Collaborating across Organizational Lines

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In the spring of 2015 the University of Iowa Museum of Art and the University of Iowa Libraries collaborated on a project to conserve and digitize four large-format folios of Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s 18th century *Le Antichità Romane* from the UIMA collection.

**Project Catalysts**

**UI Museum of Art**
- No permanent museum location due to 2008 flood.
- No suitable space to engage in a long-term conservation project at the temporary location.
- Folios to be featured in an upcoming exhibit.

**UI Libraries**
- Has a conservation lab, but limited staff time to perform treatments on other collections.
- Acquired digitization equipment capable of photographing large-format folios.

**Conservation of the Piranesi folios is the greatest collaboration of staff, skills, and space sharing that has occurred to date. UIMA's Sarah Luko spent ~50 hours treating the folios in the UI Libraries' conservation lab. The success of this project has made way for new possibilities.**

**Takeaways**
- Leverage in-house skills.
- Share resources: staff time, space, & equipment.
- Strengthen relationships; maximize knowledge.
- Quicker turnaround and access to objects during conservation treatment.
- Create and implement common metadata standards.
- Preserve physical and digital resources.

**Current/Future Projects**
- Conservation/rebinding Francisco de Goya y Lucientes, *Los Desastres de la Guerra (The Disasters of War)*, 1863, Etching and aquatint.
- Loan of UI Libraries Special Collection pamphlet to UIMA exhibition.