Reframing collections for the
digital age

A report of the Andrew W. Mellon
funded NYARC study 2012-3
Dr. Stephen Bury, The Frick Collection
ARLIS/NA, Pasadena 27 April 2013
Scoping study

• Tipping-point from analog to born-digital in art-historical publishing?
• Curatorial focus groups on born-digital needs
• Best forms of web archiving
• Workflows, staffing needs
• Infrastructure
• Legal advice on web harvesting
London Gallery Project

Interactive timeline
Artifex Press

The digital catalogue raisonné
Archive-It

Internet Archive
Hanzo Archives
On-Demand Service
Some lessons

• Simple transfer of staffing resource from print to digital not possible in short term
• Legal advice not enabling enough
• Technical solutions not always there (But vendors willing to work with us)
• Grant really needed more money for travel to get the consultants working together
Recommendations

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- Use Archive-It for ‘simple’ websites ✔
- Discuss with Hanzo Archives not-for-profit models for web archiving ✔
- Join NDSA (National Digital Stewardship Alliance) ✔
- Prioritize targets for web-archiving ✔
- Advocate for web archiving in library service platform development ✔
- Determine digital preservation strategy ✔
- Collaborate in order to pursue innovative but sustainable solutions ✔
REPORTS AT:

HTTP://NYARC.ORG/CONTENT/REFRAMING-COLLECTIONS-DIGITAL-AGE
Next steps

• NYARC invited by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to submit prospectus for operational phase of web archiving
• Work parallel to Columbia University Libraries web archiving program
• Implement a Discovery Layer
• At end of 2 years have a sustainable program which is also extensible to other museum and art libraries able and willing to participate
NYARC priorities for web archiving

• Born-digital auction catalogs
• Artists’ own websites
• Born-digital catalogues raisonnés (with specific publisher partners)
• Art-rich websites already selected and cataloged in ARCADE and not archived elsewhere
• Our own museum websites and our other institutional web-based digital assets