

**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:** Witt and Conway Libraries and Photographic Survey Department of Private Collections, of the Courtauld Institute of Art, London

**Location:** Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 0RN

**Website:** <http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/research/photographic/index.shtml>

**Head of Photo Library:** Antony Hopkins, Kilfinan Librarian, Head of Book, Witt and Conway Libraries

**Founding of the host institution:** 1932

**Founding of the Photo Library:** The Witt Library was founded by Sir Robert Clermont and Lady Mary Witt; the Conway Library was founded by Lord William Martin Conway. Both collections were large enough to be considered as private libraries by circa 1903. The Photographic Survey of Private Collections was founded in early the 1950s in conjunction with the Frick Art Reference Library.

**Status (public/private/other):** The Courtauld Institute of Art, by public and private financing with additional private support for specific projects

**Number of employees and their roles:** Two Witt and Conway Library Assistants each day during opening hours, 1 part-time Photographic Officer

**IT support:** General IT support for Institute and Web Manager for general site information; Head of Digital Media co-ordinates specific IT projects.

**IT providers:** *Opentext* (formerly *Artesia Technologies*) support internal cataloguing onto *TEAMS*; System Simulation Limited (SSL) support the website *Art and Architecture (A&A)*; and *Cabinet* support commercial image services.

**Legal consultancy for copyright and licensing (yes/no; what source):** A licensing and copyright document has been drawn from *A Guide to Copyright for Museums and Galleries* by Peter Wienand, Anna Booy and Robin Fry, provided by the Museums Copyright Group, in collaboration with Samuel Courtauld Trust Enterprises with the assistance of a copyright professional. The Head of *Courtauld Images* is a member of the Museums Copyright Group.

**Archive Holdings**

**Number of photographic prints:** over 3 million

**Number of negatives:** over 1 million

**Number of digital images:** over 42,000

**Technical characteristics of the digital images, used storage space:** colour images are stored as PNG and TIFF in 24 bit colour and 8 bit grey-scale on *TEAMS*; images are transferred from *TEAMS* onto *A&A* and *Courtauld Images* as JPEG.

**Acquisitions (sources and types, i.e. digital or photographs) in the year, since May 2008:** 9,000 photographs and cuttings; 4,400 digital images; over 150,000 Antony Kersting photographs of architecture (bequest from photographer); approximately 25,000 Alister Matthews photographs of old master drawings (gift of commercial dealer's photographs).

**Catalogue:** Witt Checklist of Artists, published 1994; internal electronic version is updated daily with new artists. The electronic Checklist includes some Conway Library artists and it is hoped to include all of them. The Conway Library card indexes are organised by category : sculptors, architects, etc. The Witt Library contributes to ULAN by remote access.

**Photographic campaigns:** Historically, the photographic libraries conducted photographic campaigns, mostly in England but also in Wales, Ireland and Europe. These covered major and minor public galleries, exhibitions, architecture and sculpture within the public domain and over 500 private collections.

**Acquisitions policy:** The libraries routinely acquire auction house material. Serious consideration is given to gifts and bequests of photographs from photographers, commercial galleries, collectors and scholars as this material is often unique. Digital accession is led by digital research projects, presently Gothic Ivories and Wall paintings.

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

**Digital catalogue:** since 1981

**Database and catalogue system:** Entered digital era with Witt Computer Index, in 1981, using UNIX SCO customised software developed by *On-Line Computer Systems Incorporated*. With advances in technology, 25,000 images were added in the mid-1990s. The data is no longer accessible; the software is out-dated and probably too expensive to resurrect. The Institute was funded by New Opportunities Funding (NOF), created between 2001 and 2003 to develop an online resource. *TEAMS* was selected as the data management system to catalogue items from the Courtauld Gallery and photographs from the Conway Library and to support *Art and Architecture* website. *Courtauld Images* was developed later and offers a rights-managed image licensing service to publishers and scholars alongside a print on demand service for the wider public.

**Partnerships:** *Opentext* for *TEAMS*, System Simulation Limited (SSL) for the *Art and Architecture* website, and Cabinet for the image licensing and print on demand service.

**Photographs currently entered in the database:** over 42,000

**Internet presence:** <http://www.artandarchitecture.org.uk>

**Technical support:** *Opentext* for *TEAMS*, SSL for the *A&A* website and *Cabinet* for *Courtauld Images*

**Images available online:** over 42,000; comprising 595 paintings and 7,268 drawings from The Courtauld Gallery's collections, and 22,694 images of world architecture and 11,335 images of world sculpture from The Courtauld's Conway Library.

**Access:** open access

**Digital photo campaigns:** all recent photography uses digital equipment. Long-term Archive for digital data: presently under review

**Workflow:** Specific to projects (below)

**Other digitalization projects:** Gothic Ivories Project, 2008-2011; proposed by Professor John Lowden and supported by private funding, to catalogue available information on over 2,500 known Gothic ivories. Whilst the project takes 1,300 images from the Conway Library as its starting point, this a collaborative venture with participating institutes from Europe and the United States sharing digital assets..

Wall Paintings Project, 2008-2009 supported by the Robert McCarthy Post-Doctoral Fellowship with aim to research and digitise the 4,500 images from the Conway Library and add to *Art and Architecture* website.

**Other related digital projects:** The Witt Checklist of Artists, which is a contributor to the Union List of Artists Names (ULAN), records basic biographical details of 75,000 artists. In

Spring 2006, the Checklist was passed to the Getty, where the ULAN can be accessed online: [http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/vocabularies/ulan](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/ulan)