The Ying and the Yang: Stand Alone versus Integrated Visual Resources Collections

Jolene de Verges
April 20, 2009
What does it mean to bring a library perspective to the discussion of the future of visual resources?
Library situated vs stand-alone

- historical distinctions
- complicated cultural relationships
- campus culture plays into it
- layers of stake holders
- degree of influence
### Question 7: What type of academic collection are you associated with?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic department</td>
<td>40.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Library</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College/school</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent College/school</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution archives</td>
<td>5.2 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visual collections situated in libraries

- “special collection” status
- small in scale and specialization
- outside of primary library space
- highly developed sense of independence
- usually perform only non-MARC cataloging
VR staff in libraries

- subject background
- require different tools to do their work
- level of service provided to patron
- closer relationship to faculty
- different conceptualizations of copyright, fair use and licensing
What mutual values have continually been upheld in both library and visual resources cultures in the face of radical change?
Digital images are:

- core teaching tools for disciplines throughout the curriculum
- most common contents of institutional digital libraries
Mutually held values

- Patience and perseverance
- Avoiding the “go it alone” approach
- People skills
- Listening to users
What does it mean to bring a library perspective to the discussion of the future of visual resources?

Do visual resources professionals, wherever they land in the current upheaval, have a role to play in strategic alliances that are transforming the information environment of the future?
Thank you!

jdeverge@mit.edu