

Faculty Innovator Grant, 2005

FINAL REPORT

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Project Title: (10 words or less)	Digital Images for the Teaching of Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture

Project Description

In spring 2005, a team of five full- and part-time faculty in the Art History Program proposed that faculty innovator grant monies be used to purchase two site licenses for digital images related to the delivery of post-Renaissance content in the following courses:

- ARTH 121A: Introduction to the Visual Arts (N. Shelton)
- ARTH 212: Renaissance and Modern Art (A. Whelan)
- ARTH 323: Nineteenth-Century European Art (L. McGreevy)
- ARTH 350W: Art Criticism (F. Bayersdorfer)
- ARTH 351W: Research Methods in Art History (R. Wojtowicz)
- ARTH 435W/535: Modern Architecture (R. Wojtowicz)
- ARTH 495/595: Topics: Art of World's Fairs (L. McGreevy, R Wojtowicz)

Slightly more than one-third of the monies were to be used in employing a student hourly worker to assist with the accessioning of the images into the Art Department's database with the remainder to be used toward the site licenses' purchase. The budget for the proposal was projected as follows:

\$1200.00 Davis Art Slides Perpetual Site License (approx. 240 images @ \$5.00 apiece)
 \$1000.00 Archivision Perpetual Site License (approx. 250 images @ \$4.00 apiece)
 \$0800.00 student hourly (approx.\$8.40 per hour X 9.5 hours per week X 10 weeks)

\$3000.00 Total

The expanded database of digital images was intended to benefit the Department's majors and minors, as well as students enrolled in the Department's general education program. Approximately 400 students per academic year would be the beneficiaries of the grant. In addition, the images were intended to support the transition of ARTH 435W/535 from a traditional format to an on-line format in fall 2005. It should be noted that, due to scheduling conflicts, ARTH 495/595 was not offered in fall 2005.

Project Implementation

The faculty team was awarded a \$3,000 grant in spring 2005. It was decided by the team that the most effective use of the monies would be for the purchase of images, since the Department could add funds to the student hourly pool. Subsequently, the monies were divided as follows:

\$1956.00 Davis Art Slides Perpetual Site License (3260 images @ \$6.00 apiece)

\$0853.00 Archivision Perpetual Site License (338 images @ \$2.52 apiece)

\$0191.00 student hourly (@ approx.\$8.40 per hour = 22.7 hours)

\$3000.00 Total

Images were selected from the suppliers' on-line catalogues according to their relevance to the abovementioned courses. The holdings were significantly expanded in twentieth-century architecture, nineteenth- and twentieth-century photography, twentieth-century decorative arts, and twentieth-century painting and sculpture. Two examples appear below:



Hood and Howells, Tribune Building, Chicago, detail of upper levels, 1922 (Archivision)



Louis Comfort Tiffany, Champagne Glass, 1904 (Davis Art Slides)

Having earlier purchased a large site license from the Saskia Group, the Department was able to negotiate the agreements with Davis and Archivision with relative ease. A student enrolled in the Department's Visual Studies Joint Graduate Program was hired to assist the visual resources curator with the accessioning of the images. Each image took approximately 5-10 minutes to accession. The project was completed in stages, with the majority of the images accessioned by December 2005. In May 2006, the last of the images was fully accessioned. Images have been utilized by course instructors as they have been made available on-line. ARTH 435W/5353 is currently being revised to accommodate the new images.

Project Outcomes

With the new, high-quality digital images in the classroom, instructors have been able to teach more effectively in their areas of expertise. Several of the instructors have been loading the images on Blackboard for their students' use outside of the classroom. Because more time was required than estimated for the accessioning of the images, it was not possible to make them available to advanced students or for the Program to conduct a survey of their quality. The team will meet in September 2006 to discuss the

project's overall effectiveness and ways in which it might be fine-tuned and expanded. The team will also explore possible external funding sources.

Through the Commonwealth's Equipment Trust Fund (ETF), the Department has purchased its own server, and OCCS has agreed to maintain it. Delivery of the server is expected in June 2006. Eventually, the database will migrate to a new delivery system developed at James Madison University that is known as the Madison Digital Image Database (MDID). This delivery system is available to all educational institutions free of charge, and it provides a more facile user interface than Lotus Notes.