

Digital imaging and art history

Rupert Shepherd

Digital imaging and art history - request for information

The Arts and Humanities Data Service (Visual Arts) is running a one-year research project which aims to map advanced digital imaging technologies to the needs of researchers in the visual arts. The project is called The Hunt for Submarines in Classical Art. It is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and based at the Farnham campus of the University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester.

You can have your say about art historians- needs by filling in the online questionnaire at <http://www.vads.ahds.ac.uk/submarines-ah.html>.

Whilst the benefits of digital imaging in the fields of conservation and scientific analysis have been apparent for some time, the advantages that digital imaging can bring to other forms of art-historical research are less well-known. For many researchers, it is very difficult to find out about the latest technologies, and how to secure access to them. Equally, scientists may well develop technologies which could benefit research, but be completely unaware of how researchers could exploit them. The project aims to bridge this gap by producing a report and a database which will make a series of connections between these two spheres.

If you are a researcher in art history or a related field (e.g. design history, history of architecture, etc.), we would like to hear from you, whether or not you use digital imaging technologies in your research, and whether or not you think it might help you in your research in the future - it will be just as important for us to know that there are no art historical needs as it will be to know that there are many.

All the data we receive will be anonymous, unless you decide to tell us your name and e-mail address so that we can send you news of the project's findings, or let you know if we come across any technologies which we think might help you. We will not use the addresses we gather for any other purpose, although we may use comments submitted in our report and other material, where they will remain anonymous. We may also share anonymous comments with the Methods Network, <http://www.methodsnetwork.ac.uk>,

who are working on similar issues.

For more information about the project as a whole, please go to <http://www.ahds.ac.uk/visualarts/projects/submarines/>.

Thank you for your time - we look forward to reading your thoughts!

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Reference:
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