Online art museum collections in the United States:
Assessing their public face
Joan Beaudoin, School of Information Sciences, Associate Professor

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:30PM-1:30PM Rm. 2339 Faculty Administration Bldg

As all art reflects the time and place in which it was created, the underlying mission of art museums is to engage, instruct, inspire, and enrich lives. Art inevitably forces each of us to look at our own lives and reflect upon our role in our shared human history. While museums contain rich stores of objects, the wealth of their resources is largely inaccessible to the public due to a multitude of barriers (e.g., geographical, financial, and time). Online collections can extend the multiple important functions of museums to many individuals beyond the confines of museum walls. Thus, this presentation examines the availability of, and ease of access to, art museum collections presented through web-based collection systems. Focusing on art museum collections in the United States, this project analyzes the presentation of museum objects in the online setting to codify and report on shared practices. Questions concerning fundamental features of online collection access, such as what percentage of the collections are available online, and how those collections are presented are explored, and allow us to reflect upon how far museums have extended their reach.

Dr. Joan E. Beaudoin is an Associate Professor in the School of Information Sciences where she teaches and performs research on metadata, information organization, digital libraries, digital preservation, museum informatics, and the access to and use of visual information. Prior to her appointment at Wayne State University she performed archaeological fieldwork, taught art history, and enjoyed a career in academic visual resources collections. Her research has been published in a number of scholarly journals, including the Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology, Journal of Documentation, Journal of Academic Librarianship, Knowledge Organization, and Art Documentation, and she has presented her research at regional, national and international conferences.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit www.research2.wayne.edu/hum