Making the Virtual Library a Reality: 
The Conception and Development of 
Two Museum-based Projects 

ArtsConnectEd and AMICO

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The Art Museum Image 
Consortium “AMICO”

The AMICO Library™ is a licensed 
digital educational resource available 
under subscription to universities and 
colleges, public libraries, elementary 
and secondary schools, and museums.
AMICO: An overview

- Non-profit consortium of Art Museums
- Formed in 1997
- Licenses museum multimedia (images, text, audio, video) for educational use

- Currently 36 Member Museums
- Six (6) Distributors
- Over 300 Subscribers: K12-Schools, Universities and Libraries
- Over 3 million Users
- Over 100,000 works of art
How AMICO Works…

36 Member Museums

AMICO

Distributor Distributor Distributor Distributor Distributor Distributor

Subscribers Subscribers Subscribers Subscribers Subscribers Subscribers

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan

AMICO: Public Site

www.amico.org

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan
AMICO: Distributors

AMICO Thumbnail | Research Libraries Group | H.W. Wilson
Cartography Associates | University of Michigan | VTLS

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan

ArtsConnectEd

A gateway to the art collections, educational materials, and other online resources of The Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Walker Art Center supporting the needs of the K-12 art education community.

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan
ArtsConnectEd: An overview

• Formed in 1997
• A collaboration between the two largest art museums in Minnesota
• Built on existing collaboration between Education departments
• Based loosely on AMICO technical standards
• Funded by state and corporate grants for online projects and K-12 education

ArtsConnectEd: An overview

• Dynamically generated via museum’s collections/asset management systems
• Underlying database accessed via ArtsConnectEd and other institution specific interfaces
• All content is cross referenced to related items
ArtsConnectEd: Contents

- Over 50,000 object records
- Over 33,000 library card catalog records
- Over 2,800 audio and video records
- Over 1,500 online text docs. (bibliographies, etc.)
- Over 6,500 zoomable images
- Over 175 online audio and video segments
- 350 educational activities
- 35 online educational units
- Tools for personalizing and saving content

ArtsConnectEd: Users

- State-wide teacher-based train the trainer program
- Designed for use by both K-12 teachers and students
- Over one million annual users
ArtsConnectEd: Structure

[Diagram showing the structure of ArtsConnectEd, including layers and components such as End Users, Interface Layer, Collaborative Content Layer, and Resource Layer.]

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan
ArtsConnectEd: Partners

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Home page

Walker Art Center
Home page

ArtsConnectEd: The Site

www.artsconnected.org

2002 APEC Workshop, Taiwan
ArtsConnectEd: Interfaces

What takes to develop a successful digital library collaboration…

- Shared Vision
- Resources
- Collaboration
- Governance
- Standards
- Sustainability
What takes to develop a successful digital library collaboration…

Shared Vision
• Leadership within each participating institution
• Mutually agreed upon target audiences, goals and objectives

Resources
• Available content
  – Quantity and quality
  – Legally and physically available
• Available human resources
  – Skills
  – Allocated time
  – Interest in the project
• Available financial resources or potential source
  – Short term
  – Long term
What takes to develop a successful digital library collaboration...

Collaboration

- Internal
  - Cross-departmental
  - All required roles and functions
  - Perceive potential synergy
- External
  - Cross-institutional
    - Set aside competitive roles
    - Willingness to share
    - Willingness to compromise
    - Shared identity and credit

Governance/Structure

- Requires commitment from upper management
- Agreed upon point person and decision-making process all related functions
  - Curatorial/Library
  - Education
  - Editorial
  - Information Technology
  - Marketing
  - Development/Fundraising
- Process for developing and maintaining a long-term strategy
What takes to develop a successful digital library collaboration…

Standards
- Technical
- Procedural
- Descriptive
- Classification
- Editorial
- Design
- Educational

• Internal
  - Compatible current departmental practices
  - Compatible existing systems and processes

• External
  - Compatible with other institutions
  - Compatible with national/international standards and authorities
  - Able to be modified and/or expanded over time
What takes to develop a successful digital library collaboration…

**Sustainability**
- Aligned with the mission of the organization
- Integrated into ongoing processes and procedures
- Written into staff job descriptions
- Planned, controlled growth and updating
- Long-term plan for funding both staff and technology
- Compatible with other related projects (int. & ext.)

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