

BUILDING ALLIANCES AND ALLIES:



Advocating for Art Methodologies in Digital Collections Collaborations

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In this presentation, we will...

- ★ Discuss two projects undertaken by the art librarian and the digital collections librarian at Miami University of Ohio
 - Revising the Shields Trade Card Digital Collection to reflect art research needs
 - Creating a teaching Zine Archive for the art librarian to use in conjunction with her popular zine-making workshops
- ★ Outline the goals for each project and how they were achieved
- ★ Highlight the areas of tension and compromise that arose during the projects
- ★ Share our best practices for ensuring successful collaboration between art librarians, digital collections, and special collections

Advocating for art

Art librarianship has a long history

ARLIS

UK & Ireland
Art Libraries Society

A Pioneering Past. A Vibrant Future.



ARLIS 50th Anniversary
Conference

Shields Trade Card Collection

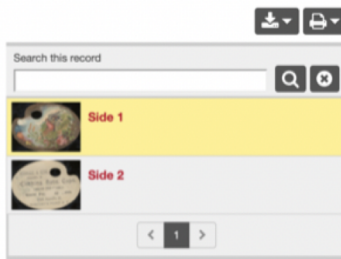
Goal: To make the digital collection accessible for art researchers

Birdsall & King (Dealers)

Side 1



1 of 2



Object Description

Primary Advertiser	Birdsall & King (Dealers)
Primary Advertiser Location	Whitney's Point, New York
Printer / Lithographer	Wolf & Co.
Date.original	1882
Subject (TGM)	Children & animals Rabbits Girls Boys Flowers Children playing outdoors Clothing stores Home furnishings stores Palettes
Standard Industry Classification (ID No.)	General Merchandise Stores (53) Apparel And Accessory Stores (56)
Keywords	Hats Caps Boots Shoes Gent's furnishing goods Robes Blankets
Language	English
Accession No.	041
Resource Type	Image
Gift of	Charles Shields
Repository	Walter Havighurst Special Collections Library at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Collection	Shields Trade Card Collection
Digital Publisher	Miami University Libraries-Digital Library Program

Shields Trade Card Collection

★ History

- Donated to Special Collections by Charles Shields in 1987
- About 2,200 advertising trade cards from the 19th century
- Miami's oldest digital collection
- Are trade cards art objects or media artifacts?



Shields Trade Card Chronology

1999-2019

1999
1st Digitization

Shields Trade Card Collection becomes Miami University's first digital collection

The collection was reimagined at a higher resolution in color

2004
2nd Digitization

2006
Metadata Revised

Metadata revised to focus on business students' needs. Art history information suppressed

Most recent digitization of the collection focused on art needs

2019
3rd Digitization

Shields Trade Card Collection

To achieve our goal:

- VRA Core replaced Dublin Core, creating fields for measurements, work type, technique, style/period, and cultural context
- Cataloguing of Cultural Objects replaced the Library of Congress's AACR data standard
 - Except for the title field, which uses *Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials*
- The Getty's *Art and Architecture Thesaurus* was applied
 - Except for the subject field, which uses the Library of Congress's *Thesaurus for Graphic Materials*
- A description field was added to facilitate keyword searching
 - Also makes the images accessible via optical character recognition technology
- Trade cards were scanned at a higher resolution

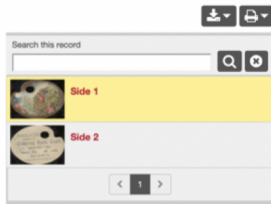
Shields Trade Card Collection

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1 of 2



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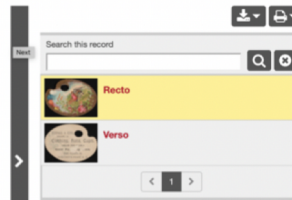
Old
Record

Birdsall & King, Dealers in clothing, hats, caps

Recto



1 of 2



Transcript

Object Description

Title	Birdsall & King, Dealers in clothing, hats, caps
Advertiser	Birdsall & King
Advertiser Location	New York (State)-Whitney Point
Industry (SIC)	561 Men's and Boys' Clothing and Accessory Stores
Date	1882
Description	This trademark by Birdsall & King is in the shape of a painter's palette shows two children playing with a small herd of rabbits. In the background a mountain is visible as well as a field of tall grass. A pink rose in the foreground frames the bottom of the scene.
Object Type (AAT)	trade cards chromolithographs
Measurements	8 x 11 cm
Technique (AAT)	chromolithography die cutting
Printer	Wolf & Co.
Cultural Context	American
Subject	Children & animals Rabbits Girls Boys Flowers Mountains Clothing stores Palettes
Style Period	nineteenth century (dates CE)
Rights	Public Domain-Work-United States. This work is in the public domain in the United States.
Source	Shields Trade Card Collection, Walter Haverhurst Special Collections and University Archives
Type	Image
Language	English
Identifier	STC-41

New
Record

Zine Archive

Goal: To create a student-centered teaching zine archive that can be used during zine workshops and instruction



Students making zines during a workshop

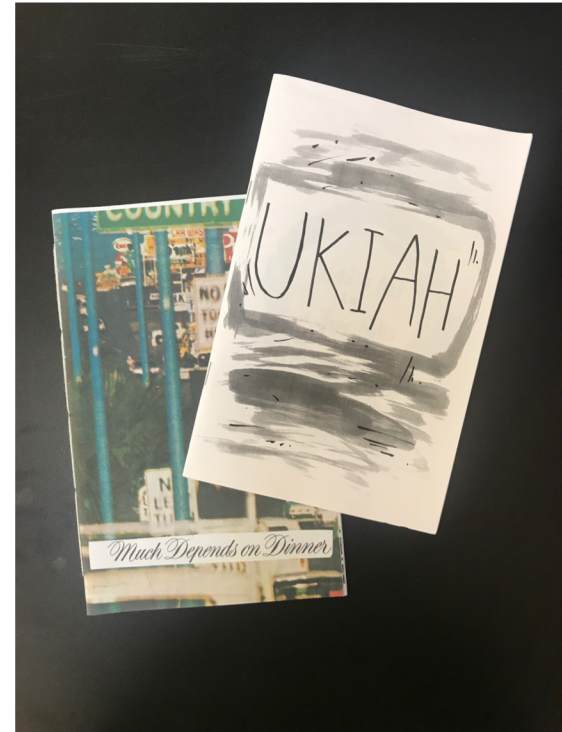


A student-made zine

Zine Archive

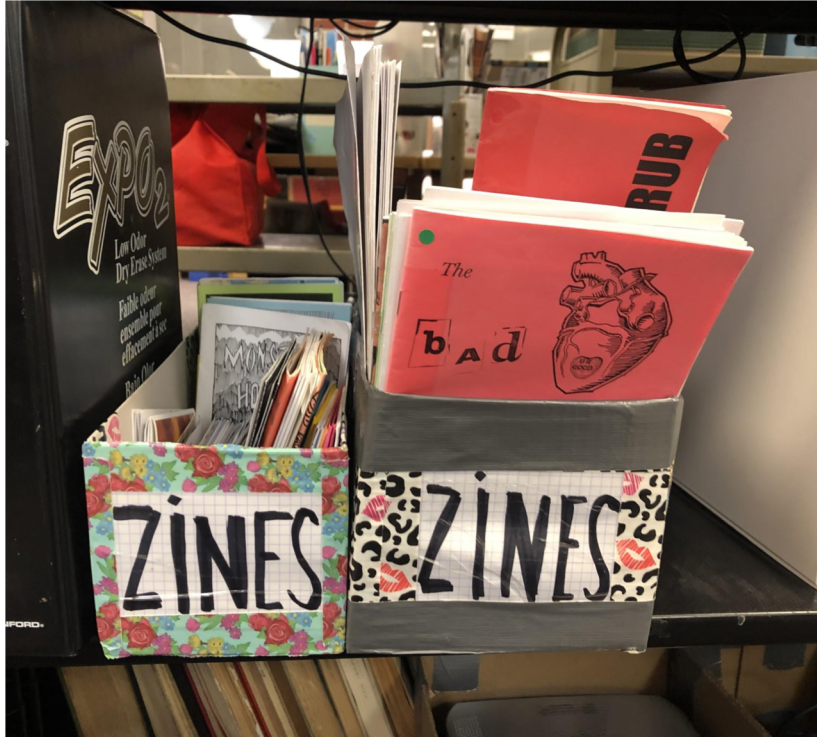
To achieve our goal:

- Organized the archive into two main series:
 - Collection of zines purchased or donated to the library
 - Arranged by subject to facilitate instruction
 - Collection of zines made by students during workshops
 - Arranged by event, recording the workshop's year, semester, course number, and professor's name
- All zines described at the item level to aid retrieval
- Student-made zines are digitized (with permission)
 - Students get to keep their original zines
 - Zines can be reprinted for the collection if lost or damaged
- Housed at Wertz Art and Architecture Library instead of Special Collections

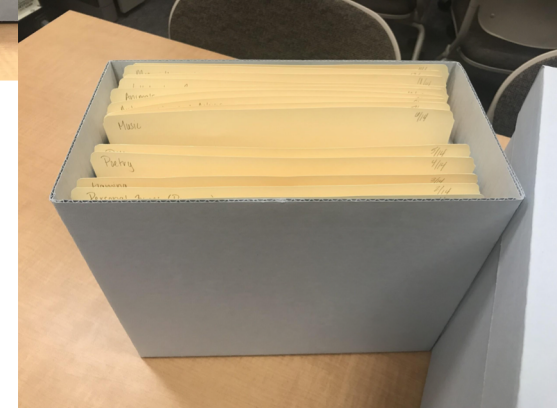
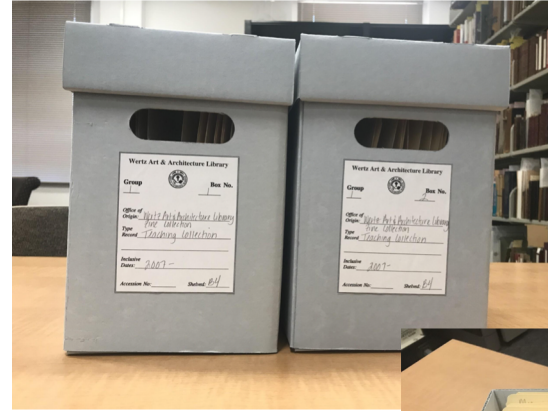


Stephanie Kodakya. *Much Depends on Dinner*. Cincinnati, OH: Very very small press: n.d.; S. Jane Mills. *Ukiah*. 2018.

Zine Archive



Before



After

Zine Archive

The screenshot displays the ArchivesSpace interface for the Zine Archive. At the top left is the ArchivesSpace logo. The top right shows a user profile for 'hillessa' and system controls. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb path is 'Home / Resources / Wertz Art and Architecture Library Zine Collection'. The main content area shows a tree view of the collection. The 'Wertz Art and Architecture Library Zine Collection' is expanded, revealing a list of sub-collections. A table on the right lists these sub-collections with their respective series and sub-series counts.

Collection	Series	Sub-Series
Teaching Collection, 2007-	Series	
Mini-Comics	Sub-Series	
Personal Zines (Perzines)	Sub-Series	
Gaming	Sub-Series	
Poetry	Sub-Series	
DIY	Sub-Series	
Music	Sub-Series	
Science	Sub-Series	
Social Justice and Activism	Sub-Series	
Art	Sub-Series	
Animals	Sub-Series	
Feminism	Sub-Series	
Collaborative Zines	Sub-Series	
Miami University	Sub-Series	
Zineology	Sub-Series	
Workshop Collection	Series	

Building Alliances

Digital Collections

as allies

- ★ Relatively new profession
- ★ Approach projects as generalists rather than subject specialists
- ★ Decisions often determined by technology or software restrictions



Photo credit: Nick Kneer

3

times we compromised during the
Shields Trade Card Collaboration

Compromises

VRA Core

Used older VRA Core schema 3.0 because the digital repository, CONTENTdm, does not support VRA Core 4.0

Getty Vocabularies

Not all Getty controlled vocabularies are supported by Miami's digital repository. Used Library of Congress's Geographical headings

Art Titles

Trade cards titles created using special collections cataloging standards, not art metadata standards

Special Collections as allies

- ★ Older profession undergoing a dramatic shift from collection focus to public engagement
- ★ Approach projects as specialists or generalists
- ★ Decisions often determined by preservation concerns



Photo credit: Nick Kneer



3

times we compromised during the
Zine Archive Collaboration

Compromises

Two Repositories

Established two archival repositories instead of unifying all archival materials in one library

Archival Control

Archival description customized to art librarian's instructional needs rather than institutional needs

Digitization

Zines digitized for reproduction as well as preservation, which is unique among archival collections at MU

Takeaways for Successful Collaborations

Art of communicating

- ★ Explain your reasoning
- ★ Be open to compromise
- ★ Understand points of tensions or triggers that lead to misunderstandings

Know thy triggers

Trig.ger /'triger/ noun.

1. an event or circumstance that is the cause of a particular action, process, or situation.

Know thy triggers

Art Librarians



Digital Collections



Special Collections



Primary Takeaway

Successful collaboration is possible!



QUESTIONS?



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