Baillieu Library Print Collection

Student/Volunteer Position Guide

Position Title: Collection Management – Research Assistant, Drawing Collection

Supervisor: Kerrianne Stone, Curator, Prints
Helen Arnoldi, Cultural Collection Projects Coordinator

Position Goal: The primary goal of this position will be to complete in depth research on the collection of European drawings that are housed within the Baillieu Library Print Collection. This information will be used to understand the drawing collection within the context of Western art history and as a resource within the University. There is also scope to suggest directions toward future collection and policy development related to this collection. Information will subsequently be added to the EMu (Electronic Museum) database which will serve to enhance and expand the collection catalogue.

Background: The University’s Print Collection comprises some 8,000 prints – mostly etchings, engravings, mezzotints, lithographs, woodcuts and wood engravings – that date from the fifteenth century to the twentieth. It is based on a gift of 3,700 Old Master prints donated by Dr John Orde Poynton in 1959 and was further enhanced in 1964 with Harold Wright’s bequest of half his Lionel Lindsay print collection and prints by his British contemporaries.

The European drawing collection is made up of approximately 100 drawings, some of which are attributed to well-known artists, while others are unknown and have not yet been researched. The earliest drawings date from the 15th century and most of them came into the collection as part of the Poynton Gift.

Responsibilities: Under direction from the Curator, the student/volunteer will research a selection of drawings from the collection. This project will involve investigating artist details, attributions, dates and related works (as many of the drawings are studies). New findings generated from this research will then be incorporated into the database. Other research required may include past exhibition information and other documentation that relates to provenance. In consultation with the curator, there may be the possibility to pursue additional research on individual drawings and artists. From time to time there may also be the opportunity to work on other collection management duties as deemed appropriate by the curator.

Qualifications: The student/volunteer will ideally have a basic understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards the completion of a degree in Curatorial/Museum Studies or similar would be suitable).
Knowledge of the correct procedures for the safe handling of works on paper is required as this position requires the handling and close inspection of these vulnerable works on paper.

Sound research skills and competency in use of the library and its catalogues. Ability to work independently on research leads.

A background in Art History would be an advantage.

A methodical, prudent approach with a keen eye for detail is required.

**Training and Supervision:**

On-the-job training specific to the task of this position will be provided.

Occasional meetings with the Cultural Collections Projects Coordinator to review how the project is progressing and discuss any ideas or problems encountered.

**Benefits:**

Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne’s extensive cultural collections.

The opportunity for professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice.

The satisfaction gained from completing extensive research on a particular aspect of the Drawing Collection. Research findings will be added to the on-line catalogue and thus increase our knowledge of the collection. In depth research into the University’s cultural collections is necessary to enhance our long term understanding, management and appreciation of the collections.

For more information on this position please contact:
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