Digital Media Services Image Archive Holdings

The Digital Media Services Image Archives are comprised of approximately one million images in every photographic format practiced during the last century. Included are approximately 150,000 digital images accessible through the University’s Artstor partition, 150,000 black and white photographs, 250,000 lantern slides (and an equal number of the negatives from which they were made), ca. 500,000 35mm slides, about 10,000 postcards, and a variety of other archival materials covering the full range of the pedagogy of art history. The collections are divided into on-line collections and resources, the Slide Library, the Photograph Archive, and off-site holdings.

On-line collections and resources change with each semester, depending on the curriculum. The Digital Media Services staff provides Online Course Reserves as requested by faculty, which may include faculty presentations, image lists, bibliographies, and so on. In 2013-2014, some on-line class-related materials will be managed using the University’s file and blog server systems. Check with your class teaching assistant for specific details.

NYU is an institutional subscriber to Artstor, which is the largest single source of licensed access content available for teaching and research in art and art history. Artstor currently has more than 1.5 million images in its database, and is adding more all the time; access is through institutional subscription. NYU participates in Artstor’s local hosting protocol, and has more than 150,000 images available through Artstor’s general interface. For more information, see our “Getting Started with Artstor” guide, sign up for an individual tutorial with the Manager, or watch for workshop schedules at the beginning of the fall semester.

The Slide Library includes our 35mm and lantern slides, all of which were collected specifically in support of the IFA’s curriculum. It is one of the largest and most encyclopedic teaching collections ever assembled. The Slide Library is located on either side of the hallway of the basement level of the Duke House. Light boxes, enlargers, lutes, carousel projectors, and other equipment to make viewing easier are available at all times. See anyone on the DMS staff if you need assistance.

The Photograph Archive includes black and white prints, off-prints, postcards, other opaque materials, and negatives—everything from glass plates to 35mm film negatives. Some of the highlights of the Photograph Archive include the Gernsheim Corpus (a collection of images of drawings, arranged by
artist's name), the Illustrated Bartsch (photographs of prints as listed in Bartsch, arranged by subject matter and manually cross-referenced into 625 loose-leaf volumes), and DIAL (the Decimal Index to Art of the Low Countries). PLEASE NOTE: *In 2013-2014, most of the Photograph Archive has been moved into inaccessible off-site storage in preparation for construction projects in one of our buildings.* Only the Loo-Caro Archive is currently on-site and accessible. Please contact the Manager for details.

**The off-site holdings** are mostly black and white prints (some of which are annotated by the scholars who collected them), and mostly housed in specific departments at the Metropolitan Museum. Access to these collections is by appointment only; information is available through the Manager:

*The Walker Evans Portfolio.* One of only 17 known copies, the Walker Evans Portfolio is comprised of more than 400 black and white prints of African sculpture, commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art to accompany a landmark exhibition there in the 1930’s and made by the important American photographer, Walker Evans. IFA’s copy of the Portfolio is now on long-term loan to the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas Department at the Metropolitan Museum.

*The Walter Cook Archive.* Although Prof. Cook’s personal photographs remain in the IFA’s Photographic Archive, his collected images of Spanish manuscripts and medieval art are currently held in the Medieval Art department at the Cloisters.

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