Resources

A brief look at electronic image databases, local digital collections, and Internet image resources

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Image Databases

- Digital libraries of images with links to scholarly information
- Complex searching capabilities made available through descriptive metadata
- Almost universally high quality image standards
- Restricted access to licensed users only
Image Databases: ARTstor

- Curated collections of digital art images and associated data for noncommercial and scholarly, non-profit educational use
- Quickly becoming one of the more comprehensive resources for visual arts research
Image Databases: AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive

Searchable primary source collection of about 700,000 news photos with captions which represents the entire range of AP’s reporting, including

– Worldwide news, current events, politics, business, sports, entertainment, human interest, and more
– Growing collection of audio and multimedia resources
Online Digital Collections

• The movement toward digitization of rare and specialized materials has provided new ways for users to access those materials freely on the Internet.

• Institutions are making available both textual and visual materials to users.
Online Digital Collections: VCU Special Collections and Archives

One example of an emerging collection of digitized images, text, video, and audio

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Online Digital Collections: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

• More than 6,500 works of art from the Met’s permanent collection are available
• High resolution digital images of the Met’s objects can be downloaded free of charge from ARTstor for scholarly publishing
Internet Image Resources

- Extreme ease of use makes the Internet continuously viable as a resource
- Care must be taken in regards to image quality and copyright of materials used
  - Does it fall under fair use?
Internet Image Resources: Artcyclopedia

- A growing Internet metasite with over 95,000 links to an estimated 180,000 artworks
- Attempts to highlight image use guidelines for the sites to which it links
Internet Image Resources: Flickr

- User Indexing: “Share and organize images your way”
- Less a place to find ‘scholarly’ visual sources than a user-centered medium to virtually browse for visual inspiration
- [Creative Commons Library](#) – images available for non commercial purposes if you attribute the original artist
Finally

• The resources for visual information are as vast as those for textual.
• Information professionals need to familiarize themselves with the growing array of resources available to their users.
• Ask a colleague for their favorite resource.
• Click on any of the images in this presentation for more information.
Image Captions

2. Jacob Lawrence, *The Library*, 1960, from Artchive
3. ARTstor
4. AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive
6. Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, VA, 1913, from VCU Libraries Special Collections, Rarely Seen Richmond
7. The Metropolitan Museum of Art
8. Google Image Search
9. Artcyclopedia
10. Anuncios publicados en las revistas, “*Clinica Rural*” y “*Glosa*”, 1950-70, from Flickr [Spanish Pharmaceutical Posters]

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