Teaching with the AMICO Image Library

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Boston College
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The Ideal -- Technology and Art United

-- Goal to unite traditional structures and modern media
Boston College

- 14,000 students, 600 faculty
- a Jesuit University
- not a College, not in Boston

www.bc.edu
Our Project Goals

- Integrate Digital Images into Curriculum
  - Art History department: modernize practice
  - Honors Program: expand use of art
- Evaluate AMICO Library -- testbed project
Project Team

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- **Jerome Yavarkovksy**, University Librarian, O'Neill Library (jerome.yavarkovksky@bc.edu)
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Project Team, continued

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- **John J. Michalczyn**, Professor and Chair, Fine Arts Department (michalcz@bc.edu)
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- **Mike Swanson**, Audio-Visual Consultant Swansonm@bc.edu
Collaboration has been one of the key benefits of this project

- Faculty: Fine Arts / Honors Program
- Honors Program faculty and students -- Humanities House
- Library / Faculty
- Information Technology / Faculty / Library
- Ongoing process, other projects
Future Collaborations

- Internal -- ongoing
- External: other universities, museum partners in the AMICO project
Welcome to the Boston College AMICO Project

The AMICO (Art Museum Image Consortium) Library is an online collection of 20,000 high quality digital images of works of art in American Museums. Boston College is one of the first institutions in the country to have access to this new resource; we invite you to explore this collection and explore uses for it in your research and classes.
BC’s AMICO Project Home Page

-- no AMICO images used due to concern for copyright restrictions
Fine Arts Department

- 14 f-t faculty
- 8 art history, 6 studio art
- 5 p-t art history faculty, 8 p-t studio faculty
- core requirement for all students: 1 fine arts course

www.bc.edu/arts
Art History can cause:

- is AMICO the cure?
... maybe ...
AMICO library --
Supplement to our slide library

100,000 slides in the collection (small)
Supplement to our slide library

Logistics: Faculty carousel storage
Current Slide Library

- well organized
- efficient, easy to use (for fine arts faculty)
- can’t expand access without more staff
- slides can only be used by one person at a time
AMICO Library -- Supplements
personal slide collections also

• i.e., I have ca. 10,000 slides
• similar collections by other faculty
• much duplication, lack of access
Current method: slide projectors still dominate

Classrooms equipped with dual projectors
Student review -- non-AMICO:
1) slide viewers

Caramate slide viewers
Student review: non-AMICO

2) CD-ROMS

- Made from slides
- One copy, kept on reserve
- Restricted to students enrolled in course
AMICO -- Video Projector in classroom: “ugly duckling”

Davis DLP projector, VCR, Laserdisk player, Computer
Supplements online archives of my slides

- Architecture -- American and European
- 19th c. Painting
- 19th c. Sculpture

www.bc.edu/arts
Flatbed scanner

HP 4c scanner
Slide scanner

Polaroid Sprintscan 35
Primary Art History Test Courses

- **FA 257 Modern Art: 19th Century**
  (45 students)
- **FA 364 Arts in American History**
  (16 students)
Locally mounted slides for review

Selected images -- these are intended as browsing guides, to identify some of the highlights of the AMICO Library. Many more images are available in the library. These images are available only to members of the Boston College community for educational purposes only, and subject to the restrictions of the AMICO license agreement.

- 18th Century Art - France: selected images
- G.B. Piranesi -- selected prints
- 18th Century Art - American Art: selected images
- Neoclassicism and Early Romanticism in France: selected images
- Francesco Jose de Goya y Lucientes - Spanish Romantic Painter and Printmaker
- English Romantic Art: Blake, Constable, Turner

A&S
Honors Program

Fine Arts Dept
Locally mounted slides for review

AMICO Project Images
http://www.bc.edu/amico

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Francesco Jose de Goya y Lucientes - Spanish Romantic Painter and Printmaker

The Ladies-in-waiting (Las Meninas). 1778-9
After the painting by Velazquez (Prado 1174).
Etching, lavis over sulfur tint and/or crayon manner, drypoint, burin and roulette; working proof — 405 x 325 mm
1951 Purchase Fund
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Self-Portrait with Dr. Arrieta. 1820
Oil on canvas — H.45-1/2 x W.31-3/8 in.
The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Permission for educational use only granted by The Minneapolis Institute of Arts Rights
Locally mounted slides for review
Students Liked:

- Quality of images
- Accessibility 24/7
- Ability to download and use in papers
- Ability to explore in a serendipitous manner - open-ended
- Network speed (on campus)
Students Disliked:

- RLG interface
- Uneven coverage of artists
- Randomness of selections
- Lack of direct tie to course structure
- Network speed (off-campus)
Faculty Focus Group April 1999

Moderated by Reva Dolobowsky, Dolobowsky Qualitative Services, Inc. (www.doloqual.com)
Faculty Liked:

- Quality of images
- Convenience ("I hate slides")
- Promise of permanence (too many www sites are ephemeral)
- Promise of future growth (size and depth)
- Deeper view of museum collections
Faculty Disliked:

- Database interface (RLG)
- Uneven coverage, eccentric selection
- Time required to use
- Difficulty in integrating into classroom -- want an “out of the box” solution, or more scholarly apparatus (bibliography)
Faculty Problems Raised:

- “What do I do with it?”
- Don’t understand how to restrict access
- Lack of understanding of permitted uses vs. copyright restrictions
- Lack of non-fine art images
Honors Program

- Started in 1958
- 500 students, 25 faculty
- highly motivated
- small classes
- integrative approach
The Freedom of a Christian
Luther Considered through the Eyes of Dürer and the Ears of Bach

Welcome! We hope that this page will prove useful as a guide to Albrecht Dürer’s Large Passion series and J.S. Bach’s St. Matthew’s Passion, especially used in conjunction with a reading of Martin Luther’s The Freedom of a Christian.

The layout of the page is designed to allow the reader to simultaneously view a woodcut from Dürer’s Large Passion series and text and audio from a congruent area of Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. Larger images of the Dürer woodcuts can be viewed by clicking on any of the thumbnails.

The images are from the AMICO image library; the originals are held by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The audio clips and text (both German and translation) are taken from the Karl Richter recording of J.S. Bach’s Matthäus-Passion.

The audio clips are in RealAudio format. Controls have been integrated into the web page near each clip title. In order to use these controls properly, you should be using Internet Explorer 4, Netscape Communicator 4, or a compatible browser, with the RealPlayer G2 installed on your system. Any of these are available for free download using the icons below. If you can’t seem to get the embedded controls to work, there’s a text-link version of this page here.