Digging into Digital Art History Data

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Beyond the Digitized Slide Library
Beyond the Digitized Slide Library
What is “digital art history”? 
Beyond the Digitized Slide Library

Digital approaches to investigating:

• Situating artists and art within specific geographical space
• Recreations of past places
• Movement of people, ideas, materials over time and space
• Hidden patterns in metadata about artwork that reveal new information
Beyond the Digitized Slide Library

Tools enabling these investigations:

• Gephi
• Palladio
• OpenRefine
• Mapping tools
• 3D modeling software
• Omeka
• WordPress
Beyond the Digitized Slide Library

Murtha Baca teaches art historians about metadata: “It doesn’t just get in there by magic!”
Beyond the Digitized Slide Library
We're all now getting slap happy and making jokes about data. #doingdah14
Few magazines can boast being continuously published for over a century, familiar and interesting to almost everyone, full of iconic pictures — and also completely digitized and marked up as both text and images. What can you do with over 2,700 covers, 400,000 pages, 6 TB of data? Students, librarians and faculty are excited about the possibilities of working with Vogue to explore questions in fields from gender studies to computer science. We highlight some early experiments below:

**Cover Averages**
See continuity and change across the decades.

**n-gram Search**
Search and compare word usage in 400,000+ pages within ads, articles, or all texts.

**Topic Modeling**
Self-organizing themes determined by word cooccurrence.

**Advertisements**
Sort ads by frequency, date, and industry.

**Statistics**
View figures on circulation, ratio of articles to advertisements, price per issue, and number of pages per year.

**Student Work**
See projects conducted by Yale students using this data.

Robots Reading Vogue is a joint project by Lindsay King (Public Services Librarian, Haas Arts Library) and Peter Leonard (Librarian for Digital Humanities Research).

Vogue material © Condé Nast 1892 – 2015.
Vogue Archive material © ProQuest LLC 2012 – 2015.
The “Art” topic in Vogue

Topic Modeling Vogue

Computer-generated topics use statistical methods to suggest themes that emerge from term cooccurrence — how often certain words appear close to one another.

The topics on this page were generated by a computer program which automatically “read” all of the articles ever published in Vogue, and grouped together those words which were clustered more frequently than a normal distribution would predict.

Click on the timeline displayed in each topic to see the highest-saturated articles for that year. Permalinks to articles will only resolve if your institution subscribes to the Vogue Archive.

“Art”
N-gram searches on artists’ names, comparing Vogue and the New York Times
The “Art” topic in Vogue, 1940s
**Vogue data in OpenRefine**

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Taking lessons back to the library

• Sharing knowledge of tools and approaches with scholars, alongside subject librarian role

• Connecting patrons to new DH Lab

• Library recognized as center of DH activity on campus