Building a Large Scale Digitization Program at the Archives of American Art

UNNC Chapel Hill
March 12, 2009

Moving from Projects to a Program: The Sustainability of Large-Scale Digitization of Manuscript Collections Symposium
Barbara Aikens aikens@si.edu
Karen Weiss weissk@si.edu
Toby Reiter reitert@si.edu
Overview of Presentation

- Introduction to *Collections Online*
- Background on the Archives’ approach to large-scale digitization
- Building the technical infrastructure
- Implementing and sustaining large scale digitization as part of the archival workflow
- Questions and discussion
About the Archives of American Art

- Founded in 1954 in Detroit
- Original goal to locate and microfilm primary resources on American art; not to collect and preserve originals
- Immediately offered donations of papers
- Became part of the Smithsonian in 1970
- AAA currently holds approx. 6,000 collections - 15,000 linear ft; 2,000 oral history interviews
- [http://www.aaa.si.edu](http://www.aaa.si.edu)
Collections Online: Large Scale Digitization at the Archives of American Art
http://www.aaa.si.edu/collectionsonline

- Entire collection vs. selected items
- As of March 2009, 67 collections; 450 linear ft.; 600,000 digital files
- Built upon fundamental archival approaches
Fully Digitized Collection Homepage

Oscar Bluemner Papers

This site provides access to the papers of Oscar Bluemner in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2006. The papers have been scanned in their entirety and total 13,826 images.

The papers of painter Oscar Bluemner date from 1856 to 1939, with one item from 1960, and measure 6.6 linear feet. The collection documents Bluemner’s career as a painter through scattered biographical material, personal and professional correspondence, paintings and theory diaries, extensive writings and notes about his artwork, painting procedures, and art theory, annotated books and catalogues, exhibition catalogues, news clippings, and other printed material. The collection also contains a large amount of artwork by Bluemner especially among his art motifs and travel sketches. Also found are photographs of artwork and architecture. Read more About this Collection.

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.
Collections Online: Basic Approach

- All descriptive metadata derived from the EAD finding aid
- Access to the digitized documents is through folder level access instead of item level access.
- Box and folder listing forms the file structure for the scanning technician to save the digital files, as well as the primary descriptive metadata for discovery of the digital files.
- In house Digital Collections Database’s Finding Aid Table contains the XML data; dynamically driven web presentation + image viewer
- Internal web based workflow support
Terra Foundation For American Art Digitization Grant

- 2005 – Archives of American Art was the first grantee of the Terra Foundation for American Art. Terra’s mission:

  To help create a worldwide community for American art presentation, research, and interpretation, the foundation is dedicated to facilitating partnerships and communication and to increasing accessibility to needed scholarly resources.

http://www.terraamericanart.org
Terra Grant Proposal

Requested funding to:
- Replace microfilming
- Support team of processing archivists, digital imaging technicians, programmer/web developer
- Purchase scanning equipment
- Digitize and provide access to 106 significant collections
- Total digitized: approx. 1,000 linear feet (150 linear ft. digitized from microfilm)
- [http://aaa.si.edu/collections/terra_collections_list.cfm#list](http://aaa.si.edu/collections/terra_collections_list.cfm#list)
Terra Digitization Grant = Processing Grant

- Collection level digitization requires collections be fully processed and EAD finding aid prior to digitization.
- Very few finding aids until early -1990s (used microfilm labels and catalog cards as main source of description and in lieu of finding aids).
- Full retrospective MARC cataloging 1985-1988; laid the collection level foundation for implementing finding aids.
Microfilm: The Prequel

- In-house microfilm operation
- Microfilmed for access
- Opened network of regional centers and adapted traditional interlibrary loan
- Gained understanding of production; able to microfilm approximately 30% of holdings
50+ Years of Microfilming Supports Large-Scale Digitization

Microfilming with Zeutschel microfilm camera 2002

Scanning with Zeutschel 10000AI Scanner 2005
# Collection Digitization Workflow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Penniman, Robert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Perez, John F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Fiddlin, Horace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Pollock, Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Potter, Penfield</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Powers, Harman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Rand, John O'Gaffe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Reiger, Arnie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Robin (Frank) Gullais</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Stach, Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Richards, William Treut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Roberts, Mary Fanning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Rossman, Church</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Rossler, Thomas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Rust, Oliver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Lemani, Jeanne Morgan Russell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Semler, Alene and Eloro</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Segel, Key</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Sargent, John Singer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Schrock, Katherine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Skin, William</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Single, Ben</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Skidmore, Charles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Smithson, Robert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Squire, Moses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Squire, Raphael</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Squire, Henry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Stillman, James</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Storey, John</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Taft, Henry Osawa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Taylor, Marvin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Taylor, Franklin Henderson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Tedder, Etta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Trenholm, Rachel &amp; Porter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Note: Some names have been redacted for privacy.*
Workflow web interface

Collections Online Workflow Progress
Any tasks that have been assigned but have not been completed. The resource is available to the public once all tasks are completed.

1. Archivist uploads new XML File to Finding Aid Repository
2. Supervisor approves XML Finding Aid
3. Cataloger provides reformat for archivist adds to XML File
4. Second supervisor approves XML Finding Aid
5. Create Image Directory/Begin Scanning
6. Finish Scanning
7. Process Images
8. Deploy Images to Staging server
9. Archivist reviews Collection Online on Acrobat
10. Archivist reports errors to be corrected
11. Archivist confirms errors have been corrected and approves Collection Online
12. Supervisor deploys XML File, HTML File, and Collection Online to Web
13. Supervisor verifies pages on Web site (Collections Online, Col. A-Z, & Finding Aids), notifies staff
14. Cataloger Updates Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS)
Automated Workflows

- Initial uploading of the archivists’ XML EAD finding aid into finding aid repository; subsequent check-in and check-out
- Creation of an internal Collection Online “stub” site for the collection
- Generation of the directory structure (based on the EAD XML container listing) for the digital imaging technician to use when scanning
- Batch processing of the TIFF files to create three jpg derivatives and watermarking
- Linking a representative image to each series description for a visually appealing presentation
- Linking of the digital files to the appropriate folder titles
- Generation of a pdf finding aid accessible from the collection site
- Deployment to the final presentation on the web
- Versioning support
Reporting Capabilities

Collections Online and Images on Web Report from 01/01/2001 to 03/04/2009

Date: 01/01/2001 to 03/04/2009

| Number of Collections Online added to website (between dates provided) | 66 |
| Total number of Collections Online on website (from 01/01/2000 to end date) | 66 |
| Total number of Suppressed Collections Online (from 01/01/2000 to end date) | 4 |
| Number of Collections Online Images added to website (between dates provided) | 579610 |
| Total number of Collections Online Images on website (from 01/01/2000 to end date) | 579610 |
| Total number of Suppressed Collections Online Images (from 01/01/2000 to end date) | 107984 |
| Total number of Linear Feet (from 01/01/2000 to end date) | 443.05 |
| Number of images added to DCD (between dates provided) | 24855 |
| Total number of images in DCD (from 01/01/2000 to end date provided) | 24986 |
| Total number of suppressed images in DCD (from 01/01/2000 to end date provided) | 1320 |

List of Collections Online Added to the Web for the First Time: 01/01/2001 to 03/04/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CollectionID</th>
<th>Collection Title</th>
<th>Collection Online URL</th>
<th>Collection Online Date On Web</th>
<th>Collection Online Image Total</th>
<th>Linear Feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9364</td>
<td>Worthington Whittredge papers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/whitworth/">http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/whitworth/</a></td>
<td>200909211</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>1.3 linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5735 RESIDENT</td>
<td>Oscar Blumner papers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/blumner">http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/blumner</a></td>
<td>20081211</td>
<td>15815</td>
<td>6.6 linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12075</td>
<td>Gifford Beal sketches</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/beal">http://www.sas.siu.edu/collectionsonline/beal</a></td>
<td>20080611</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>3.0 linear feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Web 2.0 Enhancements

- Comments
- Volunteers for transcribing letters
- Links to related Smithsonian collections
- Links to related exhibitions, lectures, events
Website presentation

- New awareness of importance of website presentation and interface design
- New Webmaster position
- Constantly analyzing use and feedback
- Implemented usability techniques and conducted usability studies
Feedback and improvements

- Replaced search engine
- More intuitive, user-friendly design
- Image Viewer improved
- Printing option installed
- New stylesheet for non-digitized collections
Next Steps

- Better integrate digital and non-digital collections information
- Integrate fully digitized collections with item-level selected images and other resources
- Utilize EAD for subject, date, and controlled name access
- Integrate digitized audio/video
- Transcriptions
- Explore open-source platform
The focus was on access to collections (which differentiates our approach from archival management systems).

The information would reside in a database, and that would drive the display, as opposed to using a stylesheet transformation.

All the data would come from the EAD XML document.
Building - Technical Overview

- All programming based on Adobe ColdFusion (with some Java programming)
- All data is stored in a MS SQL Server database – the same database used to store our existing collection and digitization information
- The application is built using an object-oriented approach that organizes the structure of the system based on function (i.e. EAD ingestion, PDF creation, image processing, deployment, etc)
Building – Early Stages

- Simple proof-of-concept in Fall of 2005 that could import portions of a finding aid into a database
- No interface for uploading XML documents
- Lacked support for true complexity or unusual encodings
- Didn’t address embedded images
- Served the purpose to prove it could be built in-house
Building – EAD Uploading

- Each EAD XML file is passed through a parser that transforms the XML EAD data into an EAD Document Object
- Each portion of the EAD object is transformed into its “real world” equivalent (i.e. descriptive information, series, container listing, etc)
- Most of the descriptive data for the finding aid gets stored in the Finding Aid table, series information is stored in a Series table, container listing information is stored in the Container table
Building – Database Before CO

Digitization as a curatorial/cataloging process (selected images given full descriptive images)
Building – Database After CO

Digitization as an archival process (all images with description only at the container level)
Building - More Database (I)

EAD/Finding Aid

- Designed the database around the archival information, not the EAD encoding
- Needed a lot of discussion to clarify archival terms
- Learned a lot about EAD
Struggled to figure out how to incorporate links to images in the EAD using `<dao>`, `<daogrp>`, etc.

Decided instead to associate images based on container / folder heading data.

Ended up being a very flexible system for image association.
Building – EAD “Engine”
Building – Rethinking Workflows (I)

- The initial interface (Summer 2006) for the system was a simple upload form – the programmer had to manually perform all the steps to get the Collection Online publicly available.

- Over time, we added preview options, versioning, and finally full web deployment capabilities.

- In 2008, we made some significant changes to the system, that turned the EAD tool into a comprehensive web “workflow”
Building – Rethinking Workflows (II)

- Workflow system creates a “checklist” to show the current status of a finding aid
- Users can do, undo, and redo actions
- Records who did what and when
- Checklist items can trigger events, like deployment
- Checklist items can also trigger notifications, e.g. letting a supervisor know that a finding aid is available for review
Building – Workflows in the Database
Information gathered from the EAD file describes the box / folder hierarchy for scanning.

This allows for automatically generating nested file structures for scanning.

Scanned images are copied onto Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices before processing.
Building – Workflows for Digitization (II)

- Image converting, resizing, and watermarking is batch automated on a collection-wide level.
- Database records for digital images are created at the same time the images are processed.
- Mistakes happen – the workflow supports refreshing metadata for images without processing, or rescanning only a portion of a collection without having to reprocess all of the images.
Building – Design (I)

- Again, access was the main goal
- Wanted the site to be visually appealing, and wanted the images to be the stars of the show
- Processing staff very concerned about making sure the context is always clear
- Many in-depth meetings with processing staff and IT staff to get the design right
Building – Design (II) : Image Viewer

- Use an “AJAX-style” image viewer, built in-house
- Inspired by a vendor demo at the SAA conference in 2006
- Originally used for our Search Images interface
- When we migrated it to Collections Online, we used the metaphor of a file folder for browsing multiple images at once
Building – Some Lessons Learned

- Incremental change is best
- You can’t anticipate every condition up front – the EAD Engine has changed constantly throughout to accommodate variations in finding aids
- Tools should try to mimic the way people already do their work
- Open Source technologies probably would have been better in the long-term, but we worked with the skill-set and technology at hand
Implementation & Sustainability: What does digitization have to do with archival processing??
### Challenges

- Greater expectations from users and demand for access to entire collections.
- Shrinking resources.
- How to integrate large scale digitization and still maintain existing services?

### Solutions

- Analyze existing workflows.
- Similarities to new workflows? Any overlap? Any redundancies?
- Re-tool and re-purpose existing resources and workflows to fit new program area.
Re-purpose Existing Archival Methodologies

- Much easier to re-purpose and enhance existing workflows, rather than invent new ones!
- Integrate digitization workflows into archival workflows.
Processing Then
DIGITIZATION AS PROCESSING?

- Standard archival processing workflows of arrangement, description, and EAD encoding can become part of the digitization workflow.

- Rich, descriptive, and contextual metadata can be derived from the structured and tagged data found in EAD finding aids.

- Additional processing activities can also support digitization.
Biographical Material includes various address lists and business cards kept by Calder, his passport, notes, a catalog with handwritten prices, and other writings. Also found are a French tax document and other ephemera.
Choose an Activity:

- Upload new XML Finding Aid
- Continue working on a previous uploaded XML Finding Aid or Collection Online
- Process Images for Collections Online
Choose Collection for Uploading a New XML Finding Aid

Choose Collection:
aca
(Type at least 3 letters of the Collection Creator's name)

Go to Upload
Elizabeth McCausland papers
(Choose different collection)

Collections Online Workflow Progress
Any tasks that have been crossed out have been completed. The resource is available to the public once all tasks are completed.

1. Archivist uploads new XML File to Finding Aid Repository (Completed by Erin Corley on 3/4/09 02:52 PM Redo )
2. Supervisor approves XML Finding Aid (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
3. Cataloger provides index terms; archivist adds to XML File (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
4. Second supervisor approves XML Finding Aid (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
5. Create Image Directory / Begin Scanning (Completed by Karen Zorn on 12/18/08 10:41 AM Redo | Undo )
6. Finished Scanning (Completed by Robin Holladay on 1/30/09 09:38 AM Undo )
7. Process Images (Completed by Robin Holladay on 1/30/09 09:38 AM Undo )
8. Deploy Images to Staging server (Completed by Robin Holladay on 2/2/09 08:07 AM Undo )
9. Archivist Reviews Collection Online on aaasite.si.edu (Completed by Erin Corley on 2/6/09 03:23 PM Undo )
10. Archivist reports errors to be corrected (Completed by Erin Corley on 2/17/09 08:16 AM Undo )
11. Archivist confirms errors have been corrected and approves Collection Online (Completed by Erin Corley on 3/10/09 11:41 AM Undo )
12. Supervisor deploys XML file, HTML file, and Collection Online to Web (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 3/10/09 11:55 AM Redo | Undo )
Elizabeth McCausland papers
(Choose different collection)

Collections Online Workflow Progress
Any tasks that have been crossed-out have been completed. The resource is available to the public once all tasks are completed.

1. Archivist uploads new XML File to Finding Aid Repository
   (Completed by Erin Corley on 3/4/09 02:52 PM Redo )
2. Supervisor approves XML Finding Aid
   (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
3. Cataloger provides index terms; archivist adds to XML File
   (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
4. Second supervisor approves XML Finding Aid
   (Completed by Barbara Aikens on 12/18/08 09:03 AM Undo )
5. Create Image Directory / Begin Scanning
   (Completed by Karen Zorn on 12/18/08 10:41 AM Redo | Undo )
6. Finished Scanning
   (Completed by Robin Holladay on 1/30/09 09:38 AM Undo )
7. Process Images
   (Completed by Robin Holladay on 1/30/09 09:38 AM Undo )
8. Deploy Images to Staging server
   (Completed by Robin Holladay on 2/2/09 08:07 AM Undo )
9. ArchivistReviews Collection Online on aaasite.s.iu.edu
   (Completed by Erin Corley on 2/6/09 03:23 PM Undo )
10. Archivist reports errors to be corrected
    (Completed by Erin Corley on 2/17/09 08:16 AM Undo )
11. Archivist confirms errors have been corrected and approves Collection Online
12. Supervisor deploys XML file, HTML file, and Collection Online to Web
13. Supervisor verifies pages on Web site (Collections Online, Col A, E, & Finding Aids), notifies staff
Elizabeth McCausland papers
(Choose different collection)

Collection Progress Checklist  Check-In (Upload)  Check-Out (Download)  Preview  Image Processing

Pre-Processing

- Generate Collection Directories

Processing Images

- Process Collection

Post Processing

- Refresh Collection Containers
- Refresh Collection Series Representative Images
- Manually Set Series Representative Images
- Add summaries to images
Elizabeth McCausland papers
(Choose different collection)

Collection Progress Checklist  Check-In (Upload)  Check-Out (Download)  Preview  Image Processing

Finding Aid

- Internal: HTML | Public: HTML
- Internal: PDF | Public: PDF

Collection Online

- Collection Online on Internal Site

XML

- Preview EAD XML File
  (Note: previewing the file puts the file on your computer but does NOT check out the file)
This site provides access to the papers of Elizabeth McCausland in the Archives of American Art that were digitized in 2008. The bulk of the papers have been scanned and total 42,751 images.

The papers of art critic, writer, and historian Elizabeth McCausland measure 33.9 linear feet and date from 1838 to 1965, with the bulk of the material dating from 1920 to 1960. The collection provides a vast accumulation of research data on various artists and aspects of American art, especially the early American modernists and the Federal Arts Projects. Papers include McCausland's extensive research and writing files, particularly on Marsden Hartley, E. L. Henry, Lewis Hine, George Inness, and Alfred H. Maurer. McCausland's correspondence with artists includes a substantial amount with Arthur Dove and Alfred Stieglitz. Her collaborative work with Berenice Abbott on the Changing New York book and series of photographs is well-documented within the collection. Also found are general writings, subject files, files relating to exhibitions, teaching, and committees, photographs, art work, personal papers, and printed material. Read more About this Collection.

Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.
Series 9: Other Exhibition Files, 1939-1941, 1944

Series 10: Teaching Files, 1939-1965

Series 11: Committee Files, 1936-1960

Series 12: Printed Material, 1923-1953

Series 13: Photographs, circa 1905-1950

Series 14: Art Work, 1887-1942, undated
This site provides access to the papers of **Betty Parsons** in the Archives of American Art that were digitized. The papers have been scanned in their entirety.

The Betty Parsons Gallery records and personal papers measure 49.6 linear feet and date from 1928 to 1991, with the bulk of the material dating from 1946-1983. Records provide extensive documentation of the gallery's operations from its inception in 1946 to its closing in 1983 and provide a comprehensive overview of the activities of an art dealer at the forefront of promoting contemporary American Art in the latter half of the twentieth century. Included is extensive correspondence with artists, galleries, dealers, art institutions, private collectors, and the media. Also found are exhibition files, exhibition catalogs and announcements, sales records, stock inventories, personal financial records, and photographs. Additionally, Betty Parsons' personal papers consist of early curatorial files, pocket diaries, personal correspondence, and evidence of her own artwork, including sketchbooks, and files documenting her personal art collection. Read more About this Collection.

**Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by Terra Foundation for American Art**
Series 1: Artists Files, 1935-1983 (Boxes 1-18, 51, and OV 53; 17.8 linear feet)

At least one-third of the collection consists of Artists Files stemming from the gallery's business relationships (and Betty Parsons' personal relationships) with numerous artists. The correspondence focuses primarily on representation, promotion, exhibitions, and sales. Files contain correspondence with artists, museums, curators, collectors, and dealers, as well as with insurance agencies, and shipping and storage companies. Also found in the files are price lists, sales and expense records, shipping records, exhibition announcements and catalogs, biographical material, clippings, photographs of artwork and artists, writings by and about artists, and related material. READ MORE

Correspondence with artists can also be found amongst the gallery correspondence files, as well as in Betty Parsons' personal correspondence. Artists Files are arranged alphabetically by artist and further subdivided if needed by format. Files described as "General" typically include records in a wide variety of formats, such as correspondence, sales and expenses records, and shipping records.

This series has been scanned in its entirety, except for duplicates, and slides and photographs of artwork.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Adams, Robert, 1949-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Adams, Robert - Photographs, Works of Art, circa 1948-1950 (Not scanned)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Baker, Adge, 1974-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Banerjee, 1980-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Barker, Walter - Correspondence, 1954-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Barker, Walter - Price Lists, Sales, and Accounts, 1966-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barker, Walter - Clippings, 1966-1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Barker, Walter - Biographical Material, circa 1954-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Barker, Walter - Announcements and Catalogs, 1966-1977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCANNING INFORMATION WORKSHEET

(To be completed by Processing Archivist; after scanning, worksheet to be returned to archivist)

- Date: _____________
- NAME OF COLLECTION: __________________________________________
- NAME OF PROCESSING ARCHIVIST: _______________________________
- Total # of containers _____: Boxes ___ Hols ___ Pams ___ Sols ___ OVs ___
  Other _______
- Location of containers: __________________________________________
- Copy of Finding Aid attached?: Yes ___ No __
  If yes, approximate # of items OR # of OV containers ______
  If yes, please list the Container#/s and folder #/s ______ ______ ______ ______ ______
- Are there negatives, glass plate negatives, transparencies, slides, etc. that can only be scanned by Marv? Yes ____ No _____
  If yes, have you clearly flagged those items? ______
  Container #/s and folder #/s ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______
- Are there Removal Notices within the collection? Yes ___ No _____
  If Yes, do you want tech to scan the photocopy attached to the notice and rescan original at a later date Yes ____ OR
  Do you want a “Marv scan” (high res) inserted at a later date? Yes ___
  Container #/s and folder #/s of Removal Notices ______ ______ ______ ______
  (continue on reverse if needed)
- Are there materials that you have clearly identified to be scanned in color that fall outside of our normal color scanning guidelines? Yes _____ No _____
- Is there interleaving material in the collection that must be maintained? Yes _ No _
  Special Instructions: _____________________________________________
  _____________________________________________
  _____________________________________________
  _____________________________________________
- Date of meeting between Processing Archivist and Scanning Technician: __________
- Initials ____ ____
Collections Online Final Review Checklist

Name of Collection: ________________________________________________________________
Name of Reviewer: _________________________________________________________________
Date: ________________________

____ Confirm/Select representative image in the DCD
____ Edit collection Digitization Note in collection record in DCD
____ Confirm collection Abstract Note added to collection record in DCD
____ Check for errors on the following pages:
    ___ Collection Homepage
    ___ View Collection page
    ___ About the Collection page
    ___ Series pages

____ Verify Folder Heading Links/Image Display for each series, and list all errors found in Review Table.

____ Route a photocopy of Review Table to necessary staff
Date: ________________________
• Processing Archivist for errors in XML file
• Toby for programming issues (Also use Devnotes to report programming errors online)
• Erin for images needing re-scanning
____ Upload New Finding Aid
____ Final approval of reviewer Date: ________________________
____ Notify Karen and Barb that review is complete.
Archival Appraisal and Approach

- Use your processing archivists!

- Take advantage of their appraisal skills and archival expertise.

- Allow them to identify privacy and ethical issues, and non-archival materials while processing.
What About MLP?

- Does processing for large scale digitization of entire collections support Minimal Level Processing?  No.

- Does integrating processing workflows and archival approaches into the digitization workflow support Minimal Level Digitization or MLD?  Yes.