

Teaching with the AMICO Image Library

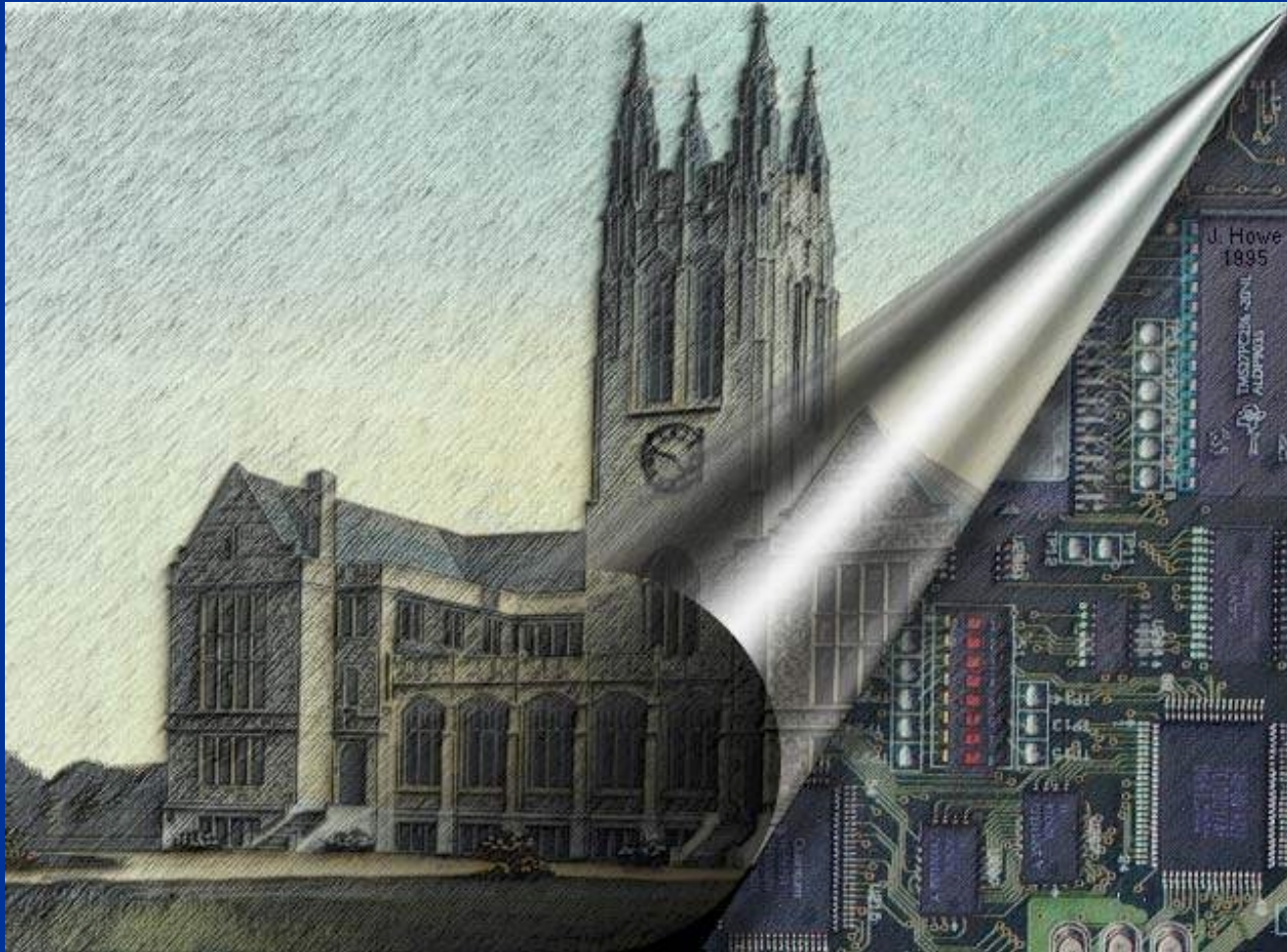
Jeffery Howe

Mark O'Connor

Boston College

June 2, 1999

The Ideal -- Technology and Art United



-- Goal to unite traditional structures
and modern media

Boston College

- 14,000 students, 600 faculty
- a Jesuit University
- not a College, not in Boston

www.bc.edu

Our Project Goals

- Integrate Digital Images into Curriculum
 - Art History department: modernize practice
 - Honors Program: expand use of art
- Evaluate AMICO Library -- testbed project

Project Team

- **Jeffery Howe**, Associate Professor, Fine Arts Department (jeffery.howe@bc.edu)
- **Mark O'Connor**, Director, Honors Program (mark.oconnor.1@bc.edu)
- **Jerome Yavarkovsky**, University Librarian, O'Neill Library (jerome.yavarkovsky@bc.edu)
- **Kathleen Carney**, Associate University Librarian, Research, Instructional, & Access Services, O'Neill Library (kathleen.carney.1@bc.edu)

Project Team, continued

- **Adeane Bregman**, Bapst Art Library
(adeane.bregman@bc.edu)
- **Andrea Frank**, Visual Resources Curator, Fine Arts Department (andrea.frank@bc.edu)
- **John J. Michalczyk**, Professor and Chair, Fine Arts Department (michalcz@bc.edu)
- **Andrew Lazarewicz**, Assistant Director, Academic and Research Services, Information Technology (lazarew@bc.edu)
- **Mike Swanson**, Audio-Visual Consultant
Swansonm@bc.edu

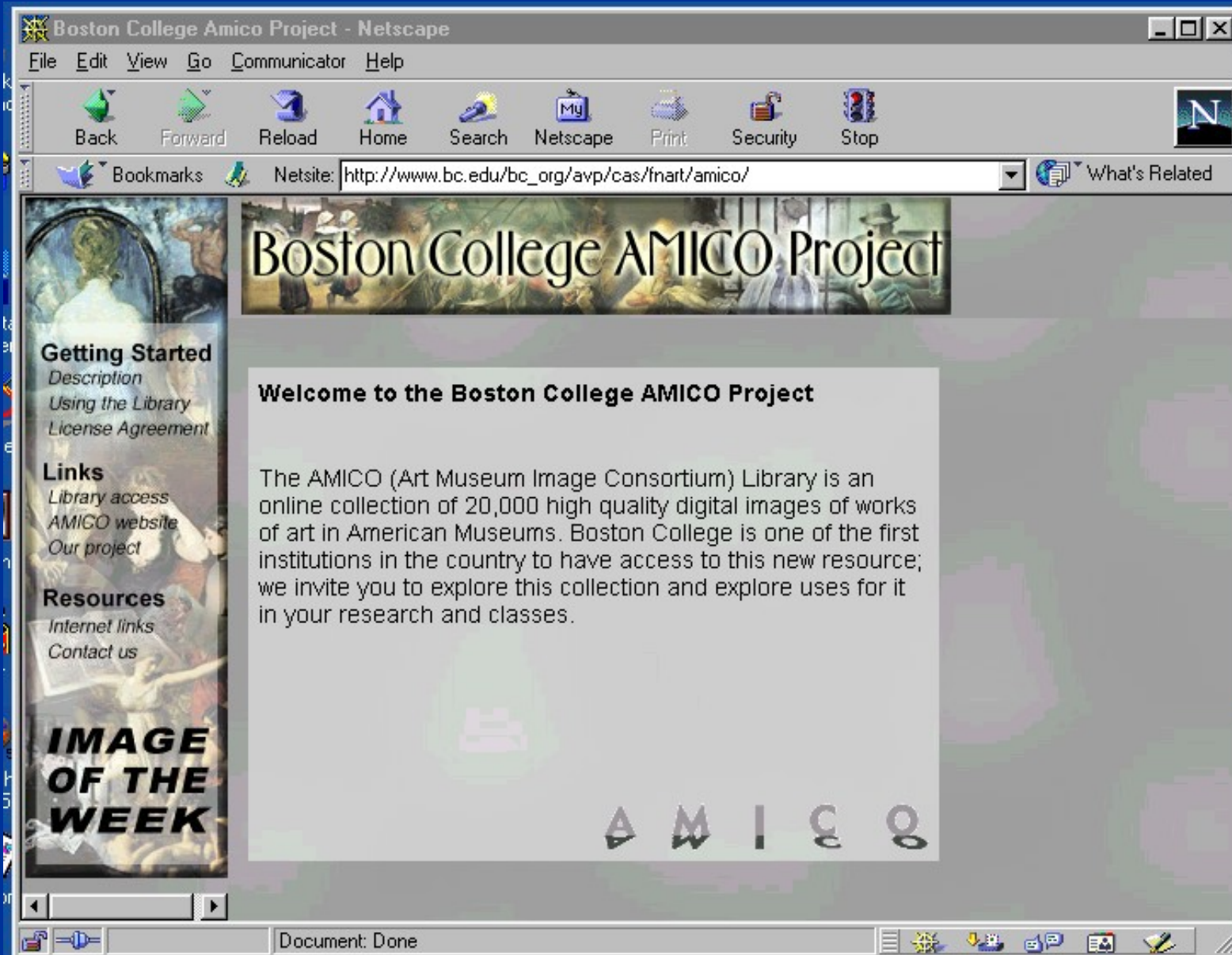
Collaboration has been one of the key benefits of this project

- Faculty: Fine Arts / Honors Program
- Honors Program faculty and students
-- Humanities House
- Library / Faculty
- Information Technology / Faculty / Library
- Ongoing process, other projects

Future Collaborations

- Internal -- ongoing
- External: other universities, museum partners in the AMICO project

BC's AMICO Project Home Page



BC's AMICO Project Home Page

-- no AMICO images used
due to concern for
copyright restrictions

Fine Arts Department

- 14 f-t faculty
- 8 art history,
6 studio art
- 5 p-t art history
faculty, 8 p-t studio
faculty
- core requirement
for all students: 1
fine arts course

www.bc.edu/arts



Art History can cause:



**Brain and
Nerve
EXHAUSTION,**

Dizziness, Nervous
Trembling, Etc.,

Cured by Old Dr. Hallock's
Wonderful Electric Pills.

WATCH YOUR NERVES!

- is AMICO the cure?

... *maybe* ...

AMICO library -- Supplement to our slide library



100,000 slides in the collection (small)

Supplement to our slide library



Logistics: Faculty carousel storage

Current Slide Library

- well organized
- efficient, easy to use
(for fine arts faculty)
- can't expand access without
more staff
- slides can only be used by one
person at a time

AMICO Library -- Supplements personal slide collections also

- i.e., I have ca. 10,000 slides
- similar collections by other faculty
- much duplication, lack of access

Current method: slide projectors
still dominate



Classrooms equipped with dual projectors

Student review -- non-AMICO: 1) slide viewers



Caramate slide viewers

Student review: non-AMICO

2) CD-ROMS

- Made from slides
- One copy, kept on reserve
- Restricted to students enrolled in course

AMICO -- Video Projector in classroom: “ugly duckling”



Davis DLP
projector,
VCR,
Laserdisk
player,
Computer

Supplements online archives of my slides

- Architecture -- American and European
- 19th c. Painting
- 19th c. Sculpture

www.bc.edu/arts

Flatbed scanner



HP 4c scanner

Slide scanner

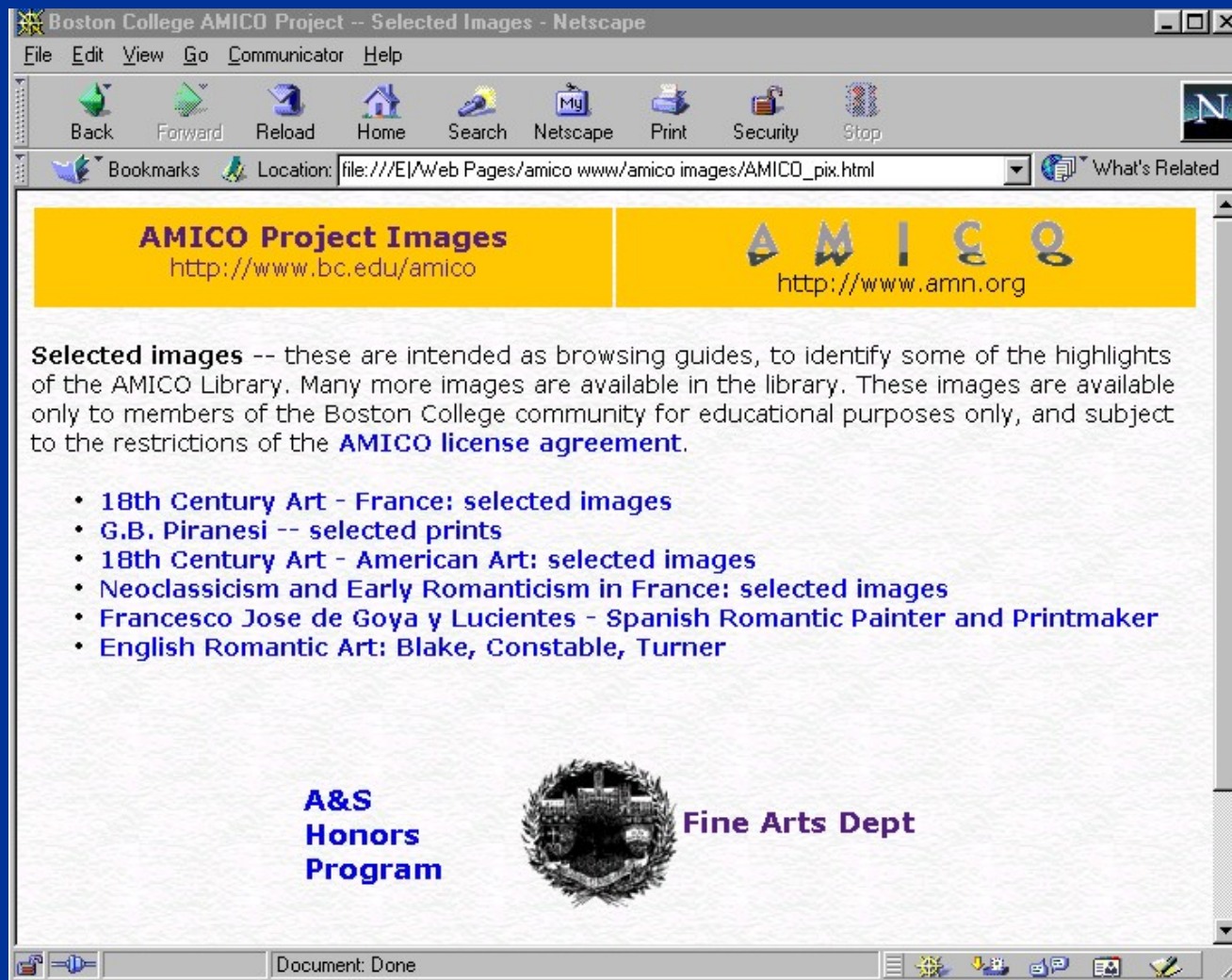


Polaroid Sprintscan 35

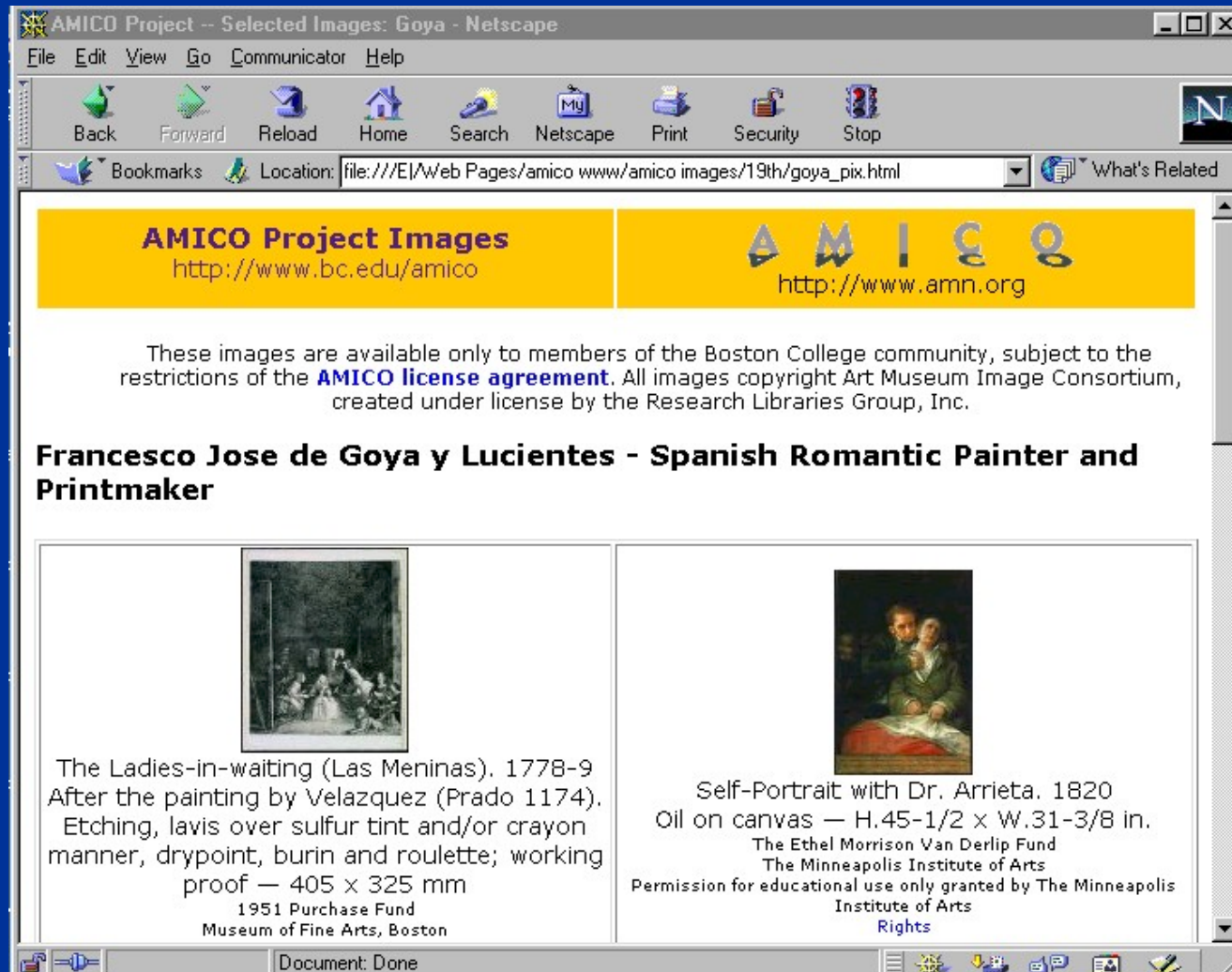
Primary Art History Test Courses

- FA 257 Modern Art:
19th Century
(45 students)
- FA 364 Arts in
American History
(16 students)

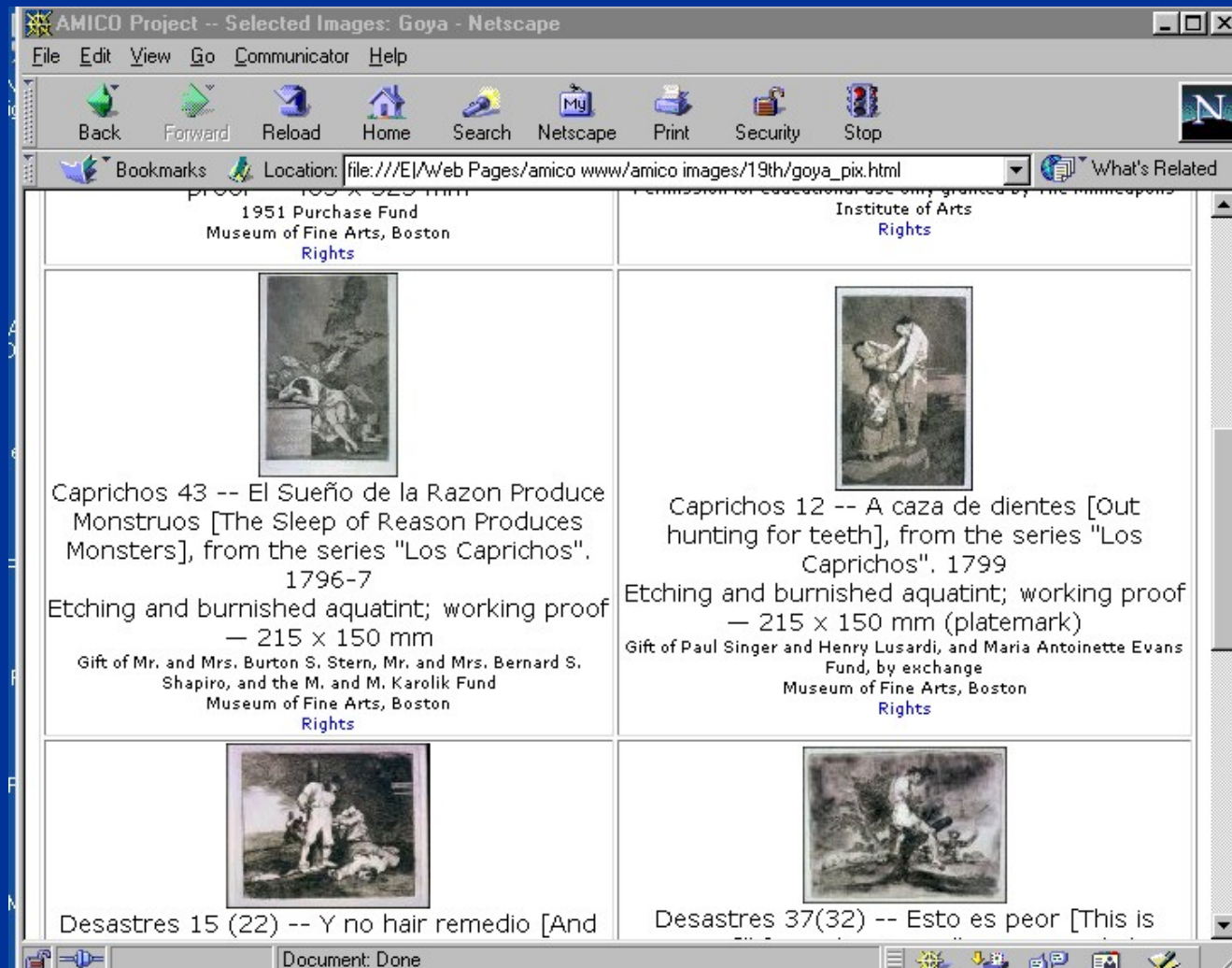
Locally mounted slides for review



Locally mounted slides for review



Locally mounted slides for review



Students Liked:

- Quality of images
- Accessibility 24/7
- Ability to download and use in papers
- Ability to explore in a serendipitous manner - open-ended
- network speed (on campus)

Students Disliked:

- RLG interface
- Uneven coverage of artists
- Randomness of selections
- Lack of direct tie to course structure
- Network speed (off-campus)

Faculty Focus Group April 1999



Moderated by Reva Dolobowsky, Dolobowsky
Qualitative Services, Inc. (www.doloqual.com)

Faculty Liked:

- Quality of images
- Convenience (“I hate slides”)
- Promise of permanence (too many www sites are ephemeral)
- Promise of future growth (size and depth)
- Deeper view of museum collections

Faculty Disliked:

- Database interface (RLG)
- Uneven coverage, eccentric selection
- Time required to use
- Difficulty in integrating into classroom -- want an “out of the box” solution, or more scholarly apparatus (bibliography)

Faculty Problems Raised:

- “What do I do with it?”
- Don’t understand how to restrict access
- Lack of understanding of permitted uses vs. copyright restrictions
- Lack of non-fine art images

Honors Program

- Started in 1958
- 500 students, 25 faculty
- highly motivated
- small classes
- integrative approach

Honors Program Project

