

Monthly Activities Reports (March – June)

Art Museum Information Consortium (AMICO) Archives & Museum Informatics: Activities Report March 1999

Summary

Preparations for the 1999-2000 Library occupied most of AMICO staff time in March. Other activity was largely related to maintaining on-going relationships with other organizations - distributors, subscribers, and potential partners. The Cornell University survey of users went live of the RLG AMICO site.

Detailed Reports:

Distributors

AMICO spent considerable time working with RLG and AMICO members to clear rights for a brochure promoting the AMICO Library. RLG implemented the AMICO Library in a new software environment designed to be its permanent (rather than prototype) home.

Drafts of contracts were exchanged with OhioLINK and reviewed by AMICO General Counsel Michael Shapiro. A draft contract was offered to California Digital Libraries, and their revisions reviewed and responded to.

Research Partners

IUPUI hired June Ward as the project director for the IUPUI/AMICO project funded by IMLS. June will coordinate the selection of teachers to work with the AMICO Library this spring and run the workshops for educators this summer. AMICO recruited members to assist with the project and received volunteers from member institutions with substantial experience in K-12 education.

The Cornell University survey of users went live of the RLG AMICO site. We hope through it to learn more about what online users of AMICO seek and need.

Potential Publishing Collaborations

AMICO offered to take on administration of the Union List of Artists Names and Art and Architecture Thesaurus if the Getty Trust was unable to continue their maintenance. The offer was received but not acted on. Our interest in this is that we actually need to build a usable artist authorities file anyway and the current state of ULAN makes it difficult to use for the purposes we require. If we aren't able to persuade the Getty to allow us to play a role in ULAN/AAT maintenance we'll probably have to develop a separate mechanism for AMICO.

Concern about the Grove Dictionary of Art having used images from deep inside museum web sites (linking to the image alone, without the museums interpretive text, and aligning it with their own text in the DOA online) without either requesting permission or offering to pay a fee, absorbed considerable time in March. Legal opinions and the views of Executive Committee members were sought as well as opinions of other academic leaders in several countries. In the end AMICO did not take any action, though the business practices of the Grove in this case are seriously distasteful.

**Art Museum Information Consortium (AMICO) Archives & Museum Informatics:
Activities Report
April 1999**

Summary

At the end of April, as called for in our schedules, AMICO shipped to the Research Libraries Group documentation of over 50,000 works of art and associated images. Some works remain to be shipped. The 1999-2000 Library, projected to be "more than 40,000" works is most likely to be 54,000-55,000.

AMICO reached agreement with California Digital Library to allow them to develop an application, but not yet for full delivery, of the AMICO library.

Detailed Reports:

Production

AMICO acquired large tape drives and backup tapes giving it the capability to store almost 500 gigabytes of data in April. With that we were able to compile and ship the AMICO Library for 1999-2000 which, as collected and processed by the end of April consisted of:

AMICO Library statistics - Year 1 Library (1999-2000)

As of 5/7/99 - Subject to change (growth)

catalog: 53976
meta: 55379
images: 55379

total size (catalog and images): 188,433,306,324 bytes

Object types

	Rounded to 50
Architectural/Archeological	500
Book or scroll	750
Ceramic	1250
Drawing	7750
Furniture/furnishings	1450
Metalwork	450
Miscellaneous	450
Painting	8800
Photograph	20400
Print	8900
Sculpture	3300
Textile	700

Archiving and On-line Access to Large Images

In April, AMICO began discussions with the "Universal Library" a project at Carnegie Mellon University, to serve as AMICO's data archive and a delivery service for large images, and to explore ways to fund members' digitization of their museum publications.

**Art Museum Information Consortium (AMICO) Archives & Museum Informatics:
Activities Report
May 1999**

Summary

AMICO successfully concluded negotiations with the Artists Rights Society enable AMICO to expand the contemporary and modern content of the Library and to permit AMICO museums to use copyright protected images on the educational web sites.

Gallery Systems became the first commercial museum systems vendor to develop an "export" facility to allow AMICO members to simply report data directly from their collections management systems to AMICO. It tested its capability with the National Museum of American art.

A three-year, \$100,000 distribution agreement was signed with OhioLink to provide all Ohio higher education institutions with access to the AMICO Library.

Detailed Reports:

Distributors

A milestone was achieved in May with the completion of negotiations between AMICO and OhioLink, making the AMICO Library available through a second distributor. AMICO and OhioLink agreed on contract language, to be submitted to both their respective boards for approval, to permit OhioLink to serve as a distributor to Ohio based higher education institutions in 1999-2002. Under the terms of the agreement, OhioLink will pay \$100,000 to AMICO. The agreement would renew on the same terms for another period of three years unless renegotiated at the request of either party.

Collections Management Systems Vendors

Gallery Systems, the first of the commercial Collections Management Systems vendors which have promised to create "AMICO export reports" for their systems delivered a working version and used it to contribute data for the 1999-2000 Library for their clients. With this first, AMICO will now aggressively pursue the other vendors to match their competitor.

Rights

Agreement was reached with the Artist Rights Society to permit AMICO members to include copyright protected works of art by modern and contemporary artists worldwide in the AMICO Library as distributed in North America and to make representations of up to 800x600x72dpi for educational use on the museums own web site. In return, AMICO will pay to ARS, on a quarterly basis, 25% of AMICO gross income attributable to the proportion of copyright protected works by artists represented by ARS. The agreement will renew automatically year to year unless revised. The agreement, which incorporates all the terms that AMICO asked for, will be used as the basis for discussions with other artists rights societies. Among the challenges it leaves us, besides negotiating a similar agreement with VAGA, the other US based society with substantial membership, is to negotiate rights for foreign distribution of the AMICO Library once it incorporates many works protected under copyright.

Staff

Kelly Richmond joined the AMICO staff on May 17 for the summer of 1999 as a marketing intern. Kelly will be working with AMICO to develop better literature and publicity for all of the diverse constituencies which need to understand AMICO, its programs and its services.

Annual Meeting

Planning for the reports of the AMICO Testbed universities and an annual meeting of AMICO members, including meetings of all the AMICO working committees occupied substantial effort in May. The meetings will be held in Pittsburgh June 3-5.

Art Museum Information Consortium (AMICO) Archives & Museum Informatics: Activities Report June 1999

Summary

AMICO held its first annual membership meeting July 4-5, preceded by a mini-conference of the University Testbed participants (July 3-4) reporting on their uses of the AMICO Library. Following up on tasks identified at the Members meeting, AMICO prepared and submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for grant funded development of Guidelines for Application of Art Documentation Standards and applied the recommendations of the AMICO Editorial Committee to the AMICO Library, cleaning up Object-Type terminology, Creator-Culture and Creator-Names.

Data was prepared for Ohio-Link and final data submissions for 19990 were made to RLG. The AMICO Public Web site was re-launched with improved information clustering and updated content.

Detailed Reports:

Annual Membership Meeting and University Testbed Meeting

Reports from the University testbed participants were extremely exciting, and gave AMICO members a considerable amount of information on which to act - a report was prepared for the AMICO web site <http://www.amico.org/projects/u.mtg.99/u.results.html> and a pdf file was made available as well. The Members meeting was similarly reported. Please visit the following link for all the details, <http://www.members.amico.org/docs/AMICO9906.rpt.pdf> Each member Working Group developed detailed priority lists for itself and has begun working on them. Organizationally, the working groups became more formal through electing chairs to ensure that their work will be conducted.

Distributors

AMICO Technical Director Brad Dietrich delivered the last of the 1999 Library data to the Research Libraries Group and prepared for tape shipment to OhioLink. In the process, all image file headers were written with AMICO copyright and identification information.

Fundraising

The interest of members, as expressed at the AMICO members meeting, in guidelines for best practices for documentation led Jennifer Trant and David Bearman to develop a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access program under which AMICO would lead a profession-wide effort to define guidelines for application of art documentation standards. The proposal was submitted for a June 30 deadline. It will be reviewed by NEH and, if funded, would begin in May 2000.

Rights

Following on AMICO's agreement with the Artist Rights Society, all ARS represented artists in the AMICO library were identified in a newly created artists biographical authority file. Works by these artists dating after 1929 which were contributed by members to the AMICO Library (and hence potentially under copyright and represented by ARS) were identified. Lists were prepared for members review of the copyright status of these works prior to AMICO reporting to ARS. "Represented by ARS" copyright

Marketing/PR for AMICO and the AMICO Library

AMICO intern Kelly Richmond began to provide AMICO with an uplift to its public face in June. She worked with Executive Director Jennifer Trant on updating and rationalizing the public web site for a re-launch at the end of the month. She also prepared reports from the University Testbed meeting and members meeting, issued press releases with AMICO members on the availability of the new Library, and drafted a series of planned AMICO brochures.