AMICO

www.amico.org

Art Museum Image Consortium: creating a collaborative cultural resource

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What is AMICO?

- independent, non-profit, consortium of institutions with collections of art
- **Mission**: enable educational use of museum multimedia
Why AMICO?

- encourage broad use of museum collections
- create common library for consistency and ease of use
- administer educational licenses efficiently
- facilitate interchange of experience and ideas
- build links among museum and user communities
AMICO’s Challenges

- **Content**
  - What are we going to distribute?

- **Documentation**
  - How will it be described?

- **Technology**
  - How do we digitize, and provide access to it?

- **Intellectual Property**
  - Do we have the rights?

- **Economics**
  - Can we pay for it?

- **Community Building**
  - Why would we collaborate?
  - Who wants it, and what will they do with it?

Shared by all creators of information resources
Creating and Delivering the AMICO Library

Members → AMICO

Distributors → AMICO

AMICO → Subscriber

Subscriber → Users

Subscriber → Users

Subscriber → Users
AMICO Members

- established Consortium (1997)
- govern programs
- work on committees
- pay dues (equal to subscription costs)
- contribute to the Library annually
- use the Library

- see participation as part of their educational mission
AMICO Works

Works in the AMICO Library are documented by a catalog record, and image and an image metadata record. Other multimedia may also be included.
AMICO

• **assists members**
  - advice, training and support
  - specifications, best practices

• **manages agreements**
  - artists rights, distributors, licenses

• **compiles library**
  - verifies data formats, vocabulary
  - enhances indexing and authority control
  - validates image and multimedia files
  - ensures record structure, links
  - transfers to distributors
AMICO

- assists members’ participation
- develops specifications, best practices
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- transfers Library to distributors
- facilitates collaboration and communication
AMICO Distributors

- **AMICO Thumbnail Catalog**
  - on Web for public access

- **Research Libraries Group (RLG)**
  - university access

- **OhioLINK library consortia**
  - statewide college access (under development)

- **Other Distributors likely**
  - Primary & Secondary Schools, Public Libraries and international users

- **Different access for distinct communities**
AMICO Web
www.amico.org

The Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) is a not-for-profit association of institutions with collections of art, collaborating to enable educational use of museum multimedia.

Together, AMICO Members are building The AMICO Library, a joint digital library that is a licensed educational resource available to universities and colleges, public libraries, and kindergartens through 12th grade schools.

Membership in AMICO is open to all institutions with collections of works of art.

See what’s in the 2000/2001 AMICO Library.

Search of the Week
1125-1300 (Creation Date) and Italian (Creator Nationality)
Search the Thumbnail Catalog to see our collection of approximately 85,000 works of art!

Archive of Past “Search of the Week”

Does your institution subscribe to the AMICO Library? Check out the current AMICO Library Subscribers List

Subscribe to the licensed version of the AMICO Library to get Sound, Video, Curator commentaries about the artwork, Provenance histories, and more!
Reliquary Casket with Chaplet of Mary, early 1100s, Germany, Lower Saxony, Hildesheim (?) early 13th century.
The Cleveland Museum of Art, No. 1949.16.
Photo: Copyright, The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Sampoe with Episode from the Life of St. Luke of Tyre, ca. 1170, Germany.
Photo: Copyright, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Judgment and Martyrdom of Saint Lawrence, c. 1190, Germany, Lower Saxony, 12th century.
The Cleveland Museum of Art, No. 1949.430.
Photo: Copyright, The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Liturgical Fan (Fibellum), ca. 1200, Germany.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, No. 47.161.32.
Photo: Copyright, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Leaf from a Gospel Book: The Nativity, c. 1190, Germany, Himmerhusen Abbey, 12th Century.
The Cleveland Museum of Art, No. 1933.445.
Photo: Copyright, The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Arm Reliquary of the Apostles, c. 1195, Germany, Lower Saxony, Hildesheim (?), late 12th century.
The Cleveland Museum of Art, No. 1930.739.
Photo: Copyright, The Cleveland Museum of Art.
AMICO at RLG

- Research Libraries Group
  - not-for-profit library information network
- Offer many resources
  - abstracting and indexing, archival records, bibliographic records
  - AMICO Library part of their Eureka Service
- Limited learning curve for existing users
- 24/7 support and service
To begin searching, select Simple or Advanced.

Sample images from the AMICO library

Edward Weston  Connecticut Barn, 1941
Gelatin silver print — 19.5 x 24.3 cm
Edward Weston Archive, Center for Creative Photography

Nearly 60,000 works of art digitized by AMICO members are catalogued in the 100,000-volume digital AMICO Library. The AMICO Library contains works from Europe, including ancient Greece and Rome; works from the Americas, including Pre-Columbian (Meso-American) art; works from Asia, including ancient Asia Minor; works from Africa, including ancient Egypt; works from South America; and works from Oceania.

For best results:

- Use a display system set to "true color" (24-bit), or higher
- Use a display system set to 800x600 resolution, or higher
- Enlarge your browser's window as much as possible now
Select an index, enter a value, and Send. Truncate search terms with ? For example, landscape, or water?
AMICO

Subscribers

- educational institutions
  - annual subscription fee for unlimited access to growing resource
- over 800,000 students at 140+ schools in North America
- over 1.4 million at 170+ schools in the UK
- K-12 Testbed underway

Users

- integrate image content throughout teaching and research
- use it in local and networked systems
- need help imagining how to use new resources and support in adapting to them

institutional license specifies users and uses
AMICO Users

Art History
in depth study

Art Studio
compare and analyze

Cultural History

Library
online review

Technical Studies
printing and imaging

classroom projection

student assignments
Issues

- Content
- Documentation
- Technology
- Intellectual Property
- Economics
- Community Building
Issues: Content

- **collections development**
  - ~65,000 works

- **critical mass**
  - of what, for whom?
  - breadth vs depth

- **consistent documentation**
  - text, image, multimedia

- **persistence**
  - access over time to same works
Issues: Documentation

- **data specification**
  - separate display data from access data
  - field level guidelines (for indexing dates, terms)

- **editorial consistency**
  - shared authority files and indexing rules
  - existing tools aren’t enough (~30% of Names not in ULAN)

- **link to metadata standards**

- **cross-resource discovery**
  - AMICO Library links to other resources
    e.g. bibliography and full texts
Issues: Technology Systems

- **Members**
  - collections management systems, image capture, audio, video, multimedia, extended text

- **AMICO**
  - contribution management, image and text validation, multimedia, member and distributor support

- **Distributors**
  - library access interfaces, collections integration

- **Subscribers**
  - local on-campus systems, OPACs, Web pages, etc.

- **Users**
  - own analytical, research, study systems
Issues: More Technology

- **multimedia**
  - common formats, structures, metadata and descriptions
- **consistent and unique naming**
- **verification and maintenance of links**
  - each AMICO work is a multi-part object
- **consistent capture standards**
  - comparable results across institutions
- **systems security, user authentication**
- **authenticity**
Issues: Intellectual Property

• consistent terms and conditions
  – common agreements, no special terms

• distinct licenses for user communities
  – primary school uses different from university

• artists rights negotiated
  – agreements with Artists Rights Society (ARS)

• protection
  – technological vs social and legal mechanisms
Issues: Economics

- self supporting not-for-profit
  - cost-recovery required
  - not dependent on grant funding for core activities
  - long-term sustainability a key goal
- all institutional participants have stake
  - no money returned to members
  - subscription fees support activities of the consortium
  - incentives for distributors & subscribers to develop tools and add value
- keep access free at point of use
Issues: Community Building

- **shared mission enables collaboration**
  - not-for-profit and educational focus

- **consistent terms for participants**
  - common, transparent, formula-based agreements

- **open multi-way communications**
  - public specifications: technical and data
  - known license terms

- **shared risks and benefits**
  - members collaborate online
  - users share experiences
  - all build expertise
AMICO as example

- building multimedia digital libraries requires new methods and strategies
- social, economic, legal and technological challenges
  - integration of people, institutions and systems
- technology is an enabler not an end in itself
  - image databases only one small part of the picture
- collaboration key to scalable, sustainable solutions that support shared missions
Collaboration

key to scalable and sustainable solutions that work across communities and support shared missions
More info?

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