The Politics of Digitization: Populist Projects and the Loss of Information

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, May 4, 2014
Deborah Kempe, Frick Art Reference Library
Overview

Dissecting this title

Taking the temperature

Access issues

Where have we failed?

How will we succeed?
“The archive: if we want to know what that will have meant, we will only know in times to come. Perhaps.”

Jacques Derrida, *Archive Fever (Mal d’archive)*

Taking the Literal Temperature of Digitization Efforts: Where are we now?

Philadelphia Museum of Art – 2,000 titles, including 1,100 auction catalogs from the John G. Johnson collection + museum images

Frick Art Reference Library- 2,000 Archival Items, 2,200 digitized print volumes, 75,000 photographs of works of art

 Metropolitan Museum of Art Watson Library – 4,100 books, 34,000 archival items

 Getty - 14,000 books, 180,000 photographs, 4,000 video & audio, 7,000 prints & drawings, .5 million archival items
% of Digitized Print Collections < 1%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>TOTAL VOLUMES</th>
<th>VOLUMES DIGITIZED</th>
<th>% DIGITIZED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frick Art Reference Library</td>
<td>321,000</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getty Research Institute</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Museum of Art</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Museum of Art</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,421,300</td>
<td>22,300</td>
<td>.9%</td>
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Types of materials being digitized

- Auction catalogs
- Gallery and Dealers’ catalogs and archives
- Artists’ society publications
- Artists’ letters and manuscripts
- Works of art, prints, photographs, scrapbooks
- Trade catalogs and pouchoirs
- Illustrated books and botanicals
- “Artists’ files”
- Catalogs of private and public art collections
- Exhibition invitations
- Rare books
- Arts periodicals
Digital Library: Art and Design

A History of Pop-up and Movable Books: 700 Years of Paper Engineering
Ellen G. K. Rubin discovered pop-up and movable books when she began reading them to her sons over 25 years ago. Today, she has more than 6,500...

Archive of African Artists
The National Museum of African Art Library maintains a fast-growing collection of more than 2,000 files on contemporary African artists. No other...

Czech Book Covers of the 1920's and 1930's in the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum Library
During the period between the two World Wars, the Czech art movement was a driving force in the world of design...

A Jules Verne Centennial: 1905 - 2005
The Smithsonian Institution Libraries is fortunate to have a few early editions of Verne's works with the original engraved illustrations which...

Art & Artist Files in the Smithsonian Libraries’ Collections
The Smithsonian artists' files are an exceptionally valuable resource for art historical research done on emerging regional and local artists and...

Deciphering the Archimedes Palimpsest and Creating Digital Manuscripts
William Noel, Curator of Manuscripts at the Walters Art Museum discusses conservation and imaging of the Archimedes Palimpsest.

An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in the Smithsonian Libraries
Throughout time, explorers have drawn readers to faraway places through stories and songs, maps and drawings, manuscripts and books. Their...

Celebrity Caricature: Selections from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries
In the late 1990’s the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery Library (AAPG Library) made a special effort to collect...

Doodles, Drafts & Designs: Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian
How do ideas evolve into reality? Doodles, Drafts, and Designs. Industrial Drawings from the Smithsonian offers a fascinating glimpse...
http://www.arthistoricum.net/en/subjects/sources/
“To take the metaphorical temperature of the level of digitization in the arts”

Getty Research Portal

Internet Archive

Hathi Trust

Google

DPLA

Silos
The only portal dedicated to digitized texts in art history

Search

Access digitized art history publications, rare books, and related literature.

Total Titles: 32,202

Recent Updates: 232 records added since April 1, 2014

New Contributors: Getty Publications Virtual Library, Smithsonian Libraries, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives
32,000 records
16 contributors

- Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University
- Frick Art Reference Library
- Getty Research Institute
- Heidelberg University Library
- Institut national d'histoire de l'art
- Biblioteca de la Universidad de Málaga
- Brooklyn Museum Libraries and Archives
- Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
- Library of the Philadelphia Museum of Art
- National Gallery of Canada Library and Archives
- New York Art Resources Consortium (Frick, Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Modern Art)
- Smithsonian Libraries
- Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute
- Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
Vincent van Gogh Exhibition

October Twenty-third
1920

Catalogue with Half-tone Reproductions and Color Plate
Price 75 Cents

MONTROSS GALLERY
350 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK
Showing 1 - 9 of 9 Results for all fields: entartete kunst

Subject
- Art, German (7)
- Art, German Exhibitions (4)
- National socialism and art (3)
- Art, German 20th century Exhibitions (2)
- National socialism and art Exhibitions (2)
- more...

Author
- Haus der Kunst München (2)
- Schuster, Peter-Klaus (2)
- Staatsgalerie Moderner Kunst (2)
- Arndt, Karl 1929- (1)
- Buderer, Hans-Jürgen (1)
- more...

Language
- German (9)
- Italian (1)

Place of Publication
- Germany (8)
- Italy (1)

Date of Publication
- 1930-1939 (2)
25% of the 225K items loaned or borrowed appear in Hathi Trust

Of the subset of 8K items represented as unique in WorldCat

FIVE were in Hathi Trust

ONE was openly available

*OCLC Research Preliminary Analysis of 22 Museum Libraries ILL Data 2007-2013. Dennis Massie, April 2014*
The importance of aggregators—can we ever aggregate the aggregators?

COPE: Create Once, Publish Everywhere
What remains to be done in GLAM community? Is it political?

Orphan works
Braver approach
Born Digital
Format Integration
Obstacles

• Funding – Institutional and Governmental
• Outmoded Copyright Laws
• Biased Copyright Laws
• No Mandatory Deposit
• Long Term Preservation
Opportunities

• Meet Scholars Where They Start

• Develop Discovery Tools

• Collections-Driven Scholarship

• Build Bridges Between Physical and Digital

• Online Exhibitions

• Contribute to Growing Corpus of Digital Art History

• Be Brave / Uphold Fair Use

• Demonstrate Use and Pursue Funding

• Collaborate
“Maybe we will have found a sweet spot that balances our allegiance to the printed book...and what will surely be a chiefly digital research environment; I hope that by then a good part of our unique material will have been let loose to the winds of the web in a beautiful, standardized form that can be discovered, processed, split and recombined in a myriad of ways I can’t imagine...”

Samuel Duncan, Library Director
Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX
Amon Carter OCLC Research Libraries Partners Round Robin Report, April 2014
Selected References


http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/675701

http://www.sr.ithaka.org/research-publications/supporting-changing-research-practices-art-historians

Thank you (and Andy Goldsworthy)