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Museum Observation #2

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April 10, 2018

The New York Historical Society: Technology and Interactive Experiences

The Bridge Between Digital and Physical

As information professionals it is our duty to remain current with the changing technological landscape and take advantage of the most cutting-edge forms of information management and new developments in information sharing. The goal of an information professional is to manage information and ensure its survival; but what use is information if it does not help or provide insight? It should be our goal to protect information and find every way for it to be used within research and for educational purposes. By blending physical and digital worlds through online exhibits, virtual reality, social media and other platforms, institutions can create lasting experiences and provide important access to research materials. A key piece of this is creating multiple programs to allow access and provide use to as number of different audiences; this includes children, regular visitors all the way to the most experienced researchers.¹

¹ Digital Strategy 2015-2017, Science Museum Group, Accessed April 9, 2018, <https://group.sciencemuseum.org.uk/policies-and-reports/digital-strategy/>.

The New York Historical Society

The NYHS provides online access to the majority of its collections and previous exhibitions. The museum also creates a number of online exhibits which include activities, timelines and sights and sounds.²

Exhibitions

[Current Exhibitions](#) | [Special Installations](#) | [Future Exhibitions](#) | [Traveling Exhibitions](#) | [Online Exhibitions](#) | [Past Exhibitions](#)

▶ **AIDS in New York: The First Five Years**

AIDS in New York: The First Five Years examines the AIDS epidemic from 1980 to 1985 and explores the fear and hysteria that followed the AIDS outbreak. The exhibition highlights the power of fear and the frustration felt by those affected by AIDS as well as the steps taken to find...

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▶ **The Armory Show at 100**

On October 11, 2013, the New-York Historical Society will celebrate the centennial of this landmark event with *The Armory Show at 100*, an exhibition of more than ninety masterworks from the 1913 exhibition, including the European avant-garde, icons of American art, and earlier works...

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The Luce Center at the New York Historical Society, which houses the institutions collection of Tiffany Lamps, takes this access a step further. They provide a video tour of the Tiffany Gallery and information about Tiffany and the galleries design and architectural significance.³

² Online Exhibitions, New York Historical Society, Accessed April 9, 2018, <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/online-exhibitions>.

³ Tiffany Gallery, The Luce Center at the New York Historical Society, Accessed April 9, 2018, <http://www.nyhistory.org/luce-center/tiffany-gallery>.



Gallery of Tiffany Lamps

Designed by prizewinning architect Eva Jiřičná, the new Tiffany Gallery is a stunning, immersive display space for New-York Historical's exceptional Tiffany collection. The accompanying story of lamp making at Tiffany Studios focuses on the important contributions made by head designer Clara Driscoll (1861-1944) and the uncredited "Tiffany Girls" who worked in her Women's Glass Cutting Department. The gallery thus provides a bridge between New-York Historical's permanent collection and the new Center for Women's History.

The New York Historical Society as an institution seems to embrace the use of technology on all of its platforms. Within the museum they provide a number of innovative features tied to exhibits for enhanced learning and visitor experiences.

How this affects my object

My selected object is a work on paper and was created in 1831. The piece entered the collection of the New York historical society years later in 1863.⁴ For the last 187 years the object has survived, but with preservation it is unknown how long a piece can truly last. This is where technology and the digital world become of vital importance. My chosen work has appeared in a number of exhibits highlighting the Audubon drawings as well as an online exhibit which closed in late 2017. As discussed in my technology assignment it is important for this work to be seen for both its scientific and artistic importance's. This connection will allow researchers from multiple disciplines to use the object and ensure its long-lasting protection. Since this work is of a living species, the Yellow-crowned Night-heron, a way to make it interactive is to pair it with bird calls, live images of the species, life-cycles and videos. The scientific nature of the piece allows for even more innovation and possible partnerships that are not always afforded to works that are simply known for artistic value and would help an already important ornithological art collection stand out even more.

⁴ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, New York Historical Society, Accessed April 9, 2018, <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibit/yellow-crowned-night-heron-nyctanassa-violacea-havell-plate-no-336>.

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