

Visual Resource Center Vision Statement (2004)

Visual resource materials are fundamental to classroom instruction and the learning experience. Research suggests image-based materials bring a contextual dimension to education by illustrating concepts, providing visual memory cues, and broadening instruction beyond its traditional boundaries. Art historians depend on images to convey art and culture within the broader context of human history. Studio faculty uses imagery to illustrate genre, style, and technique to their students. Other departments of the university, such as history, music, sciences and literature, use images to provide context to their instruction and to demonstrate specific content. Further, for many students, imagery may be the only opportunity to view a particular work of art, or specific content.

The Visual Resource Collection (VRC) plays a central role in supporting these pedagogic objectives by insuring that visual and multimedia resources are of the highest quality, and accessible for instruction and study. It has fulfilled this role by building a collection of nearly 77,000 slides and sharing these resources with the greater university community. To many faculty and students the slide collection remains a vital resource. However, the future of this media is tenuous at best. Frequently cited as reasons for slide obsolescence are Kodak's phasing out the production of slide projectors and eventually slide media. Even more important in our opinion is the flexibility offered by digital media: the ability to circulate images widely, to access them on-line, to use them in multiple presentation formats simultaneously, etc.

The VRC has embraced the digital age by expanding its mission and services to digital production and acquisition of digital image and multimedia resources for campus wide instruction. In the next few years, VRC will increase its services by establishing a Visual Resource Center. Its purpose is to foster and support the use of digital imagery, multimedia and audio content within the classroom and extend these resources to faculty and student population via a digital image database. VRC intent is to ensure interoperability of digital image content and to facilitate sharing of these resources throughout the university.