Digital Image Collections: Web

Williams College, Art Department, Visual Resources Center, Lawrence Hall
Drop-in Support and Training, 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday
(413) 597-2015, http://www.williams.edu/art/vrc/

Finding and Downloading Images

There are an overwhelming number of art images accessible on the web and you will need to check their properties and copyright prior to use. We strongly recommend that you search for images in the collections accessible from this website first, as these images are ideal presentation size and are cleared for copyright.

On the web, we recommend that you begin with Google Image Search, as you need to evaluate an image based on the listed pixel dimensions, file size and type. Remember that digital projectors are set for 1024 pixels horizontally and 768 pixels vertically, and a larger image is unnecessary and may slow download. Anything less than 500 pixels on the long side will be of lesser quality.

1. Create a folder on your desktop to receive image download.

2. http://images.google.com will open the home page for Google Image Search.

3. Choose advanced image search: choose "related to all the words" and enter simple, specific words; choose "medium" for file size; choose "jpg" for file type; choose "any colors;" amend these choices if you are not receiving desired results.

4. Thumbnail result page: line 1: title or 1st line of page containing the image; line 2: pixel dimensions / file size / file type; line 3: web address.

5. Click on image (image moves to top of page).

6. Click on "see full size image." ("Image may be scaled down and subject to copyright:" the download size may be small due to copyright restriction.)

7. PC: Right click on image (Mac: control click), click on "properties," evaluate pixel size.

8. PC: Right click (Mac: control click), click "save as", rename, choose ".jpg", choose folder, and save.

(Created 8/2008)