The Dissolution of the Repository: Disbinding and Distributing Manuscript Surrogates in the Digital Age

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The Dissolution of the Repository: Disbinding and Distributing Manuscript Surrogates in the Digital Age

Out of Bounds: Mobility, Movement and Use of Manuscripts and Printed Books, 1350-1550
Twelfth Biennial Conference of the Early Book Society in collaboration with the
Twelfth York Manuscripts Conference
Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York

July 5, 2011
"[Li]braries always bear an especially rich and complex relationship with the past, which consists—no less today than in the Reformation—of one part preservation, one part invention, and one part disavowal,"

Jennifer Summit
Memory’s Library (239)
Libraries “function less as transparent containers of historical truth than as embodiments of historically specific ideas about what constitutes truth in textual forms”

Jennifer Summit
Memory’s Library (8)

Courtesy of Flickr user Rubbermaid Products
...the containers archivists develop must be malleable

Beth Yakel

“Thinking Inside and Outside the Boxes: Archival Reference Services at the Turn of the Century”

Archivaria 49(146)
The promise of the digital is not in the way it allows us to ask new questions because of digital tools or because of new methodologies made possible by those tools. The promise is in the way the digital reshapes the representation, sharing, and discussion of knowledge.

Mark Sample

“The digital humanities is not about building, it’s about sharing”
May 25, 2011
By preparing our resources to withstand disbinding and dissolution, we can...

(1) Provide greater access (and see more use of) digitized manuscripts,

(2) Maintain *better* intellectual control over these resources, and

(3) Leave room for new modes of representation, sharing, and discussion
This mid-13th century illuminated Book of Hours is written entirely in Latin on fine vellum, and is remarkable for its eighteen painted miniatures. The technique, where the figures are painted primarily in grey wash, became a fad in the Netherlands, and the hand behind the paintings in this manuscript has been linked with a group of artists known as the "Masters of the Dutch School." The manuscript has been grouped with other illustrated works, including New York PML, Ms. 345, London, Victoria and Albert Mus. Ms. 32, London Ms. 91, 224, Brussels, BR 21586, and the Rijksmus., Ms. 81, and the Rijksmus. Ms. 74 65 35. The manuscript is comprised of 102 leaves and is almost completely traded, being only descriptions, and retains its original brown parchment binding decorated with ornamental borders and a now illegible inscription. The calendar is for the use of Liège, which helps locate its original ownership. It might previously have been owned by a nun, as suggested by the script and the condition of the paper. It was partially moved by Marius, Hours of the Virgin.
Walters Islamic Manuscripts - Gold ground, black arabesques and polychrome designs in this page http://ow.ly/46GXm
This mid-15th century illuminated Book of Hours is written entirely in Dutch on fine vellum, and is remarkable for its eighteen grisaille miniatures. The technique, wherein the figures are modeled entirely in a gray wash, became a favorite in the Netherlands, and the hand behind the paintings in this manuscript has been identified with a group of artists known as the 'Masters of the Deft Grisailles.' This manuscript has been grouped with more than a dozen related works, including New York, Pierpont Morgan Library Ms. M.184; London, Victoria and Albert Gallery Ms. 32, London, B.P.L. 224, Brussels, BR 21698, Antwerp, Plantin Moretus Ms. 67, and the Hague K.B. Ms. 34 G.96. The manuscript is comprised of 162 folios and is almost completely intact, lacking only two miniatures, and retains its original brown leather binding decorated with mythological beasts and a now illegible inscription. The calendar is for the use of Utrecht, which helps localize its original ownership, as might a mostly erased ownership inscription that has been partially recovered by Marius, Hours of the Virgin.
A medieval scribal pattern book by Gregorius Bock, ca. 1510-1517 from Swabia, Germany. The codex is composed of two parts: the first illustrates alphabets in various scripts often preceded by a text written in that style and second part of the book is contained of decorative initials arranged in various designs. Techniques demonstrated include gothic, round humanistic, Batarde, and large gothic initials. The opening text in the first part begin with decorative initials, primarily white floral grounds. Initial (green and red), openwork border of swirling leaves. Found in 1984 in the Yale University Library.

Folios 37v-38r
Image of Lucifer from a 15C French manuscript

3 people like this.

- Adam 'Archer' Pring looks like my mother in law to be
- 27 minutes ago - 1 person

- The Medieval World haha - lucky you! good luck with that...
- 22 minutes ago

- Adam 'Archer' Pring ta
- 21 minutes ago
"The importance of archival containers and managing containment, or access, persists and perhaps grows more significant in the digital environment. Digital technologies may even make the containers more critical if they incorporate means of maintaining an authentic context and essential evidence for records of enduring value. Digital technologies also make containment both harder and easier"

Beth Yakel

“Thinking Inside and Outside the Boxes: Archival Reference Services at the Turn of the Century”

*Archivaria* 49 (140-160)
Rebecca Welzenbach, MSI | University of Michigan Library | @rwelzenb
Parker Library on the Web exceptions:

- "a few manuscripts with paper pages which are badly damaged by moisture, or those with very fragile bindings, which at present cannot be successfully imaged in their totality"

- "A very small number of [...] printed books, mistakenly catalogued as manuscripts in the 18th century, [...] have been excluded."

- project was developed using a catalog published in 1912, though manuscripts acquired after 1912 have also been included (with cataloging provided by the Parker Librarian)
About the Project

Thousands of digital images from The Pierpont Morgan Library’s renowned collection of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts are now available in CORSAIR. The collection spans some ten centuries of Western illumination, and contains manuscripts from all the major schools, including some of the great masterpieces of medieval manuscript art. The images and accompanying descriptions are the product of an extraordinary collaboration between the Library and the Index of Christian Art to photograph, digitize, and describe all significant illustrations within the Morgan’s medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. CORSAIR currently offers more than twenty thousand medieval images, and the number is constantly growing.

Sampler of medieval images.

Browse list of all digitized manuscripts.

Browse digitized manuscripts by type, country or century of creation.

Quick search by subject for medieval images.
About the Project

Thousands of digital images of the Morgan Library’s renowned collection of manuscripts are now available online. This collection spans some ten centuries of history and includes many of the great masterpieces of medieval manuscript art. The site offers the opportunity to participate in a community of scholars and enthusiasts, a place to photograph, digitize, and share images of Morgan manuscripts.

Walters Art Museum Illuminated Manuscripts > Collections

Western European Manuscripts

Sampler of medieval images

Browse list of all digital images

Browse digitized manuscripts

Quick search by subject
About the Project:

Thousands of digital images from the Library’s renowned collection of illuminated manuscripts are now available online, spanning some ten centuries of manuscript production. The images are accompanied by descriptive records and, in many cases, transcriptions, allowing access to a broad range of manuscripts that are not currently accessible to users. The Corcoran collection of illuminated manuscripts is a significant component of the Library’s holdings, featuring many of the great masterpieces of medieval art. These manuscripts are now being digitized and made available through the Library’s online catalogue, and the project is ongoing.

Western European Manuscripts

Sample of medieval images

Browse list of all digitized manuscripts

Quick search by subject

Corcoran Collection of Illuminated Manuscripts

Collections

Walters Art Museum Ms. W.4
8 photos

Walters Art Museum Ms. W.5
1 photo

Walter Museum Ms. W.7
8 photos

Walters Art Museum Ms. W.18
1 photo

Walters Art Museum Ms. W.26
20 photos

Walter Museum Ms. W.33
8 photos

Museum Ms. W.71
8 photos

Museum Ms. W.72
8 photos

Image ID: 1011338 (high-res)
4x 8x 200M

Image ID: 1011339 (high-res)
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Image ID: 1011340 (high-res)
4x 8x 200M

Image ID: 1011341 (high-res)
4x 8x 200M

Save

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It has been suggested that @hathitrust collections need persistent IDs. It’s easy to agree.

1 hour ago

@cyanicalgrrl
Chris

@jweise @hathitrust But what if I chose to delete my collection because I grow weary of football or housewifery?

6 minutes ago via web  Favorite  Retweet  Reply

replies ↓

@氰icalgrrl @hathitrust Then the persistent id should go to a friendly page that explains how sometimes people grow weary.

2 minutes ago

Mentioned in this Tweet