ArtsConnectEd Overview

ArtsConnectEd.org (ACE) is a partnership between the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) and Walker Art Center (WAC). The Web site provides access to the collections and resources of the two art museums. While the site can be used by anyone, the site was designed with K-12 teachers and students in mind. The site presents over 90,000 works of art, over 20,000 images, 1000+ media files, thousands of text records including full-text articles and activity plans, and links to other MIA and WAC online multimedia resources. Now in its eleventh year, ACE recently completed a 4-year upgrade project. The project, funded by IMLS, added an innovative search and opportunities for user-generated content.

Art Finder is the search interface for ACE. It uses a faceted browsing or parametric approach to searching. Users begin with everything and can filter their results using keywords and/or a variety of other metadata fields. Keyword searching in ACE includes museum generated metadata as well as user generated comments and tags.

The Art Collector tool empowers users to combine items that they find into multimedia presentations, called Sets. Sets can include text, audio, video, and images. Users can include their own images from Flickr, videos from Art Babble or YouTube, and web-hosted mp3 files. Click here to see a teacher-created Art Collector Set.

Tags on ArtsConnectEd

The work of art or object metadata in ACE is updated daily from Collections Management databases of the two museums. Curators, art historians, are the original authors of this content. While there is a lot of information not all of the terminology is meaningful to the end-user. Tags provide a means for museum staff and end users to contribute keywords to any item. Commonly added tags include descriptive data, common terms, additional context, and interpretation.

Each item record may include tags. Each tag in the list is hyperlinked to a search return for other items tagged with that term. There are two tag entry boxes on each item record page. One allows the user to see the image but not existing tags. The other allows access to previously added tags. All tags are immediately added to the database. Only those tags that are contrary to our terms of use are removed.

A tag cloud navigation tool is available on the ACE homepage. The cloud is randomly generated to include include tags from zero to zed each time the homepage loads. Terms are highlighted within each cloud based on frequency.

Only registered users may tag items in ArtsConnectEd. Registration is free and open to anyone. User login is tied to all content that user generates. Site administrators can remove individual tags or all tags generated by any user.

http://www.artsconnected.org
http://ace2.artsconnected.org

Treden Wagoner
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
twagoner@artsmia.org

http://www.artsconnected.org  Treden Wagoner
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
twagoner@artsmia.org