

Digital Facsimiles and the Modern Viewer:
Medieval Manuscripts and Archival Practice in
the Age of New Media



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ARLIS/NA Annual Conference
Washington DC
May 4, 2014



∞ (image of medieval manuscript double page spread)

The Physical Object



- ❧ Unique marks create visual layers that reveal the object's process of aging
- ❧ i.e. notes in the margins, food stains, fingerprints, etc.
- ❧ Personal connections are made through physical interaction
- ❧ Restricted access due to preservation concerns

Access



∞ Institutional hierarchies

∞ Book versus artifact

∞ Personal collection versus institutional collection

A decorative gold frame with intricate patterns surrounds the text. The frame has a wide, ornate border with repeating motifs. The text 'Art' is centered within the frame on a white background.

Art

Virtuality



- ❧ Solution to access is digitization
- ❧ Remote access = new research
- ❧ Digital surrogate reveals evidence of technical construction rather than the manufacture of the physical object
- ❧ Varying processes of aging



(image of medieval manuscript)

The Object Outside of the Archival Frame



- ❧ Few tangible limitations
- ❧ Creation of personal digital collections
- ❧ New uses and new users



❧ (image of medieval manuscript)