

Research 1: Discussion Summary

This event will overlap with analysis in a lot of ways, at the end we broke our matrix down into a sentence structure.

What are we doing for research—art historical research—authentication—and then the more scientific type analysis—materials based.

Then we start getting into activities (verbs)—these aren't linear, they all cross over.

- For example, you need to define the scope and methodology of an art history, formulate a hypothesis, survey available resources
- Conduct a literature search, determine what is state of the art (phone calls, emails, might be a formal or an informal process)
- Further refine and define the problem, feasibility of solving the problem (conducting the research)
- Start fleshing out practicalities including budgeting, what are you going to need for funding, internal, external, consider other resources, time, do we have the staff

Once we concluded this feasibility level then there are many facets of research that are conducted that we didn't have time to explore...

We categorized the type of research

Item level research

- need to know more about this intrinsically valuable object
- how does this object fit into an artists style, a historical period

Collections-based research

- a large group of photographs and you need to understand the state of preservation of your daguerreotypes (from more analytical side, a conservation survey; or catalogue raisonne research)

Problem-based research

- a class or type of objects that has some real problems (film based negatives exuding a vinegar smell)

Medium based research

- material classes
- developing novel methods, novel applications

The products and deliverables all relate (nouns)

- Broad interpretative data
- Recommendations and best practices
- Grant proposals
- Bibliographies

- Publications (analog and digital)
- Records management aspect, huge universe of data, how do we make it relevant and accessible for future generations

Modifiers (adjectives)

Vendor/non-vendor

Internal/external

Categories of

- Art historical
 - Authentication, e.g.
- Scientific (materials based)
- Pure / Applied
 - Developing new, novel analytical methods
 - Problem solving based versus unfettered inquiry

How to do – general state?

- Define scope
- Literature search / formal or informal
- Further refine problem
- Nuts and bolts of feasibility – is it a solvable problem?
- Including funding, staffing, time schedule
- Then many branches of activities depending on type

Particulars

- Item level
 - Report, incl. raw data and interpretation
- Collections based
 - Deliverable: Survey / catalogue raisonne / exhibition catalogue
- Problem based
 - Class of objects with a issue to be addressed
- Material class based
- Analytical techniques

Deliverables – both paper based and electronic – common to all

- Documents with text, images, scientific data of various formats
- Recommendations and Policies for practitioners
- Best Practices
- Publications
- Reports
- Grant proposals
 - Usually electronic submission required
- Analytical protocols
- Bibliographies
- Record retention guidelines

Other issues raised

- Products and services
 - Research to assemble the tools to do the research
- Raw data
 - Potentially in proprietary formats so as to allow computational use
- Medium based treatment / methods
- Item level
 - Report incl. raw data and interpretation
- Collection-based level
 - Deliverable: Survey / catalogue raisonne / exhibition catalogue
- Internal / External collaboration
- Problem to be solved
 - Who to bring in to do the work
- Bibliography / sources /people researched queried
 - Leads to credibility (attributions meaningful)

Very iterative in initial stages.

Initiated by an event like a catalogue or an individual (curator or conservator in individual research need)

In that initial process there are several steps to begin the process to refine research:

- Look at objects within collection or private collections or other museums collection with a variety of formats (paper, digital, web, all sorts of information)
- Broad general literature survey, existing documentation focused on that group of objects or artist in this initial loop of activity which is part of refining your hypothesis
- Initial visual examinations, technical analysis, interviews in this area or interviews with artist
 - this can become a collaborative process, the thought is that you then in this process begin to accumulate digital images, hard copy files, and digital files
- Direct hypothesis which would result in a need to look at all these resources but in a more refined way
- Before the initiation of the second loop you would create a written proposal that might become a grant proposal

- Second phase would lead to writing-editing process leading ultimately to publication (paper, spreadsheets, pdfs, web, lectures)