Digital Facsimiles and the Modern Viewer: Medieval Manuscripts and Archival Practice in the Age of New Media

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Leaf from the Beaupr Antiphonary (Volume I), 1290, Walters Art Museum
Unique marks create visual layers that reveal the object’s process of aging

i.e. notes in the margins, food stains, fingerprints, etc.

Personal connections are made through physical interaction

Restricted access due to preservation concerns
Access

- Institutional hierarchies
- Book versus artifact
- Personal collection versus institutional collection
Art
Solution to access is digitization

Remote access = new research

Digital surrogate reveals evidence of technical construction rather than the manufacture of the physical object

Varying processes of aging
(image of medieval manuscript)
The Object Outside of the Archival Frame

- Few tangible limitations
- Creation of personal digital collections
- New uses and new users