

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Creating and preserving collections: Collaborative projects across organizational lines — *Bethany Davis*, Digital Processing Coordinator Librarian, University of Iowa Libraries and *Sarah Luko*, Registrarial Assistant, University of Iowa Museum of Art

The University of Iowa Libraries (UI Libraries) and Museum of Art (UIMA) have a history of working together as stewards of cultural heritage collections within a research university. During the spring and summer 2015, the UI Libraries and UIMA collaborated on a project to stabilize and digitize four oversize bound volumes of 18th century Giovanni Battista Piranesi prints. Sarah Luko, the UIMA's collection management assistant, studied at the University of Iowa Center for the Book and trained in the UI Libraries' conservation lab. For this project she stabilized and treated the Piranesi volumes in the conservation lab as part of her UIMA collection care work prior to digitization at the UI Libraries. The physical volumes and digital images were then featured in UIMA exhibitions, and the images are scheduled to be part of an online resource for print scholarship. By leveraging existing staffs' expertise and the UI Libraries' on-site conservation facility, the UIMA avoided the costs of outsourced conservation treatment, loss of access to materials during conservation, and shipment of valuable collection materials. It illustrates the rationale, workflow, and outcomes of the Piranesi project as an example of the UI Libraries and UIMA's working relationship.