

Re: Q: digital image databases (N. Goldman)

H-ArtHist Redaktion

[4 replies]

[-1-]

From: Geert Souvereyns <geert.souvereyns@vlaamsekunstcollectie.be>

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 11:46

Dear madam Goldman,

I received your mail concerning digital image databases. At the moment I'm coordinating the creation of an image database to make accessible the collection of three art historical museums of Flanders: the Groeninge Museum in Bruges, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp and the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent. These three museums have formed a structural partnership, called "vlaamsekunstcollectie" (Flanders Art Collection). Each museum has its own electronic registration system, and we use the software program CollectionConnection to extract information of the three different systems and make this information searchable. Therefore the museums had to make agreements about the uniformity of description in certain fields of the "mother" databases. We followed as much as possible international standards of description for the most important fields ("Dublin Core-fields").

The project is still in progress. You can see a first and still very modest presentation on www.vlaamsekunstcollectie.be. In the future this site will also be available in English.

The advantage of CollectionConnection is that it can extract information from different collection registration systems and make it accessible in online catalogues and virtual exhibitions. In this way it's possible to create different presentations with different partners (museums).

For Flanders Art Collection, it was the perfect solution, as each museum could keep its own registration system and didn't have to do a (mostly very time-consuming) conversion. More information about CollectionConnection, you can find on www.collectionconnection.nl.

Sincerely,

Geert Souvereyns

Coordination vlaamsekunstcollectie
Gent
Belgium

[-2-]

From: Miriam Paeslack <miriam@ga-ga.org>

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2005 11:19

Dear Natasha,

My department is in the process of becoming a member of the German based digital image database PROMETHEUS.

This is a free database that relies on the contribution of digitised images (of a specifically determined standard, i.e. resolution, size, information given with the image, source, etc.) by its members (museums, galleries, art schools, universities). However, your department can also become member, if you are not able to provide digital images yourself. It currently holds about 150.000 images and is fast growing. Check out the website for further details:

www.prometheus-bildarchiv.de

Contact:

Dr. Holger Simon

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<http://www.h-simon.info>

<http://www.prometheus-bildarchiv.de>

While teaching in the USA my college was also considering the use of a digital database called ARTStore. This is a commercial site (for teaching), initiated by the Mellon Foundation and currently containing ca. 300.000 images. They are going to expand their holdings of modern and contemporary art as soon as copyright questions are resolved.

Contact person at ARTStore is:

Javanica Curry

Library Relations Assistant

ARTstor

149 Fifth Avenue, 8th Floor

New York, NY 10010

Telephone: 212-358-6400

Fax: 212-358-6499

www.artstor.org

participation@artstor.org

Both programs provide for a display-program similar to power point, with features such as the option for showing two or three images at the same time or detail enlargement. It is hard to compare both databases since ARTstor is a much larger and commercial undertaking whereas PROMETHEUS is basically a non-profit for teaching and educational purposes.

I would be very interested in hearing about your experiences with Portfolio 7, MDID, and Re:Discovery and your general considerations choosing a database.

Sincerely,

Dr. Miriam Paeslack
Bild- und Kulturwissenschaften/Visual- and Cultural Studies
Hochschule fuer Grafik und Buchkunst/Academy of Visual Arts
Leipzig

[-3-]

From: Hubertus Kohle <Hubertus.Kohle@lrz.uni-muenchen.de>

Date: Mon, 7 Mar 2005 08:25

Dear Natasha Goldman,
this is a wide field. I have just one advice: take an open source database, if you do not want to become dependent on exclusive solutions!
Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Hubertus Kohle
Institut für Kunstgeschichte der LMU
München

[-4-]

From: Rupert Shepert <rupert@ferrara.u-net.com>

Date: Mon, 07 Mar 2005 09:54

Not quite what Dr Goldman is asking for, but the information about different image systems on the website of the Technical Advisory Service for Images, aimed specifically at Higher Education institutions, may be useful.

Follow the links from

<http://www.tasi.ac.uk/advice/delivering/delivering.html>

Best wishes,
Rupert Shepherd

Reference:

Q: Re: Q: digital image databases (N. Goldman). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 8, 2005 (accessed Jul 3, 2025),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/27043>>.