Film Studies

- Studies the artform of film
- Related to English, theater, and communications
- Relation to art history, as a primarily visual art form
- Film stills
- Image reference

Close Encounters of the Third Kind, publicity photo
**Survey Question:** Do you use images for teaching, presenting, or for evidence in research papers?
Interdisciplinary survey, 2010

Survey Question: When you try to find images, are you looking for a specific image (such as a specific artwork) or a generalized depiction or concept?
Survey Question: What platforms have you used to procure images for your schoolwork? Check all that apply:
Interdisciplinary survey, 2010

Survey Question: Have you had instruction from the library or from your professors in available image resources and how to use these resources?

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Respondents’ Subdepartments of Communication and Culture (CMCL) at Indiana University

Survey question: What is your area of study within Communication and Culture?
Survey question: Are you a Master’s or PhD student? Also, what year are you in your studies?
Respondents’ Areas of Research

“The use of moving pictures in early cinema circa 1900. Early adoption of computer technology by experimental filmmakers/video artists in the early 70s.”

“Audience and fan studies; star studies, focusing on silent-era stars; cultural memory; pop music; queer studies”

“…media, celebrity, and the ‘obesity crisis.’”

“experimental cinema, home movies”

“audience reception and use of media, particularly film stars”

“…city space, technology, and masculinity within the action film genre…Historical image archives would be extremely helpful for this…”

“Shakespeare and youth culture, particularly through film and online media”
Frequency of Image Use

Survey question: Do you use images in your research?
Purpose of Images in Scholarship

“Because it is such a visual genre...film stills... are really important.”

“Visible evidence of filmic practices. To prove provenance of films.”

“...I also use images to discuss "bodies" across different spectra, from gender to the abstractness of visceral action to reception and consumption of those body images.”

“Often used to illustrate a specific point; serve as evidence of continuation of some kind of star image or persona replicating over time”

“Close readings of images as well as context for larger arguments”

Survey question: How do you use these images? What kinds of evidence do they provide?
Survey question: What are some of the problems you encounter when using images for your research?

“Mainly, accessibility (or lack thereof) and trying not to use the same 10 or 12 images that appear everywhere online. Trying to get image captures from online video.”

“Often the photos are removed from newspaper articles due to copyright. My areas of research are often not scanned or easily locatable online.”

“I work with a lot of very recent media, so sometimes it's difficult to find or make stills.”

“…images on databases tend to be pretty standard, not the fringier stuff I tend to need, in terms of pop culture and popular genres.”
Problems with Image Retrieval

“Honestly, I don't fully understand the copyright and fair use rules for image use in my writing; I'd like to incorporate more images into my writing, but I'm never entirely sure whether film stills or other images are legally fair game or not”

“--Having to get rights to reproduce --Fees involved with this --Finding images in other places that online; finding images that haven't been reproduced hundreds of times already…”

“copyrights”

Survey question: What are some of the problems you encounter when using images for your research?
Problems with Image Retrieval

 “…low image quality from image capture of motion pictures (which I can only do as a screen shot)…”

“Main problem is converting screen grabs to proper publishing formats (dpi, resolution, size, etc.).”

Survey question: What are some of the problems you encounter when using images for your research?
Survey question: Which of the following instruction topics would be most useful to you in your research?

- How to construct effective search queries for images
- An overview of recommended image databases and how to use them effectively
- Copyright issues pertaining to the use of film stills in research
- Technical aspects such as metadata and file formats
- “Conversion of image files to standardized publish-ready images”
- “I would like information about all of these topics!”

Most useful topics for the blog
Literature Review

The User:


The Librarian:

Literature Review

The resources:


Literature Review

Fair Use:

Relevant links

For the blog:  
http://filmstillsresources.blog.com

To look more closely at the survey results:  
http://emileemathews.weebly.com

To contact me:  
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I would like to thank the following Indiana University librarians for their advice and support:

Chanitra Bishop
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Sherri Michaels
David Oldenkamp
Tony White