

Director of Visual Media Collections, Department of the History of Art and Architecture, University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh, Department of the History of Art and Architecture (HAA), invites applications for a full-time Director of the Visual Media Collections to begin September 1, 2010, pending budgetary approval. This is a non-tenure track faculty position at the rank of Lecturer. We seek a dynamic leader with excellent communication and management skills to serve as Director of Visual Media Collections (VMC) and to collaborate with other academic departments in the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S), the Digital Resources Library (DRL) in the University Library System, and the School of Information Sciences (SIS). In addition to administrative and leadership tasks, the Director will also be expected to teach three courses per year (including one in the summer) in the School of Information Sciences. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience.

Duties:

The Director of the VMC is responsible for the administration and management of the VMC, which include subscription-based assets such as ARTstor and an expanding local collection of approximately 50,000 digital images, as well as significant analog holdings of 35mm slides, lantern slides, and study photographs, and a collection database for the University Art Gallery. The collections are currently served by one full-time staff member, a graduate student assistant, and undergraduate work-study students.

In addition to managing the daily operations of the collections and supervising the staff and assistants, the Director will develop and implement a long-range plan to curate the VMC and maximize its transdisciplinary potential for University research and instruction. This will involve balancing the University's subscription-based image resources with the more focused, specialized curation of locally-produced visual assets; improving access to and usability of the collections for faculty and students throughout the University; integrating new image resources from a variety of sources including the Internet and the personal collections of faculty and grad students; expanding the VMC into 3D and virtual-reality images and other cutting-edge imaging technologies; and cataloging and preserving the collections for the future. Duties include implementing protocols for image production and for metadata management; preparation of strategic plans and budgets; training and management of staff and work study students; assessing the needs of faculty and students and communicating with them on a continuing basis. The Director works in close consultation with faculty and students from HAA; collaborates with other university units in A&S, the DRL, and SIS; and in conjunction with the chair of HAA and the Dean of A&S is responsible for setting long-term goals and policies for the future development of visual media collections.

Qualifications:

MA in art history is the minimum degree requirement; PhD in art history is strongly preferred. Also required is a second degree in Information Science and/or five years experience working in visual media collections. Knowledge of at least one foreign language is essential.

The successful candidate must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and administrative and supervisory competence. The candidate must have a strong familiarity with best practices in visual resources and archives management, as well as knowledge of and interest in the latest trends in the field. The candidate must be able to work with diverse groups of faculty and students in multiple fields and disciplines, and to formulate and implement strategic plans. Teaching experience in digital imaging and/or archiving, and a demonstrated commitment to teaching, is also strongly preferred.

Please send a letter of application, a copy of your vita, a teaching portfolio including evidence of teaching ability, and three letters of reference to: VMC Search Committee, 104 Frick Fine Arts Department, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Deadline for application is May 3, 2010. The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups under-represented in academia are especially encouraged to apply.