

VIUS REPORTS 4.1

Survey of Public Collections

Considering potential content and collection management needs for an image delivery service, we surveyed the unique resources available at Penn State. We visited several collections of visual materials that are publicly available to ascertain:

- size, scope, and extent of collections
- how collections are being used, by whom
- what visual material has already been digitized by departments
- what cataloging is available / how are images organized
- leads to other collections and contacts

We discovered a wide range from very organized large collections of more than 350,000 slides (Art History), to completely dispersed and unorganized collections (Agriculture). However, the total number of publicly accessible collections was smaller than originally expected. In Spring of 2000, we had assembled a larger list of collections but when actually contacted, many of these collections fit more appropriately in our category of “individual collections”. (See the following section of this report.) Several departments indicated that individual faculty possess personal collections of slides and that they rely on these collections rather than using a central repository. Willingness to share and copyright have been identified as issues in our interviews with curators of the public collections. Many departments are scanning slides.

The following table suggests some of the visual collections on campus:

Figure 1. Visual Collections on Campus

Department	Subjects	Quantity	Digitized?	Cataloged?
Art History	Art history	350,000+ slides	For course reserves (ca. 2000)	FileMaker Pro database
Palmer Museum	Collections, Pennsylvania	5000 art objects	Some, low resolution	FileMaker Pro
Anthropology	Field sites and objects in the museum	1000 negs, prints, slides	Some personal collections	No. Some have caption; some in an access database
Image Resources Ctr.	Photos made for PSU	3000+	Some recent ones	Chronological log book (back to 1940)
Agricultural Administration	Ag School; Ag Ext.; Dept. history	10,000 mixed images	Some faculty collections are digitized	No
Slide Library - Harrisburg	Art History	Fewer than 37,000	No	Labeled and sorted

Figure 2. Library – Special Collections Department

Title of Collection	Subject	Quantity	Approx no. Digitized
Pennsylvania Bridges Collection, 1884-1915	1884-1915 photographs of railroad bridges in Pennsylvania	140 black and white 15 lantern slides	23
Heinz K. and Bridget A. Henisch Collection	History of Photography	2260 photographs includes daguerreotypes, tintypes, cartes de visite	20
William C. Darrah Collection of Cartes-de-Visite,	History of Photography; Cartes-de-visite 1860-1900	62,608 c-d-v's	20
Birket Foster Victorian Illustrator	Victorian book illustration by Myles Birket Foster (1825–1899)	33 in virtual exhibit	33
PSU Archives Penn State History	History of Penn State (Presidents, Sports etc.,)	1000+? films, maps, photographs	100
University Park Campus History	Campus and Buildings	“ “	200
Waring Collection	Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians: music, clippings, photographs, cartoons	9,000 photographs and slides; 650 cartoons	10 digitized
Emblem Books Project:	Images of complete contents from ten 17th-18th century emblem books.	11 books in the project	100

Other collections with visual materials that have not yet been digitized include: Fay S. Lincoln architectural photographs; Three Mile Island collection of photographs, slides, and negatives; historic atlases; 8th Air Force collection; George C. Izenour architectural drawings, etc.

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