

Train to Share: North Texas Partnership

Texas Artists: Paintings, Sculpture, and Works on Paper



Southern Methodist University, Dallas Museum of Art, and
Dallas Public Library

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Texas Artists Digital Collection

- Currently available at:
<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/tar>
- Uses CONTENTdm collections management software platform hosted by SMU Central University Libraries
- Represents North Texas/Dallas area: SMU Central University Libraries and Bywaters Special Collections (Hamon Library); Dallas Museum of Art; Dallas Public Library
- Stipend and training resources from Texas State Library through IMLS grant

Partners Digital Collections

- SMU Central University Libraries has 30 digital collections containing 6,200 digital objects (<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul>)
- DMA's online collections contain 5,400 items
- Dallas Public Libraries provides 6,000 digital images within the DPL catalog
- SMU and DMA are uploading 6200 pages of Otis Dozier Sketchbooks in a separate collaborative project

Texas Artists project

- To help promote accessibility to and understanding of Texas art
- Artists represented: Jerry Bywaters, Merritt Mauzey, Edward Eisenlohr, Everett Spruce, Charles Bowling, Coreen Spellman, Florence McClung, DeForrest Judd, Janet Turner, and more.
- Digital collection currently contains 538 objects; will make 1000 digitized art works available
- Partners have spent nearly 300 hours on the project so far

Digital Collections Metadata Creation

- Metadata used to denote cataloging/database records for digitized objects
- Many options available: MARC/AACR2; Dublin Core; customized fields; Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO); and more
- MARC/AACR2: records consistent with WorldCat; complicated training for students and non-MLS catalogers; somewhat tailored for monographs
- Dublin Core: great set of fields, but how do you standardize your cataloging? A few best practices are available; fields somewhat tailored for the digitized object
- Customized Fields: useful to tailor the information, but how do you then standardize your cataloging? Need to pay special attention to mapping
- CCO: looks very promising, but not available to us
- MODS/METS: looks very promising, but not available to us
- CONTENTdm is intrinsically tied to Dublin Core fields for metadata export; Texas Artists digital collection uses mostly customized fields mapped to DC

SMU CUL Digital Collections Framework

- CUL has developed framework for building digital collections: http://smu.edu/cul/libs/SMU_ContentDM_Guide_web.pdf
- Incorporates digitization, filenaming and cataloging guidelines
- Metadata includes fields for descriptive, technical and administrative metadata
- Almost all fields mapped to Dublin Core (DC is the fundamental underpinning of CONTENTdm metadata)
- Can export metadata with OAI-PMH (currently used with SMU's Summons interface and with Texas Heritage Online)
- Fields may be customized for each collection, depending on collection holder and end user needs
- Overall goals: consistency within collection; consistency between collections; optimized for metadata export

Metadata Goals for Texas Artists Project

- Needed to use CONTENTdm
- Wanted to import as much metadata from DMA's TMS, since their objects were already cataloged
- Wanted consistent cataloging styles for each field
- Secondary goal: wanted metadata to be as consistent with other CUL Digital Collections as possible

Metadata Profile

- Fields and information provided in each field was developed collaboratively
- 30 metadata fields largely based on CUL metadata guidelines, loosely designed to match as many TMS fields as possible
- Descriptive, Technical, and Administrative information
- **Descriptive:** Title, Creator, Contributors, Date, Decade, Part of, Description, Keywords, Original Dimensions, Form/Genre (based on Thesaurus for Graphic Materials II controlled vocabulary)
- **Technical:** Digital Resource Type, Digital Format, Digitization Process, File names and pathing
- **Administrative:** Accession number, Page number, Digital Collection, Library, Publisher, Credit Line, Rights

ANTA Controlled Vocabulary

- Authorized Names of Texas Artists (ANTA)
- Expands information available in Library of Congress name authorities
- Includes full names for both first and middle names
- Includes all birth/death dates that are available
- Provides better search terms in index and more information for users
- Currently contains 15 authorized terms
- Example:
 - LC: Bywaters, Jerry
 - ANTA: Bywaters, Jerry W. (Gerald Williamsom), 1906-1989

Uploading the Items

- Received as tab-delimited .txt files for batch import into CONTENTdm
- Each partner provides quality control for their objects
- Digitized files provided as 2000 – 3000 pixels on the long edge .jpg files (unless smaller size required to meet rights restrictions); items can be zoomed into and are displayed as .jp2 files in CONTENTdm
- Searchable fields are hyperlinked and indexed
- Sorting based on Part of (e.g. for sketchbooks); page number, and title

Overall Results

- The large amount of searchable information about each item will help users with keyword searching or returning results via hyperlinked words and terms
- Metadata profile is extensive, but only Title field is required, making cataloging simple or detailed depending on how much information is available
- Training through Train to Share helped us develop the metadata profile
- Excellent communications and dedication of all partners has made our initial collection successful
- More details and items can always be added
- We would like to incorporate more artists and more institutions holdings to the collection