Democratization, Scale, and Emergent Technologies: Case Studies from the Princeton University Art Museum

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Facts & Figures

1746 Princeton University chartered

1882 Museum and Department of Art & Archaeology formed

1900 Graduate School established

≈ 5,200 undergraduate  ≈ 2,600 graduate  ≈ 1,100 faculty
The Museum’s Encyclopedic Collection

92,000+ works of art

<6% or ≈ 3000 works on view at any given time in the galleries

<10% or ≈ 9000 publically accessible online

Luca di Tommè, Italian, fl. 1356 - 1389

Madonna and Child, 14th century
Tempera on wood panel, 80.7 x 52 x 5 cm
Gift of Bernard Berenson, y1

First accessioned work of art
Strategic Planning

Providing universal digital access to the entirety of the Museum’s collections was articulated by every Museum constituent group - with or without images and with or without curatorial-approved data.

**Faculty Survey found**
- 57.4% use the website to access collections information
- 37% search the website to select works of art for class

**Staff Survey found**
- Improved physical and digital access to the collections is critical
- A more effective search to access the collection is crucial
Strategic Objective

Making the collections and exhibitions accessible to students, scholars, and visitors of all kinds

*We will increase access to the Museum and its resources for teaching, research, and engagement by expanding and enhancing physical and virtual access to the collections, investing in information technologies, increasing the visibility and impact of our collections and exhibitions, and by making targeted improvements to the current facility.*

What does this mean?

Current Practice
A work of art is published on the Museum’s website if it has an image and when it has been approved by a curator.

Strategic Mandate
All accessioned works of art with or without an image and regardless of whether or not the data has been approved by a curator will be published on our website.

How?

- Provide access to all existing research and scholarship
- Refine the search interface
- Increase subject cataloguing to further enhance search functionality
- Provide tools for teaching, research, and knowledge sharing
- Develop a sustainable methodology for online publishing of all works of art with full identifying information, digital images, and all available scholarship
When?

Approximately 47,800 works of art will be published to the Museum’s website by the end of 2014.

Greek, *Double mask*, Terracotta
h. 5.6 cm., w. 4.6 cm., d. 4.8 cm.
y1964-125
Pros and Cons?

Providing full digital access to the Museum collections is a vital resource for Princeton students, faculty, and the public. Robust digital access will foster the practice of object-based scholarship with original works of art and make Princeton’s collections available to the world.

The Museum is a critical intellectual and cultural gateway to the University. Providing access to its collections is significant in enabling deeper levels of engagement.

Late Preclassic, Ameca-Etzatlán, Plateau with eleven figures, 200 B.C.– A.D. 100
Ceramic, h. 15.5 cm., w. 36.5 cm., d. 15.0 cm.,
Gift of Gillett G. Griffin, y1984-22, Photo: Bruce M. White
Claude Monet, French, 1840–1926

*Water Lilies and Japanese Bridge*, 1899, Oil on canvas, 90.5 x 89.7 cm.

From the Collection of William Church Osborn, Class of 1883, trustee of Princeton University (1914-1951), president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1941-1947); given by his family, y1972-15
Amedeo Modigliani, Livorno 1884–1920 Paris

Jean Cocteau, 1916
Oil on canvas
100.4 x 81.3 cm. (39 1/2 x 32 in.)
frame: 113.7 x 94.5 x 7.6 cm. (44 3/4 x 37 1/4 in.)
The Henry and Rose Pearlman Collection
photo: Bruce M. White
L.1988.62.18

## Reaching our Audiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Onsite Yearly visitors</th>
<th>121,000+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Yearly visitors</td>
<td>200,000+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook fans</td>
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<tr>
<td>YouTube most watched video – 2,793 views</td>
<td>installation of George Segal’s Circus Acrobats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of Admission</td>
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