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Foundation

Charting the Digital Landscape of the Conservation Profession



Feedback Needed on our Digital Landscape Draft Report

FAIC has engaged in a year-long research and planning project, "Charting the Digital Landscape of the Conservation Profession." Rather than polish up the final project report, we are asking for your thoughts and comments while it is still in draft form. We have posted the draft of the Digital Landscape report on a special website within Conservation OnLine (CoOL) that can collect paragraph-level comments. We welcome your thoughts, and please feel free to share the link with your networks and other interested parties:

<http://resources.conservation-us.org/comment/>

We would appreciate comments by the end of September so we can incorporate those into the final version of the report.

The recommendations that have come out of the project so far are a bit daunting, but we look forward to working with a broad spectrum of partners as we move forward.

About the Digital Landscape Project

"Charting the Digital Landscape of the Conservation Profession" is a research and planning project that began in 2014. This page contains links to planning documents, survey results, meeting summaries, and other materials. The final report should be available by early summer 2015

The project is funded by grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Getty Foundation, and Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

What digital tools and resources do conservators use and create? Who are the audiences for conservation content, and how can this content be delivered to these groups by digital means? What kinds of digital tools, resources and platforms will be needed as the



Annual Meeting



(Photo Credit: Paul Locke)

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profession continues to grow?

These questions form the core of "Charting the Digital Landscape of the Conservation Profession," a project of the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC). With funding from the Mellon, Kress and Getty Foundations, FAIC is investigating the digital landscape of the profession to better understand its breadth and complexity, and to identify areas critical to the community both now and into the future.

*Project Director:* Diane M. Zorich

*Project Assistant:* Ayesha Fuentes

*Advisory Committee:* Kenneth Hamma, Pamela Hatchfield, Eric Pourchot, Nancie Ravenel, Koven Smith, Eryl P. Wentworth

The project is divided into several components. See below for more information and links about each.

### Discussion Forum

Join the conversation! We invite your thoughts, questions, and comments on the Digital Landscape Discussion Forum:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/faic-digital-landscape-project>

(This link will open a new window for Google Groups.)

### Existing Resources

A review of existing digital resources was conducted to provide a "snapshot" view of current websites, tools, databases, and other resources that contain conservation information or serve conservation purposes. A summary of those resources can be found [here](#) (14 pages, PDF).

### Survey

An online survey of digital resources was initiated in May 2014. A summary overview of the results can be found [here](#). A full analysis and report (81 pages, PDF) is available [here](#).

Although the statistical portion of the survey is concluded, FAIC welcomes additional responses. To participate in the survey, please use the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CL5XVG3>

### Forums

A series of forums will be held during 2014. Descriptions and summaries will be posted here as they become available.

#### Forum #1, AIC Annual Meeting

Four presentations, followed by an open discussion session, were held May 31, 2014, in conjunction with the AIC Annual Meeting in San Francisco. A one-page outline can be found [here](#). Links to the presentations are provided below. An overview of the presentations and summary of the discussion, written by Kate Brugioni, can be found in the [Conservators Converse](#) blog.

Eric Pourchot (FAIC Institutional Advancement Director) gave an overview of the project and initial findings from the survey of conservators and collections care specialists about their use of digital resources.

[Overview & Introduction](#)

Ken Hamma (Consultant and representative of the Mellon Foundation) discussed the Mellon Foundation's efforts in the areas of conservation and digitization, the goals and directions of these efforts, and their relationship to the bigger picture of the digital humanities.

[Ken Hamma presentation](#)

Nancie Ravenel (Conservator at the Shelburne Museum) provided an overview of key resources she uses as a conservator and talked about how her inability to easily access some resources (e.g., ARTstor; ILL) changes how she locates and navigates information.

[Nancie Ravenel presentation](#)

David Bloom (Coordinator of VertNet, an NSF-funded collaborative project that makes biodiversity data freely available online) spoke about the importance and opportunities offered by data sharing and online collaboration. He addressed issues such as how to engage people to work together as a community when working on digital projects, interdisciplinary collaborations, and sustaining community efforts for these projects.

[David Bloom presentation](#)

#### Forum #2, Harvard University

A two-day forum was conducted September 11-12, 2014 at Harvard University with an invited panel. A summary of the discussions is available [here](#).

#### Forum #3, Dallas Museum of Art

A two-day forum was conducted December 4-5, 2014 at the Dallas Museum of Art with an invited panel. A summary of the discussion is available [here](#).

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