

The Art of Access: The Development of Collection Information Access at the Archives of American Art

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June 18, 2016
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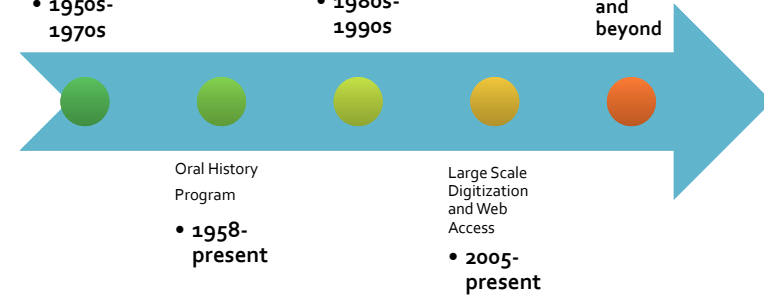
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Advancing Access Through the Decades

Founded,
1954
Microfilm, Card
Catalog Access
• **1950s-
1970s**

Online
Catalogs,
Shared
Standards
• **1980s-
1990s**

Crowdsourcing
, Linked Open
Data,
Collaborations
• **2013-2016
and
beyond**



Oral History
Program
• **1958-
present**

Large Scale
Digitization
and Web
Access
• **2005-
present**

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Excerpt from a 1970 oral history interview of Archives' founder Lawrence Fleischman



"...the idea came to me: ... **Why isn't there a central place where records could be saved?**

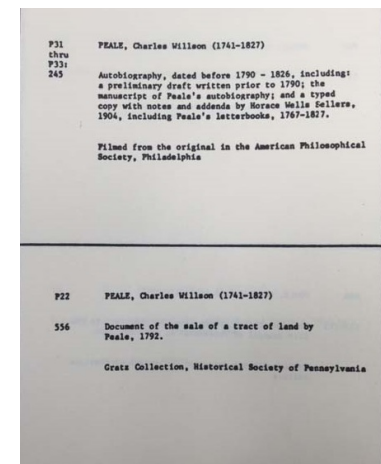
[I] went to see Ted Richardson. I started talking to him about my idea. I remember his eyes lit up and he said, "This would be a great thing to do...and he said

'Microfilm is such a wonderful tool—now with microfilm it would be possible to go, for instance, to Philadelphia'...

I suggested we call it 'The Archives of American Art'."

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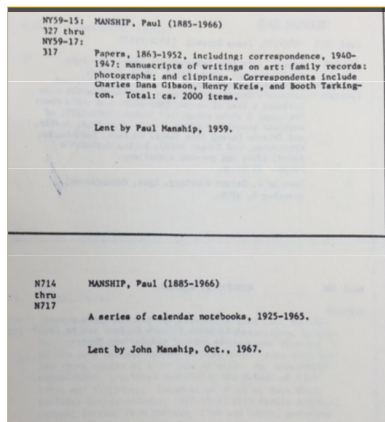
Founding Mission: Collaboration with Repositories to Increase Access



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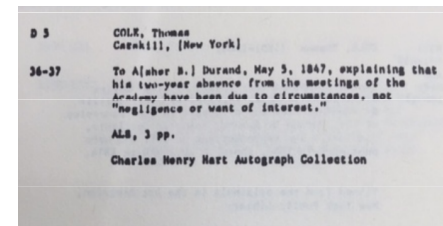
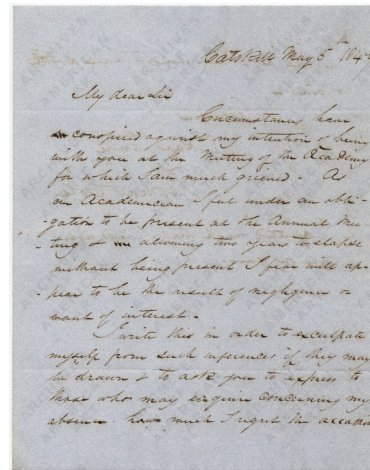
1954 (through 1995) Microfilmed Papers Held in Private Hands

- Papers lent by individuals were microfilmed and returned to their lenders.



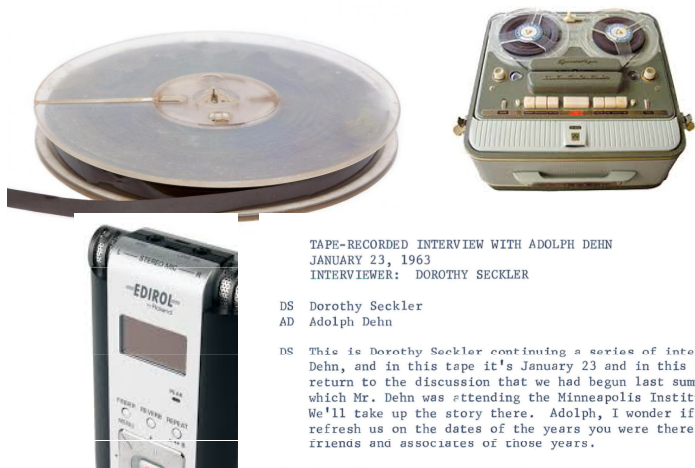
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Early Acquisitions Individual Items, Small Letter Collections



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1958 Oral History Program Launched



TAPE-RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH ADOLPH DEHN
 JANUARY 23, 1963
 INTERVIEWER: DOROTHY SECKLER

DS Dorothy Seckler
 AD Adolph Dehn

DS This is Dorothy Seckler continuing a series of interviews with Adolph Dehn, and in this tape it's January 23 and in this interview we're going to return to the discussion that we had begun last summer of the years during which Mr. Dehn was attending the Minneapolis Institute of Fine Arts. We'll take up the story there. Adolph, I wonder if you would like to just refresh us on the dates of the years you were there and some of the close friends and associates of those years.

AD I was 18 when I went to the Minneapolis art school and that was in the autumn of 1914. I was there three years. Then I went on to the Art

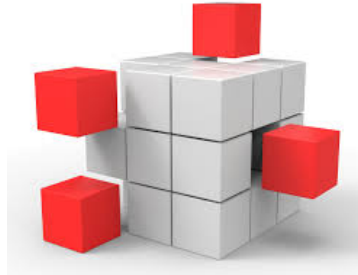
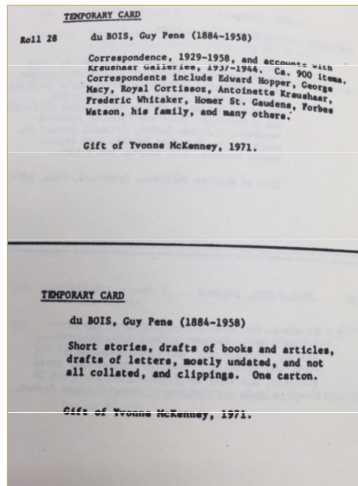
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1960s Moves Headquarters to New York City The Pace Picks Up



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Collections Acquired Incrementally



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1960s The Pace (And Size) Picks Up



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1960s New Approaches to Description and Arrangement

- “More Product, Less Process” (MPLP)
- Access is Prioritized
- Description and processing less detailed
- Focus on aggregate levels

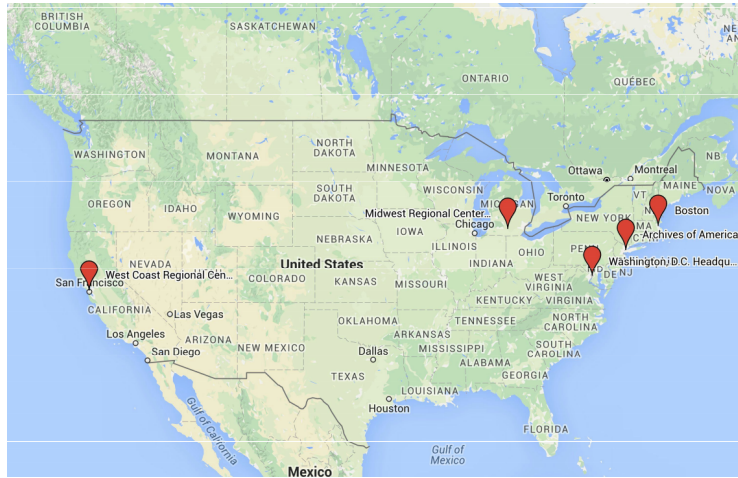
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1970s The Archives Joins the Smithsonian Institution



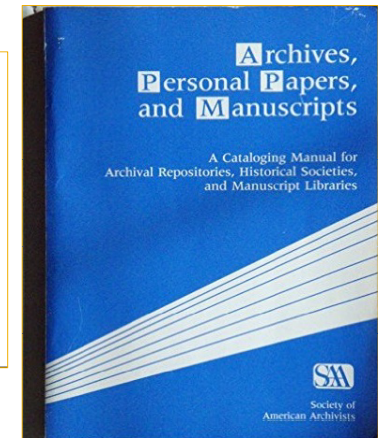
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1970s Expansion of Regional Network of Research and Collecting Centers



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1980s Standards for Archival Description: USMARC Format and Content Standards



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1985 Smithsonian Institution Bibliographic Information System

- Supported USMARC formats for libraries, archives and museum and research center databases
- Sparked collaboration; use of standards; development of shared vocabularies and authority files
- Provided collection management capabilities
- System support, maintenance and migration handled by central Smithsonian

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1980s-1990s Integrating Information Within and Beyond the Smithsonian Institution



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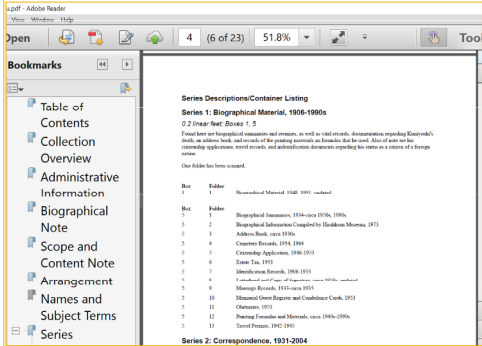
1980s-1990s

Processing, Finding Aids and Encoded Archival Description (EAD)

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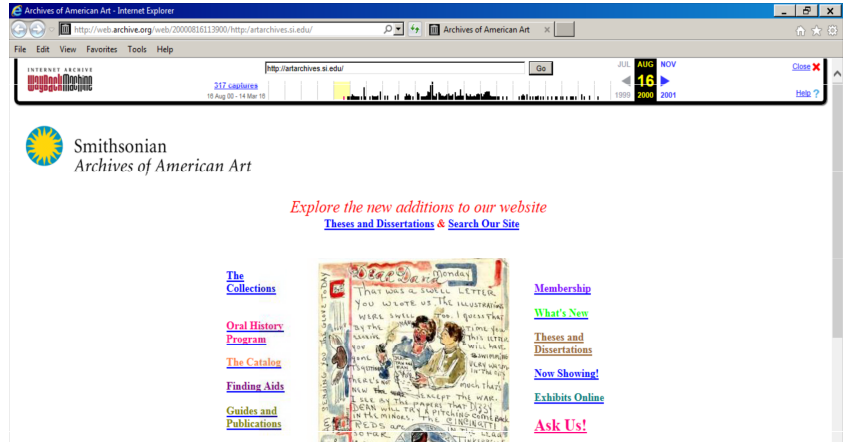
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1996- Web Access to Catalog Records

1997- Archives' first website www.aaa.si.edu



1999 –2004

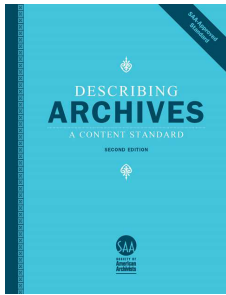
Large-scale Digitization of Microfilm Sets the Stage

- Digitized 267 microfilm reels – 250,000 files
- Developed the future strategy for digitization of original collections in their entirety
- Used EAD XML's structured data corresponding to image file directory and naming conventions to link the digital files
- Presented the digital files online via box/folder links.

2004

Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) Published by the Society of American Archivists

- Statement of Principles
- Overview of Archival Description
- Part I-Describing Archival Materials, Chapters 1-8
- Part II-Archival Authority Records, Chapters 9-13



2005-2018 Terra Foundation for American Art Digitization Grant

ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART

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RESEARCH COLLECTIONS > GRANTS & SPECIAL PROJECTS > BACKGROUND ON THE TERRA FOUNDATION CENTER FOR DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Background on the Terra Foundation Center for Digital Collections

In 2005, the Archives of American Art and the Terra Foundation for American Art set out to create an unparalleled virtual repository for the study of the visual arts of the United States. As one of the Terra Foundation's first grant recipients, the Archives received a multi-million dollar award to support the establishment of a digitization program that would result in online, free access to a substantial cross-section of the Archives' most significant collections. Such a program is in keeping with the foundation's priority of making research resources on American art available to people around the globe. These funds enabled Archives staff to develop an innovative, archival approach to large-scale digitization, to design and program a technical infrastructure and public web interface, to arrange and process collections, and to manage the resulting digital repository that comprised over 1.5 million digital files by the end of the grant's five-year period.

In spring 2011, the Terra Foundation awarded a second multi-million dollar grant to the Archives to support another five years of the digitization project and a new position, the Terra Foundation Project Manager for Online Scholarly and Educational



Notes from Oscar Bluemner's Theory Diary. The Oscar Bluemner papers were digitized in 2008.



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Fully Digitized Collections

RESEARCH COLLECTIONS > FULLY DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

Fully Digitized Collections

Over a hundred archival collections have been scanned and posted online in their entirety. Please note that majority of the Archives' 6,000 collections are only partially digitized. The Image Gallery displays items from partially digitized collections.

Funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

FEATURED COLLECTIONS

Betty Parsons Gallery Records and Personal Papers



The Betty Parsons gallery records and personal papers were digitized in 2008-2009.

The bulk of the papers have been scanned and total 61,427 images.

LIST OF FULLY DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

ACA Galleries
Alexander, John White
Alston, Charles Henry
Anshutz, Thomas Pollock
Avery, Milton
Bacon, Peggy
Beal, Gifford
Bearden, Romare
Beaux, Cecilia
Dierstadt, Albert
Bishop, Isabel
Bluemner, Oscar
Blumenschein, Ernest Leonard
Borglum, Solon Hannibal
Bransom, Paul
Breuer, Marcel
Drinley, Putnam
Britton, James
Bunker, Dennis Miller
Cahn, Charles Henry
Cahill, Holger
Calder, Alexander



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Processing Archivists and EAD Finding Aids

Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner papers, circa 1905-1984

Collection Summary | About the Collection

A FINDING AID TO THE JACKSON POLLOCK AND LEE KRASNER PAPERS, CIRCA 1914-1984, BULK 1942-1984, IN THE ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART, BY ERIN CORLEY

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Funding for the processing and digitization of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Table of Contents

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- [Overview of the Collection](#)
- [How to Use the Collection](#)
- [Detailed Description and Container Inventory](#)
- [Appendices](#)



New Digitized Collection



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EAD XML Finding Aids Uploaded to Archives' Collection Information System

AAA Research Report... Most Visited Collection Online

AAASTAFF-CIS

Keywords: All Records Search ID: All Records Search LOG OUT

Home-CIS Collections Items Projects Digital Resources Authorities Workflows

Holly Solomon Gallery records

Collection Progress Checklist Check In (Upload) Check Out (Download) Preview

Finding Aids Workflow Progress

Any tasks that have been missed-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 Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:24 PM (Add)
2. Supervisor approves XML finding aid. Completed by Barbara Adams on 11/17/2011 04:45 PM (Add)
3. Cataloger provides index terms and other data to XML File. Completed by Erin Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:08 PM (Add)
4. Supervisor approves XML File and EAD to Web. Completed by Erin Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:08 PM (Add)
5. Cataloger uploads Smithsonian Institution Records Information System (SRIS). Completed by Erin Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:08 PM (Add)
6. Supervisor displays XML File HTML. Completed by Barbara Adams on 11/17/2011 02:20 PM (Add)
7. Supervisor verifies page on Web Site (Call A. 2). R Finding Aids HTML. R PDF. Modified SRIS. Completed by Barbara Adams on 11/17/2011 02:08 PM (Add)
8. Archivist re-uploads XML File to Finding Aid Repository. Completed by Erin Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:48 PM (Add)
9. Supervisor re-deploys XML File HTML. Completed by Erin Huhart on 11/17/2011 02:48 PM (Add)

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