Presentation for GRI Scholars Program, November 3, 2011

Getty Research Institute Digital Art History Activities: an Overview



Murtha Baca, Head, Digital Art History Access Getty Research Institute

The Getty has been involved with "digital art history" since the 1980s—with the Art History Information Program (AHIP) and the Getty Information Institute (GII). The GRI continues this legacy.



"The design of digital tools for scholarship is an intellectual responsibility, not a technical task."*



*Johanna Drucker, "Blind Spots: Humanists Must Plan Their Digital Future," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, volume 55, issue 30, page B6 (April 3, 2009).

The GRI and the University of Malaga co-hosted a Digital Art History Workshop in Malaga, September 20-22, 2011



<u> http://digitalarthistory.weebly.com</u>

"Digital Mellini" project

A collaborative project of GRI and the University of Málaga

Objectives:

- 1. To explore new methods and tools with which to reinvent the concept of scholarly work and publishing
- 2. To create a model to develop collaborative critical publications in digital media
- 3. To contribute to the development of virtual research environments for art-historical scholarship

Over-arching Questions

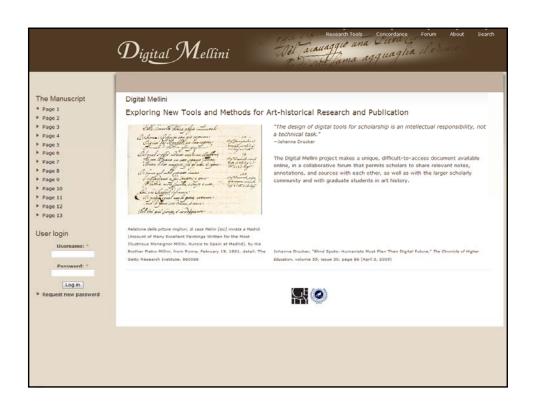
- How can we develop critical and interpretive studies in digital media in a collaborative way that accommodates multiple scholarly perspectives?
- What are—and what should be the behaviors of art historians using collaborative digital work spaces?

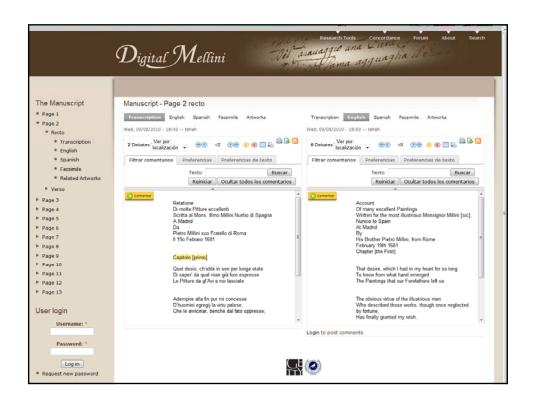
Digital Mellini: areas of focus

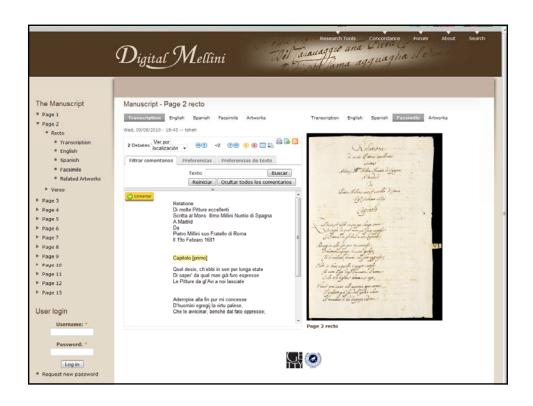
- 1. Digital implementation: development of platformprototype. The idea is that this platform will serve as a model for the further development of similar projects in the field of digital art history.
- 2. Analysis of the use of the digital environment. To this end, the team will open the workspace to a small group of specialists in art history.
- 3. Investigation of the historical text and its context to provide a critical basis on which to consider online scholarly research.

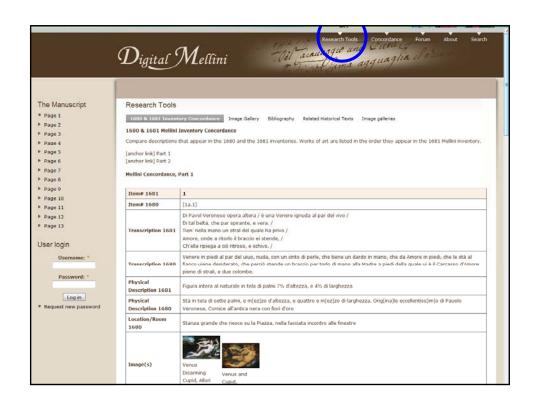
Digital Mellini: main elements

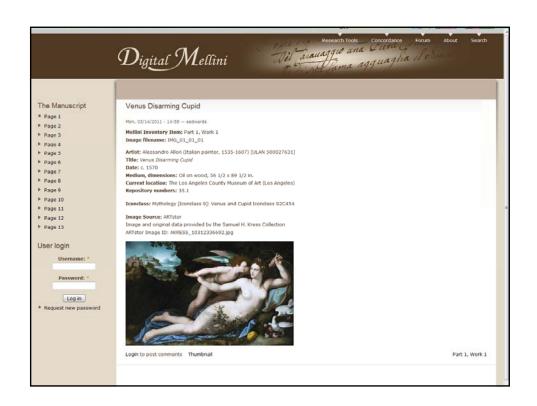
- □ Digital facsimile
- ☐ Transcription of original 1681 Italian text (marked up in TEI); transcription of conventional inventory from 1680
- □ English & Spanish translations (marked up in TEI)
- □ Concordance with conventional inventory
- ☐ Critical essays (will have another "locus," i.e. print)
- ☐ Bibliography & full-text versions of related historical texts
- □ Images of related works of art
- $\hfill\square$ Researcher-added "tags" attached to individual items
- □ Discussion forum

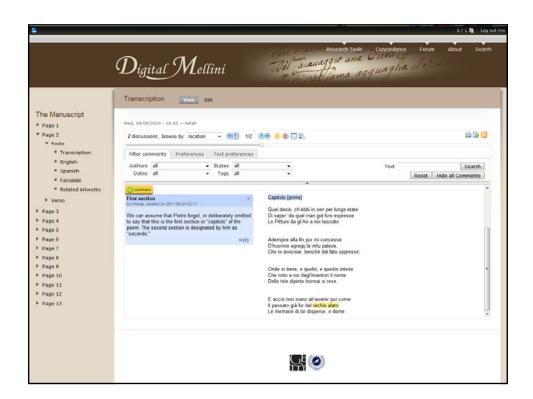


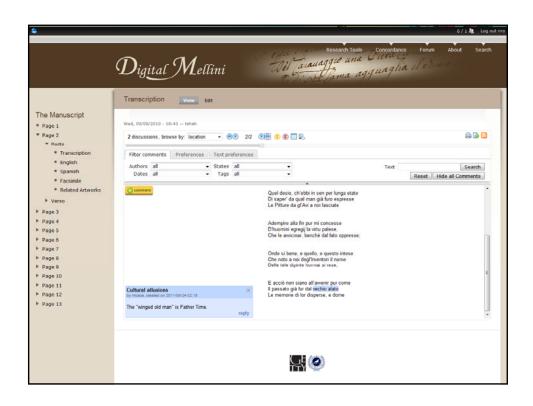












Digital Mellini Research Questions

- What do historical documents like the Mellini poem and inventories teach us about the function of works of art in the political, social, and diplomatic spheres?
- □ What does the document reveal about the art market during the late 17th century?
- □ What is role of <u>words</u> in the development of visual culture?

... more questions

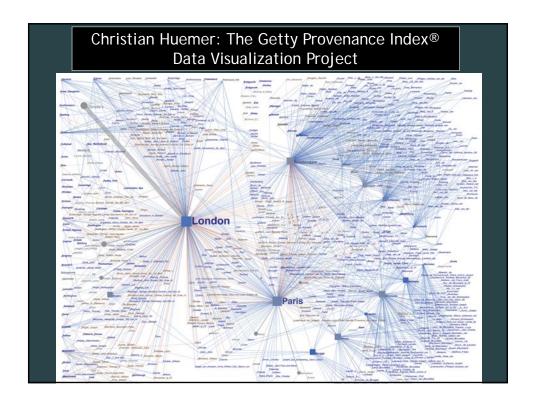
- How does Pietro Mellini's terza rima inventory (a "virtual collection" based on a real collection) compare and contrast with Giambattista Marino's "galleria" (an "invented collection" based on a blending of real and fictional works) of 1619?
- Despite the fact that Pietro Mellini based his poem on a real gallery of paintings, he re-creates a "new" virtual gallery in terms of display (mental display).
 - What is the "mental display" that Pietro creates using particular words and references? (linguistic construction ekprhasis).
 - What role does the audience's "visual culture" play?
- □ Who was the intended audience for the 1681 document?

Exploring new modes of research & publication ("design of digital tools for scholarship")

- What should be the essential elements & functionalities (intellectual, technical, textual and visual) of a digital critical edition?
- What are the issues and challenges in translating historic texts?
- How can the discipline of art history begin to move away from single authorial models resulting in print-only publications, toward more open, collaborative models of research and publication that "take place" on line?

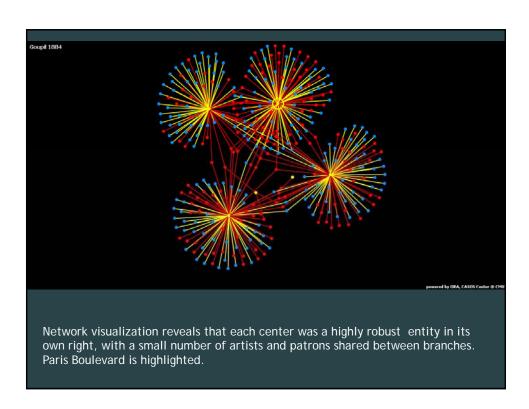
Other Digital Art History Projects undertaken by Getty Staff & Scholars

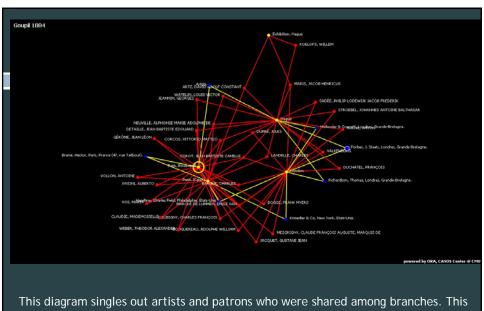




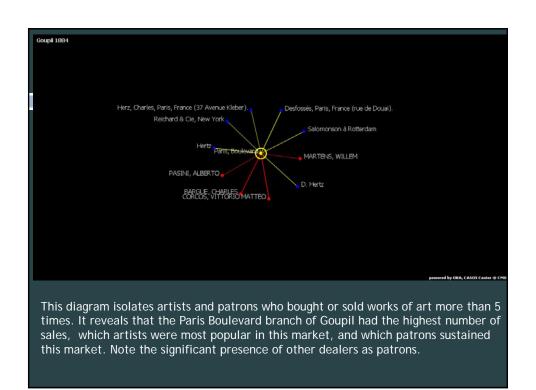
Anne Helmreich, Getty Foundation: Art Market and Network Analysis

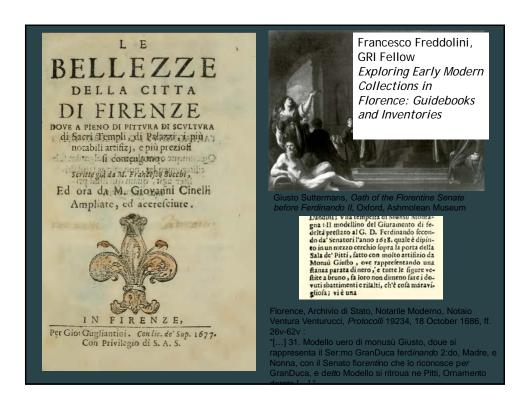
- This project uses the digitized records of the Goupil firm to determine the scale and dynamics of international art trading circa 1854-1919 and to assess the role and significance of London in this international network.
- □ The following slides represent data from 1884, when the 4 main branches of the firm became relatively equally robust.

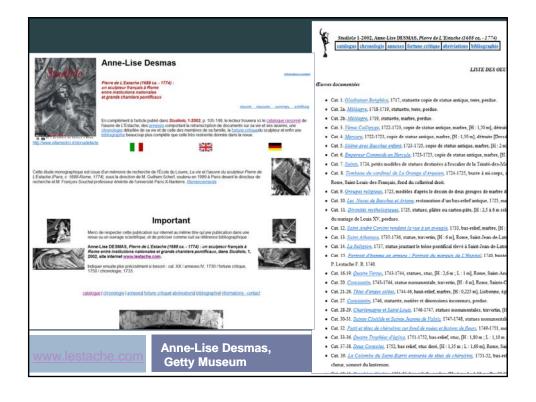




This diagram singles out artists and patrons who were shared among branches. This reveals which artists/patrons were the most mobile and 'translatable' across multiple national markets (Great Britain, France, Netherlands).







Major GRI Digital Art History Initiatives



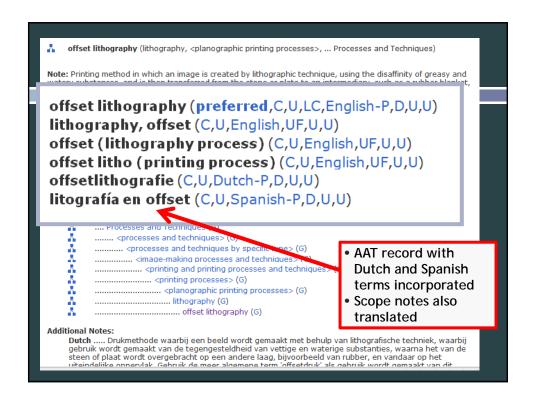


- Getty vocabularies are increasingly multilingual
- The Getty vocabularies have terms/names/titles and descriptive notes in multiple languages
 - TGN and ULAN have many thousands of non-English names, although the languages are not always flagged by contributors and thus cannot be counted
 - AAT: Of the approximately 250,000 total terms in the AAT, about 116,000 are not American English: full translations in Spanish and Dutch are incorporated; 6,000 terms have French and Italian equivalents; 3,000 are British English; 1,600 are German

The GRI leads the International Terminology Working Group (ITWG); members include:

- Centro de Documentación de Bienes Patrimoniales (CDBP), Chile; full AAT translation is on line.
- Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie (RKD); full AAT translation is on line. The RKD also hopes to contribute new terms to the AAT, and artist names to ULAN.
- Chinese translation of the AAT by TELDAP (Taiwan E-Learning and Digital Archives Program) is in process; several thousand terms have been translated to date.
- German translation of the AAT is being undertaken by the Institut für Museumsforschung in Berlin.
- Integration is in process for circa 6,000 Italian object type terms from the ICCD, Rome.





Our vocabularies are the most heavily used electronic resource produced by the GRI.

- □ Consulted by users from more than 130 countries, in 2010 the three Getty vocabularies collectively averaged more than 3,800 searches per day, for a total of 1.4 million searches for the year.
- □ Several hundred non-profit and for-profit organizations have licensed the data from one or more of the vocabularies.

link to ULAN record

GRI Vocabulary Program
Participation in
International Research
Projects



The GRI is a partner is several international projects:

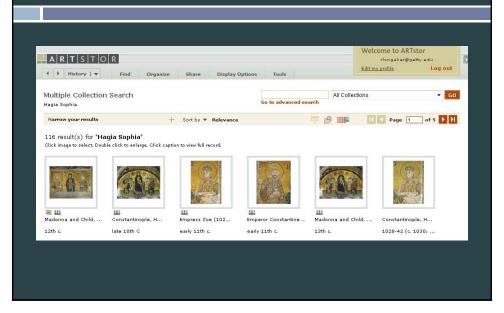
- □ VIAF (Virtual International Authority File)
- □ BWR (Built Works Registry)
- □ HIVE (Helping Interdisciplinary Vocabulary Engineering)
- □ MCD (Meaningful Concept Displays)
- □ ARTstor

Built Works Registry (BWR)

- □ a joint endeavor of the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University, ARTstor and Getty Research Institute (GRI). BWR was awarded a three-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- □ a community-generated data resource for architectural works and the built environment. BWR will be available to scholars and cataloguers from academic and cultural heritage organizations worldwide. BWR data will also be contributed to CONA.

http://builtworksregistry.wordpress.com/

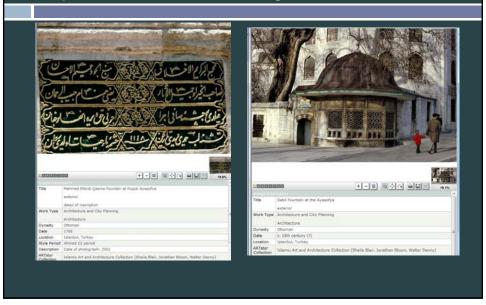
Currently, searching for "Hagia Sophia" in ARTstor produces 116 image results

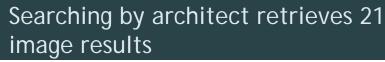


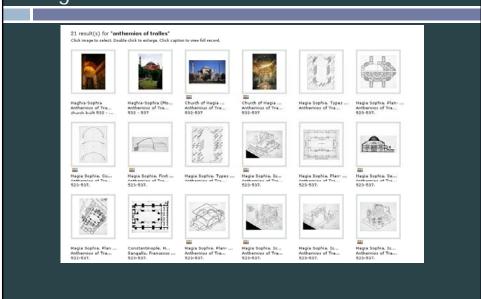


Titles/Names: Hagia Sophia Type: preferred Church of the Holy Wisdom Ayasofya Language: Turkish Agia Sofia Agia Sophia Haghia Sophia Sancta Sophia Language: Latin Sancta Sapientia Saint Sophia St. Sophia Αγία Σοφία Current Location: Istanbul (Marmara region, Turkey) Location type: geographic Repository ID: Display Creator: architects: Anthemios of Tralles (Byzantine architect and mathematician in Asia Minor, ca. 474ca. 534) and Isidoros of Meletus, the Elder (Byzantine architect and engineer in Asia Minor, active mid-6th

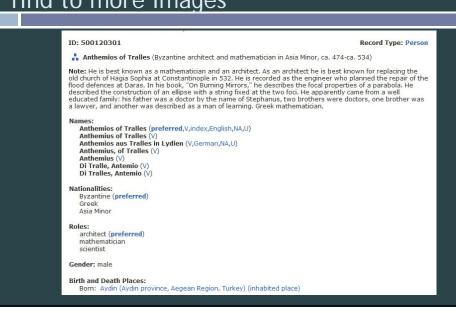
Using CONA, the variant "Ayasofya" will help users find these images as well

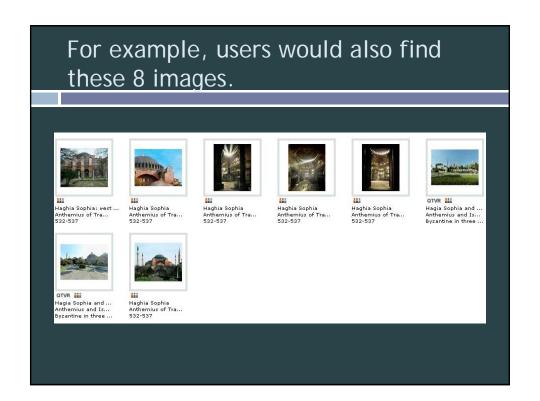


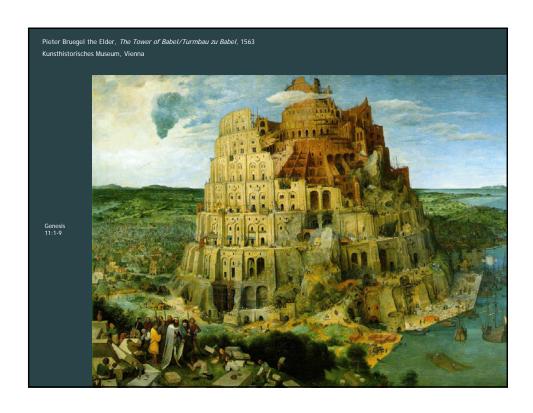




ULAN's variant terms would help users find to more images









FAB: Participants

- ARLIS/North America
 Art Institute of Chicago
 Art libraries.net
 ARTstor
 Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library
 Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals
 Bard Graduate Center
 Biblioteca Hertziana
 Princeton University
 Brooklyn Museum Library
 City University of New York
 College Art Association
 Areference Library
 Sterling and Francine Clark Institute
 University of Bern
 Victoria and Albert Museum
 Wall Street Journal
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 Wall Street Journal
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 - International Foundation for Art Research (IFAR)

- International Museum of PhotographyKunsthistorisches Institut, Florence
- Metropolitan Museum of Art Watson Library
- Museum of Modern Art Library
 New York University Institute of Fine Arts
 OCLC Research

- Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich

FAB: Key characteristics

- □ art/architectural-historical domain specific content focus
- international and multilingual
- community driven and supported
- □ a systematic distributed effort
- an openly accessible online discovery environment
- □ a flexible framework, adaptable to technology innovations

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT TO CREATE A PORTAL OF DIGITIZED ART-HISTORICAL TEXTS





GRI project team: Kathleen Salomon, Joe Shubitowski, Murtha Baca, David Farneth; current partner institutions: INHA, Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Library, Univ. of Heidelberg, Frick

What the portal will be



- □ a "union catalog" of descriptive records for digitized art-historical texts held at different institutions, with links to the digitized items in their "home" environments.
- □ a vetted, authoritative source for complete digital copies of fundamental art-historical works (unlike Google Books)
- ☐ free of charge to all Web users

