

IDIR Report to LMC (February 21, 2007)

Summary of major program requirements, recommendations, accomplishments, and further objectives.

Faculty Program Requirements:

- Significant image content at levels near or beyond those of a large slide or photograph collection
- Tools that are easy to learn and use
- An image delivery and management system adaptable to individual teaching styles
- Portability and re-purposing of images and metadata
- Development of an image repository reflective of a diversity of content sources that can be shared and integrated effectively and efficiently
- Metadata improvement, enrichment, and a more flexible response to what might be called *intellectual processing*—more stakeholder participation in and control over their information environment and how its organized

VRC Program Requirements:

- Building a staff responsive to and capable of delivering a blended service for technology and content-based support
- Planning for and supporting a shift in emphasis from processing to project management and service delivery
- Finding different ways/different people to perform basic data entry and file management enabling VR staff to perform more innovative collection building and metadata project management and organizing functions as their primary activities

Major IDIR Recommendations:

- Creating an Image Commons (Art and Architecture) with a base of at least 250,000 images that will act as the primary gateway to digital image content for the arts and provide a core teaching resource, and commit to building, maintaining and delivering the Image Commons in response to current and future faculty teaching and research based on a quality resource consisting of shared personal and institutional content (locally created and vendor purchased) integrated and organized to optimize searching and re-purposing of digital information.
- Planning for current and future uses as well as the content and infrastructure development of the Image Commons as a research, as well as a teaching, resource within the arts disciplines and as a broad-based, multi-purpose resource for the Yale community

- Making content discovery as easy as possible and support it with staff who are deeply knowledgeable about digital image resources in the arts, as well as their associated tools and features
- Creating a working partnership among Library ILTS, the Arts Library, and AM+T ensuring a team approach to service delivery
- Conducting research and development on “next generation” digital image tools and as possible, implement improvements, including continuing to develop and integrate the cyberinfrastructure for a comprehensive interaction of multiple systems and services
- Providing staff with technical support training in the digital image tools currently supported by the Library and the University, and enable them to assist faculty and students not only in the use of these tools but in making the best choices among them
- Conducting on-going assessment and evaluation of services and tools, especially in terms of deeply and thoroughly understanding how faculty use digital images in teaching, and what is most important to them in terms of promoting their personal teaching styles <and here we may profitably build on the pioneering work done through the ELI and Davis programs>
- Including faculty and students from outside the arts to ensure that IDIR development is relevant to their needs also
- Developing metadata processes that allow for collaborative cataloging within the Yale community (alternate tagging, annotation, emendation, etc.) and with other visual resources staff (shared cataloging with other institutions)

Accomplishments to date:

- Appointment of an IDIR Faculty Advisory Committee by the Provost (March 2006)
- Preparation and approval of a budget for a VRC digitization project and archiving the slide and photograph collections (budget approved January 2007)
- Finalizing the RFP and implementing the digital conversion of 50% of the VRC through DPIP (currently ongoing) ***Image Commons Core Teaching Collection Digitization Project*** (March 2007-June 2008)
- Planning for the move of the physical collections. (currently ongoing) ***LSF Transfer Project*** (March 2007-August 2008)
- Developing and delivering the IDIR Plan for Transforming Visual Resources. (to be delivered shortly)
- Creating and managing an online database (available through Insight and the DL) of now over 85,000 art, architecture, and related images available to the Yale community via the campus network.

- Special collection content development include
 - a major initiative for Asian art (the VRC is the recipient of a three-year Council on East Asian Studies grant for a dedicated staff position)
 - comprehensive digitization of VRC slides relating to European graphic arts (now around 10,000 digital images)
 - Loading 5,000 images from a faculty-created database supporting a survey course on the history of photography
- DPIP projects:
 - Yale Department of Classics Collection (DPIP project) now with over 2,500 images in a special DL/Insight collection cross-searchable with the VRC collection
 - Through an Hellenic Studies Program grant, last summer we were able to catalog and load over 7,000 images relating to Byzantine and allied arts
- This fall, the Library, through its DPIP Consulting Services, made available in the VRC a trial consultation service. Karen Kupiec or George Ouellette are in the VRC two hours daily offering on-site technical support for History of Art faculty through drop-in or by-appointment consultations.
- This fall semester, the ITG group offered a trial last-minute (same-day) scanning service for instructors in the History of Art. The program will continue next year under the joint management of Media Services and the VRC, as an example of how to ensure that a popular service started on a small scale can then be sustained and scaled.
- Since the fall, Katie Bauer, the Usability Librarian has been engaged in a series of strategic usability and assessment interviews with faculty in the History of Art department. These conversations will continue and over time extend to students and faculty in other departments.
- This summer ILTS and AM+T staff conducted a training program for VRC staff on the tools we currently support: Luna Insight, DL, Extensis Portfolio (an image management system popular with faculty), PowerPoint, ARTstor Offline Viewer.
- We have developed a close working partnership with DPIP and one of the most important collaborations has been consultation services on the workflow, processes and output of the VRC.
- An Art Metadata Task Force was established in December, 2006. The purpose of the task force is to advise, consult and make recommendations on current metadata practices in the VRC, the most efficient and effective methods to integrate and coordinate institutional and personal collection metadata, and to consider the possibilities for “next-generation” uses of metadata in aid of searching and scholarship. A report is due this spring.

Further objectives:

- Continuing to identify and integrate image management and delivery tools working with ILTS, CMI (Classes v2) and ITG.
- Communicating about and consulting on a collection strategy and policy to integrate image collection resources, including personal and departmental collections (e.g. Classics), working with Integrated Library Technology Services, Collection Development Council, and holders of 'special' image collections.
- Recommending and implementing a service plan for integrated digital visual resources and increasing stakeholder and staff awareness of digital image resources and services, working with Public Services Management Council, the Arts Library, and ITG.
- Establishing intellectual property best practices (drawing from the work of ELI program, the Visual Resources Association and the College Art Association, and others) and working through the Provost's Digital Landscape Committee
- Expanding a faculty and student user needs assessment program/etc working with Library Usability Program and ELI program