

1. Foundations of Library and Information Studies

Project Title: Finding Political Art Distribution/Documentation (PAD/D) Posters at MoMA

Project Description: This was the final paper for the LIS Practicum course, detailing my experiences working as a NYARC Fellow in the Library at the Museum of Modern Art, cataloging artist posters from the PAD/D poster collection.

Methods: The paper discusses in detail my cataloging work at MoMA, along with the programs, tools, and coding languages used for said work. For cataloging, I worked with MARC 21 format for bibliographic standards in Millennium and OCLC's Connexion software. I abided by RDA cataloging standards, referencing RDA Toolkit when necessary. As this work focused specifically on enhancing the findability of records and materials, a significant portion of the paper discusses my descriptive cataloging experiences in the 600 fields and some subsequent theory about how best to locate and apply Library of Congress (LOC) subject headings. I discuss in detail how I utilized tools such as Classification Web, LOC authorities, Catalogers Desktop, OCLC's Bibliographic Formats and Standards page, as well as NYARC's Arcade and Dabase catalogs.

My Role: I am the single author of this work.

Learning Objective Achieved: Foundations of Library and Information Studies

Rationale: I learned how and practiced various cataloging technologies, MARC 21 fields and format, as well as other cataloging-related research tools that help make MoMA's archive/special collections materials more accessible and findable for potential users.

Additional Learning Objectives Achieved: Ethical/Creative/Critical Practice, Technology

Rationale: Throughout this project, I utilized professional cataloging rules and standards, such as RDA, MARC 21, and LOC subject headings. I also practiced, continually advocated for, and strengthened my passion for the LIS ethic of accessibility. Within the paper aspect of the practicum project, I also reflect on my work with the fellowship and offer recommendations on technology resources that could be used to let more people know about this significant collection of political art posters.

2. User-Centered Services

Project Title: NYC Student Tenant Rights

Project URL: <https://prattlis.libguides.com/nycstudenttenantrights>

Project Description: A guide for NYC-based college students navigating the wide world of housing rights and laws, from dorms to sub-leases, bad landlords to worse roommates.

Methods: We worked together to identify a need for a particular user community, in this case, college students. We then designed the site to appeal to said community and to fit the areas of research that we investigated and shared via Google Docs. We used LibApps to make the site and Camtasia to make the videos.

My Role: For this project I worked on a team with Genevieve Coe and Adrienne Lang. I researched and developed the content for one of our three umbrella tabs, "landlords and roommates." We designed the site and created the videos as a group.

Learning Objective Achieved: User-Centered Services

Rationale: The creation of this libguide was an exercise in the careful study of a user group: their needs, perspectives, aesthetics, and even attention spans. Because no group is monolithic, looking at this one community - NYC-based college students - required us to consider a wide variety of individuals with different backgrounds, problems and communication preferences.

3. Technology

Project Title: Digitizing, Researching, and Cataloging Orphaned Slides

Project Elements: Presentation [Slideshow](#); [Exported spreadsheet](#) of data entered into JStor Forum; Paper [Digital Columbo: Gleaning Metadata from Visual Clues in Orphaned Family Photos](#)

Project Description: For my final project in Visual Resources Management I found two cartridges of orphaned color positive slides. I scanned 33 of them to create uniform high resolution images and then uploaded them to JStor Forum. I described the scanning and cataloging process as a paper and also explored debates on digitizing orphaned slides in current research literature. I presented my findings along with the images in a slideshow presentation.

Methods: My first task was to scan the slides in high resolution using a Hasselblad Flextight X1 negative scanner. As I did not want to crop the rounded corners of the slides I had to create a jig in a larger slide format so that I could ensure that the border was scanned around the images. I scanned all of the images using standards from the [FADGI](#) digital guideline initiative as 3200ppi resolution Tiff files in RGB. I created a naming convention and embedded metadata with the files. I then made minimal corrections in Photoshop, but left the physical damage to the slides (dents, scratches, finger prints) as part of the object record.

I researched the film format and processing metadata as was on the Kodachrome and Extachrome to glean further information on when and where the images may have been taken. I also researched some location clues from within some of the images that pointed to Staten Island as the shot location. Next I uploaded all of the digital files to JStor Forum, an online cataloging system for visual materials. I used descriptive standards and controlled vocabularies from AAT, TGN, and LOC to further enhance the associated cataloging information.

My Role: I am the sole creator of this project.

Learning Objective Achieved: Technology

Rationale: One can hardly imagine a future for images from the past without the tools of digitization. The orphaned slides I found were sitting in a drawer in a thrift store with absolutely no personalized information. However I discovered that, through scanning, researching, and cataloging the images using standards for visual materials I was able to extract a surprising amount of data from the images alone.

The practice of digitizing and attempting to describe and catalog visuals based solely on the clues within the images themselves was an exercise questioning every word of metadata. Extracting meaning, approximation, and association from an image is something people are good at but computers are not. Colors, hairstyles, architecture, body language, and expressions painted a clear picture of a suburban middle class family in the 1960s and 70s in the images. My task was to translate what I understood into keywords and standards that would render the images discoverable.

Orphaned images comprise a huge part of many archival collections. Their lack of information and questionable copyright status can make discovery and use a daunting task for information professionals. Access through digitization allows for the possibility of empowering underrepresented cultural images, but also to violate their creators through unintended use. Best practices are continually evolving and conflicting within information and visual fields. Regardless of use, digitization of orphaned materials is crucial to their preservation, inclusion, and discovery within collections, and therefore a better understanding of how to move forward with their digital incarnations.

4. Research

Project Title: The Perils of "Permanent": A Blockchain Descriptor Case Study

Project Description: This research paper discusses falsities and mixed messages in the language currently used to describe blockchain, and presents possible terminology solutions under development. This information is distilled for quicker consumption in the accompanying poster.

Methods: While developing my thesis, I read a wide variety of materials, from academic reports to New York Times articles, in order to gain a well-rounded sense of how this technology is both used and understood. As I wrote my argument, I evaluated these materials for informativeness and credibility.

My Role: I am the single author of this work.

Learning Objective Achieved: Research

Rationale: For this project I formulated a research question about a topic that is, as yet, little represented in library research, and could thus contribute new knowledge and perspective to the field. I collected and analyzed textual research from a variety of different sources, from tech journals to library grant reports to respected news outlets, in order to synthesize a large and diverse body of evidence to support my conclusions.

5. Ethical/Creative/Critical Practice

Project Title: Reference Service to Incarcerated People

Project Description: NYPL provides direct services to people at Rikers Island, as well as letter service to incarcerated people nationwide. Our class served as volunteers to respond to the dozens of reference requests the service receives by mail each week from people incarcerated primarily, but not only, in New York State.

Methods: Over the course of the semester I received three scanned reference letters from patrons in jail or prison. I answered these letters using NYPL's response template, with the requested information researched, included and tailored to the needs of each patron.

My Role: I am the single author of this work.

Learning Objective Achieved: Ethical/Creative/Critical Practice

Rationale: This project offered a unique opportunity to engage in active reference work in the classroom, and my work and reflection on this project illustrates my ability to think about the ethics underpinning library work, as well as the value of such work even outside of a traditional library setting.