Scholars' Workspace

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GETTY Scholars’ Workspace
The Promise of Digital Scholarship

- Linked data and interactive toolsets open new routes to analysis
- Collaborative online research is possible
- Conversations, debates, and different interpretations can be captured
- New knowledge and visualizations are possible
- “Products”: born-digital publications, as well as print publications
Goals:

- Develop online workspace for collaborative research projects
- Capture the research process
- Create and organize content in structured data for easy access, analysis, and publication
- Produce a digital critical facsimile edition
- Broaden audience
Technical Environment

Drupal: Open-source content management system (CMS)

- Not from scratch
- Robust database backend
- Ability to import TEI and transform to HTML via XSLT
- Plug-in modules:
  - Co-ment module for annotating text
  - (This tool will not be used for the Scholars’ Workspace)
The Team | Communication is key!

Workspace Development & Art-historical Research

• 4 Art Historians
• 1 Programmer
• 2 – 3 People doing project management, integration, editing, and Drupal configuration

Digital Publication

• Copy editor
• Web production specialist
• UX designer
• Legal /copyright expert
• Web integrator
• QA people
Digital Mellini & Digital Montagny

Key Features and Functionalities

• **Annotations:** capture conversation among scholars

• **Discussion forum:** dialog about the research and the technology

• **Bibliography-builder and image bank-builder:** scholars create their own structured data

• **Controlled Vocabularies:** benefits and flexibility of building in data [e.g. ULAN, Iconclass, “local” subject authorities]

• **Core records:** adhering to standards wherever possible [e.g. LIDO, TEI, CDWA, Getty vocabularies, Iconclass, etc.]

• **Light table:** comparing images (forthcoming for Digital Montagny and Digital Kirchner)
And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth: 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up: and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.
Moving from Project to Publication
Digital MelliniPublication
Lessons Learned

• Project management is key
• Scholars & technologists “speak different languages”
• Digital publications need editing, too!
• Doing it all online is difficult
• Technology does not make the work easier/less time-consuming  
  \(\text{(au contraire)}\)
• Conceptualization takes trial and error – It’s an iterative process!
• Getting scholars to change their behavior is a big challenge
The GRI is developing a collaborative workspace and toolkit for working with free text, structured data, images, and multimedia. The goal is a Drupal-based distributable open source application for community use and sustainability.

Current developments include:

- Light table
- Text annotation
- Image annotation
- Image crop and zoom
Light Table
Image Annotation
Image Crop and Zoom
Capabilities/What it is...

• Ability to capture scholarly discourse—“expose” the research process, including multiple and even contradictory viewpoints

• A “portable” research environment

• Compliant with international standards (TEI, LIDO, etc.)

• Break with the tradition of single authors and linear narratives

• Results in freely accessible, born-digital critical facsimile editions. Based on what we learned from Mellini and Montagny—functionalities as well as use-cases of scholars