Collaborating on Casas
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In the spring of 2011, Digital Collections staff at Northwestern University Library completed the digitization of a set of original Ramón Casas drawings held in Special Collections, based on a proposal written by Lindsay King, then the Art Collection Public Services Librarian, who had worked with scholars interested in Casas and his friendship with Charles Deering, the donor for whom the 1933 library building is named. The digitization project was the first use of a new CopiBook scanner acquired by Digital Collections, and involved nearly every aspect of the library’s digitization workflow for rare or unique materials. From this set of scans, a metadata-rich selection of Casas drawings will soon be made available through ARTstor's Images for Academic Publishing. The images are already available online via the Northwestern Books interface and have been useful to visiting scholars from Spain and elsewhere who are interested in the library’s holdings on Casas. In addition to collaboration between Digital Collections, Special Collections, and the Art Collection, this project has also involved collaboration with the library’s development and public relations departments because of the connection with Deering’s descendants and their ongoing support of the library. This poster will discuss the collaborative opportunities that arise both within and beyond the library when librarians use new technologies to provide digital access to existing collections.