freed & Partners,
Christian Science Center, Boston, 1969-1972
(c)Rotch Visual Collections; Kidder Smith Collection