From Wunderkammer to eResources
Digital Content in Art & Architecture at NYPL

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Overview of NYPL

- In current location since 1911. Collections based on 19th century collections of Astor, Lennox and Tilden, whose foundation built the building at 42nd and Fifth Avenue.

- 4 research centers.
- 88 branches

- 51.3 million items in collections
- More than 18 million visits to system per year
- More than 28 million circs in last fiscal year

- The Miriam and Ira Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs holds 580,000 research volumes, 300,000 prints and 400,000 photographs. Three curators manage a staff of 17 professionals and specialists.

- Scope of the art and architecture research collection includes the broad sweep of Art and Architectural History, European and American painting, drawing, and sculpture, as well as architecture. Deep strengths in painting and decorative arts. Related subject strengths include fashion, 18th and 19th century decorative art, and the arts of Latin America. Collected primarily in Western languages, and, more recently, some Russian, Japanese and Chinese.

eOverview

Ebook budgets

FY 2013: 1,745,887.20
FY 2012: $1,012,000
FY 2011: $840,000.00

Ebook circulation

FY 2013 (July 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013): 997,184 [an increase of 248%]!!
FY 2012: 826,402
FY 2011: 401,022

Unique titles in the eNYPL collection

FY 2013 (July 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013): 49,916 [40% increase over FY 2012]
FY 2012: 42,866
FY 2011: 40,022

Challenges of eBook and digital collections

- All institutions, large and small, are in "same boat", e.g., this is a new field; all are finding way, discovering usage and access patterns; new audience; no union eCatalog; digital publishing industry is more fragmented than print/paper publishing industry

- Tracking use in order to understand how eCollection is used as compared to print--is there a difference?

- Provision of new titles: A recent cooperative agreement with US' 6 largest publishers: Random House, Harper Collins, MacMillan, Penguin Group, Simon & Schuster, and Hachette allows library distribution of current & popular titles. Agreement allows provision of multiple copies of single works, just as a print copy. That is, NYPL might buy 300 licenses for the latest J. K. Rowling. Terms vary among the six publishers, but as one reader finishes, the book is made available to the next in the queue.

- Academic and research use. Library is trying to discover how use of digital materials varies in the NYPL setting from, for example, an undergraduate institution. NYPL research users seem to tend to favor paper copies, unlike users in an academic (especially undergraduate) environment.

Digital content provided by NYPL

- Provision of shared content. NYPL provides access to Project Muse <http://muse.jhu.edu/about/UPCC.html>, University Press Scholarship Online, HATHI Trust, Google (NYPL currently providing 4000-5000 volumes to Google annually). Internet Archive is also capturing materials provided by NYPL via HATHI.

- Creation of content. NYPL digital creation still heavily image-based. The Digital Gallery <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org> ; NYPL Digital TUMBL <http://nypl-diu.tumblr.com/> ; online exhibitions <http://www.nypl.org/events/online-exhibitions>; NYPL will soon provide access to thumbnail images (300 pixels on long side) of all digital images we own (1.5 million) whether in or out of copyright; DPLA <http://dp.la/> <http://dp.la/partners> NYPL providing image content to DPLA.

Digital content in Art & Architecture

- Primarily provided via aggregators and eResource providers, e.g., Oxford, JStor, Project Muse, etc.
- Greater portion of digital content in A&A is in serial format
- Addition of eBooks at much slower rate. Some added as part of larger resource, e.g., Berg Fashion Library <http://www.bergfashionlibrary.com/page/encyclopedia/-berg-encyclopedia-of-world-dress-and-fashion>.

- A&A provides access to 94 eResources http://www.nypl.org/collections/articles-databases?subject=580&location=&audience=&language=&keyword=&limit=; (of the total of 677 at NYPL http://www.nypl.org/collections/articles-databases.
- Recently added AKL < http://www.degruyter.com/view/serial/35700>; exploring addition of Design Inform < http://www.designinform.co.uk/>.
- TUMBLR <http://artprintsphotographsnypl.tumblr.com/>.
- FaceBook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-Prints-and-Photographs-Collections-of-the-NYPL/213023842053451

Summary

The forgone above are simply "talking points", that is, a list of facts I want to share about the electronic and digital programs and content of the New York Public Library.

I believe the most salient point that I have reached in this process is the following:

- The process of the creation and provision of digital content in the formal disciplines of Art and Art History is occurring at a much slower rate than in other fields. This, in great part, is due to the heavy reliance upon images in these studies, which is further impeded by copyright and publishing standards.

- This begs the following questions: **What is available? What will be available in the near future? Distant future? And, what is most predictably not going to be digitized anytime soon?**

- Given the above, what is the role of the international community of art and architecture librarians as use of collections is increasingly driven by presumed electronic access? How do we promote and protect those parts of collections that are less likely to ever see the *electronic light of day*?