

**Courtauld Institute of Art Research Forum/Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz  
Photo Archives and the Photographic Memory of Art History  
Workshop (15 June 2009)**

**Photo Library Survey**

**Library:** Frick Art Reference Library, New York. Photoarchive

**Location:** 10 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021

**Website:** <http://www.frick.org>

**Head of Photo Library:** Dr. Inge Reist

**Founding of the host institution:** 1920

**Founding of the Photo Library:** 1920

**Status** (public/private/other): Public Charity

**Number of employees and their roles:** 9 photoarchive professionals and para-professionals, responsible for processing acquisitions by cataloguing, labeling, filing; 1 Coordinator for Digital Projects

**Photographers:** 3 digital lab technicians for photography and scanning

**IT support:** Reliance on The Frick Collection IT staff and equipment for the network and database management

**IT providers:**

**Legal consultancy for copyright and licensing** (yes/no; what source): Associate General Counsel of The Frick Collection and Patterson Belknap Webb and Taylor for outside counsel when needed

**Archive Holdings**

**Number of photographic prints:** c. 1 million

**Number of negatives:** c. 60,000

**Number of digital images:** c. 30,000

**Technical characteristics of the digital images:** scanned at 900 dpi; TIFF format / 16 bit

**Used storage space:** approximately 8TB

**Acquisitions** (sources and types, i.e. digital or photographs): c. 6000 pictures/year, prints/negatives and digital

**Catalogue:** c.420,000 card index ; c.111,600 database records for 139,700 photos and reproductions

**Photographic campaigns:** 1922-1967; campaigns to photograph U.S. collections; London Auction sales (A.C. Cooper, 1922-1937); Italian works in situ (Mario Sansoni).

**Acquisitions policy:** Images of unpublished works of art in the Western tradition, i.e. paintings, sculpture, drawings, mosaics, illuminated manuscripts and stained glass.

## **The Photographic Archive in the Digital Era**

**Digital catalogue:** In place since 1995, no public access.

**Database and catalogue system:** STAR-CUADRA; soon to migrate to either Filemaker or the Innovative Interfaces online catalogue ARCADE

**Partnerships:** ARTstor and NYARC (New York Art Resources Consortium)

**Photographs currently entered in the database:** 139,700

**Internet presence:** Collection level artist file records in FRESCO and ARCADE, accessed via the website of The Frick Collection

**Technical support:** The Frick Collection IT department

**Images available online:** More than 25,000 through ARTstor subscription

**Access:** Public access only on the premises; electronic access to 25,000 via ARTstor

**Digital photo campaigns:** none

**Long-term Archive for digital data:** Inhouse Digital Asset Management system; currently investigating off-site digital storage

**Workflow:** order-accession-catalogue-file-enhance existing cataloguing and documentation

**Other digitalization projects:** Archives department digitization of still and moving pictures

**Other related digital projects:** JSTOR collaborations to scan gallery exhibition pamphlets and other bibliographic ephemera