

The Clarice Francone Digital Archive

A Capstone Project by John Durant



Project Background



Capstone Student:
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**Sponsoring
Organization:**
Oregon Health
Sciences University
Project Sponsor:
Steven Duckworth,
University Archivist



Information Problem

- Clarice Francone was a medical illustrator who served as Head of the Medical Illustration Department at the University of Oregon Medical School from 1936 to 1969.
- An archive containing Francone's illustrations, sketches, publications and correspondence has existed in the OHSU Archives since 1999, but has been insufficiently arranged and described, improperly housed, and unavailable to view and search online. There have also been more recent accessions that need to be integrated into the collection.
- At the outset of this project, an archive of significant historical, scientific and artistic merit was largely inaccessible to users.

Project Objectives

- Reprocess the Francone Collection. This includes rehousing the collection to correct outdated and unsustainable practices, retitling folders to be consistent with archival best practices and incorporating new accessions into the collection.
- Prepare digital files. This includes ensuring quality of previously unpublished scans, scanning new and missing items, reformatting images and arranging images to correctly reflect the newly reprocessed archive.
- Generate metadata for digital archive. This includes creating folder level descriptions, assigning subject terms from the OHSU Authority Record and filling in relevant metadata to facilitate ease of use.

Key Project Insights

-Fixing an improperly processed collection can be more time consuming than processing a collection from scratch.

-Flexibility is key. I originally intended to frame this project as a digital exhibition in addition to the repository, but as work continued, I realized just how much work that would be. In a larger time frame, I would have loved to have done an exhibition as well!

-Processing an archive is all about allowing users to see items as they exist in conversation with the entire collection.

Solution

-The online Francone collection increases access by allowing users to view images, read descriptions and search by keywords, both within the repository and the larger OHSU Digital Collections.

-By reprocessing the collection, it has become easier to use and understand. Rehousing the collection also insures the preservation of of the physical documents into the future.

Evaluation

- Though limited biographical information on Francone has unfortunately made further contextualizing her work difficult, efforts to make an influential collection of medical illustration more widely available has been a success.
- This process has given me immensely useful lessons about the practical application of archival theory. I have also learned a lot about how to manage large volumes of metadata and how to translate that into better outcomes for the end user.
- Ultimately, I feel as if I have been able to accomplish many of my initial goals and have delivered something of use to OHSU Library users.

Thank you!

