



Virginia Tech's Luna Insight Digital Image Collections

Digital Image & Data Standards

The effectiveness of Luna's products as viewing and presentation tools depends largely on two things: images of good quality and an effective amount of information in the data records. The information below is meant to provide very minimal guidelines for creating images and records that will go into Virginia Tech's Luna Insight digital image collections. The library staff who administer the Luna software are available to offer advice for your particular needs. If you wish to create or add to a digital image collection using Insight, you must contact one of the library staff listed below before beginning the project.

Library contacts:

Heather Ball, Head, Art & Architecture Library

h.ball@vt.edu; 231-9272

Gail MacMillan, Director, Digital Library & Archives

gailmac@vt.edu; 231-9259

Brian Shelburne, Visual Resources Curator, Art & Architecture Library

bps@vt.edu; 231-6182

Cornell University has created a good online tutorial for planning and developing a digitizing project. It is available at: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/tutorial/contents.html>.

Image Quality:

If the images are not produced at a sufficient size and resolution, users will be unable to employ some of the image manipulation tools in Luna Insight to their greatest extent. For example, images scanned at a low resolution or compressed in a "lossy" file format will appear pixilated when the zoom tool is used. To ensure that the Luna software displays images most effectively, the following standards should be considered as optimal:

Media Type	Conversion Method	Resolution	Master File Format
Illustrations, Maps, Manuscripts, etc.	Flatbed Scanner or Digital Camera	8-bit grayscale or 24-bit color, 200 to 300 dpi	Uncompressed TIFF
3-dimensional objects to be represented in two-dimensions	Digital Camera	24-bit color, 200 to 300 dpi	Uncompressed TIFF
35mm Black& White & Color slide or negative	Slide Scanner	24-bit, 2048x3072 ppi	Uncompressed TIFF
Medium to Large Format photograph, slide, negative, transparency	Drum Scanner	24-bit, 4096x6144 ppi	Uncompressed TIFF

Chart adapted from: Image Quality Working Group of ArchivesCom, "Technical Recommendations for Digital Imaging Projects". Revised 02 April, 1997. <<http://www.columbia.edu/acis/dl/imagespec.html>>.

Images posted at these settings will be of sufficient size and quality to display and project well. There will be instances in which these sizes and resolutions will not be possible. Images created as part of a private collection a few years ago, for example, will probably not be stored at these levels or in TIFF format. In those cases, the image owner should consult with the library staff about the best way to proceed.

Quality of Data:

If the images lack sufficient descriptive information in the database, effective searching may become difficult and prevent many users from finding all the records and images that are appropriate to their search. Collection builders who intend to contribute to any Luna Insight database should contact the library staff listed above to discuss their plans for their data before creating the structure of their database. Other important concepts, such as uniformity of data entry and the use of specific terms in certain places, are key elements in a good database and should also be discussed with library staff before the implementation of a database.

Each new record added to a collection should carry a required minimum amount of information to go into the database fields. In technical terms this is known as a "metadata core", and by completing this core the collection builder provides enough information to satisfy a user's basic search requirements. The kind of information that comprises the core will vary from subject to subject. As one example, a chart showing the core information required for the Art, Architecture, and Design is on the next page.

This chart represents the minimum amount of information required for a database record in the Art, Architecture, & Design Image Collection. A fully catalogued record will contain much more information.

Field Name	Definition	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
Title	Main name of the work depicted	Les Demoiselles d'Avignon	St. Peter's Basilica	Bicycle Wheel
Creator	Any entity credited with the creation of the work depicted	Picasso, Pablo	Donato Bramante, Antonio da Sangallo (the Younger), Michelangelo Buonarroti, Carlo Maderno, Gian Lorenzo Bernini	Duchamp, Marcel
Measurements	Size of the work depicted	8' x 7'8"	Façade is 115 m long x 45.5 m. high	Ht 50.5"
Materials/Techniques	Materials and techniques used in creation of the work depicted	Oil on canvas		Wood stool, bicycle wheel
Culture	The culture that produced the work depicted	20 th century Spanish	Italian Renaissance, Mannerist, Baroque	20 th century French
Date	A date for the depicted work	1907	c.1450-1660	1951 version of 1913 original
Location	Current or former locations of the work depicted	New York, MoMA	Vatican City, Rome, Italy	New York, MoMA
Class	The general category into which the depicted work falls	Painting	Architecture	Sculpture / Ready-made
View Description	The specific view in this image of the work		Exterior view from Piazza San Pietro	
Image source	The original source of the image being used	Tansey & Kleiner, <u>Gardner's Art through the Ages</u> , 10 th ed. Harcourt Brace, 1996. p.1046	Personal image taken by Brian Shelburne, Nov. 2004	Unknown