Abstracts for Art Documentation 29.2 (Fall 2010)

4

The Philadelphia on Stone Collaboration: Eight Institutions' Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia Lithograph Collections Reevaluated, Cataloged, and Digitized

Erika Piola

In 2007, the Library Company of Philadelphia embarked on *Philadelphia on Stone* (POS), a three-year collaborative project funded by the William Penn Foundation that examined the first fifty years of commercial lithography in Philadelphia from 1828 to 1878. The project studied the impact of this new method of printmaking on the iconography of Philadelphia by exploring the lives of local lithographic artists and printers and the work they produced during a period of tremendous growth and change for the city. POS culminated in a digital catalog, an online biographical dictionary of lithographers, an exhibition, and an illustrated volume of thematic essays. This article outlines the components of POS in the framework of new insights garnered about early lithography in Philadelphia and its importance for visual culture scholarship.

14

Parchment to Pixel: The Walters Islamic Manuscript Digital Project

Diane Bockrath, Christopher Case, Elizabeth Rusch Fetters, and Heidi Herr

The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, is nearing completion of an initiative to digitize its Islamic manuscripts—a collection comprised of 128 codices and sixty single leaves, dating from the ninth to the nineteenth centuries and containing extraordinary treasures from the world of Islamic art and calligraphy. The project seeks to create full digital surrogates of the entire collection, capturing preservation-quality, high-resolution digital images, providing appropriate metadata, and making the results available at no charge online under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike 3.0 license. This article details the processes and procedures behind the ambitious plan and offers critical analysis of the role the project will play in the collective digital management of visual resources.

21
Scholarly Electronic Publishing in Art History: Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide

Deborah K. Ultan Boudewyns

This article, based on an in-person interview between the author and art history professor, co-founder, and reviews editor of *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*, Gabriel Weisberg, reports on the online journal *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture* (http://19thc-artworldwide.org/) and recommends it as a model scholarly electronic publication in the history of art. The journal provides a cutting-edge format that may influence the shape of academic publishing behavior, attitudes of faculty, and new possibilities for libraries. Throughout the interview, the author and Weisberg jointly discuss the most recent directions in scholarly communications and open-access journal publishing, placing this model journal in context with the future of academic publishing and the imminent shifts in libraries concerning the administration and presentation of open-access content.

27
Subversion and Democratization: Some Early and Important Contemporary Artists' Publications in the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries' Collection

Melanie Emerson

Beginning in the mid-twentieth century, artists began to see the book (and serial publications) as a viable avenue to explore artistic concepts. These publications were more readily available and easily circulated to a broader audience than the traditional venues of art exhibition. Inexpensive modes of reproduction and major changes within the art world during the 1950s and 1960s gave rise to notions of the democratization of art. By examining some pivotal examples of artists' publications in the collection of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago, the author considers the subversive nature of the format.

36
Caught in the Middle: Thoughts and Observations on the Information Needs of Art Museum Docents

Alba Fernández-Keys

The information needs of art museum docents are explored through the results of a docent survey and conversations with museum education staff members. The author outlines a number of issues to consider when serving this user group and describes practical applications for docent training that were adopted by the Indianapolis Museum of Art Library.

40
Goya/Not Goya: A Professional Research Collaboration Between the Art Librarian, Conservator, and Registrar at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

Linda R. McKee and Michelle Scalera

In 1930, John Ringling purchased the Goya painting *Portrait of the Duchess of Alba.* Problematic in attribution, provenance, and condition, the painting is an excellent test case to highlight research performed by art librarians and how their research assists other professionals at a museum. This article considers the importance of presentations to different types of audiences to emphasize the roles of and collaboration among professional librarians, conservators, and registrars. The Ringling presentations focused on museum and library ethics, modern methods in registration, conservation, archives, the art library, museum technology, and the history of a painting's provenance and collectors.

44
Information Behaviors of Deaf Artists

Debra Schiff

This article examines information behavior through the lens of deaf culture. Specifically, one subsector of the deaf population—artists—is the focal point of this work. While there are many deaf artists whose information behavior is well worth studying, the deaf artists discussed here are those whose art is made with the intention of commenting on deaf culture and experience. What kind of information behavior characterizes deaf populations, specifically those of deaf-culture artists? This question is addressed via an examination of the literature available on that population and the literature on human information behavior.

48
The Value of Architecture and Design Branch Libraries: A Case Study

Jeff Alger

The viability of branch libraries has been debated since long before the turn of the twentieth century. Arguments for both sides run rampant in the literature into the 1990s with neither side making a convincing argument in its favor. This study examines a representative sampling of the literature covering branch libraries in general, then focuses on branch libraries at institutions with accredited programs in architecture, and concludes with an examination of the use of the materials in the NA call number range at Iowa State University. As with other professional programs, such as law and medicine, the author recommends branch libraries located in close proximity for architecture programs when possible.

53

Video Tutorials in Academic Art Libraries: A Content Analysis and Review

Eamon Tewell

Combining the informative nature of library tutorials with the interactivity of online video, video tutorials and screencasts have become recognized as an effective way to provide instruction in an engaging manner. The visual nature of video makes the medium highly appropriate at institutions serving visual arts researchers, who regularly seek images for edification. This article examines the availability and quality of video tutorials among 290 academic libraries serving arts students, finding that 48 percent of institutions include instructional videos on their Web sites. Increased tutorial development on diverse topics using varied recording methods is recommended based on the results.

63

Rock the CASBAH: CalArts' Student Behaviors and Habits

Jeff Gatten and Mike Bryant

Adapting the qualitative methodologies from *Studying Students: The UndergraduateResearch Project at the University of Rochester*, the CalArts' Student Behaviors and Habits (CASBAH) project undertook to learn more holistically about the behaviors of art school students. The research question was simply, "How do students in an artistic and nontraditional setting view and act on the process of discovery?" The study utilized faculty interviews, student interviews, poster surveys, photo surveys, online surveys, and focus groups. The authors learned that art students expect to create their own individualized information-seeking paradigm, one that will not impose an external artistic perspective and may be nonlinear.

70

Authority Work Beyond the Comfort Zone: Techniques and Resources

Julia Wisniewski

When language and subject-specialist catalogers are absent—retired, resigned, or just never in the budget—what can the nonspecialist do about authority work? "Nothing" may be the safest answer. Yet it may be possible to create name authority records for names in languages one does not know, and to propose subject headings for unfamiliar topics. The author does not devalue expertise, but suggests what a prudent cataloger, building on existing strengths, can achieve. Various thought processes and resources are discussed. The article concludes with an annotated list of online resources.