

Open Access

CREATE. IMAGINE. DISCOVER.

Smithsonian Overview



OVERVIEW



The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with **19 museums, 9 research centers, and the National Zoo**—shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world.

For the **increase and diffusion of knowledge.**



What is Open Access?





OVERVIEW

Smithsonian Open Access (OA) means releasing unrestricted material into the public domain so it is free of copyright restrictions and can be used free of charge, for any purpose including commercial.

Includes:

- 2D & 3D media
- Metadata
- Research data

Does not apply to:

- Smithsonian brand
- Publications
- Products and Services



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Reach
Relevance
Impact

- Develop a **cohesive SI experience** through the use of **innovation** and technology
- Be a **trusted** source
- Serve as a **knowledge partner** to Pre-K - 12

*Reach 1 billion people a year with a **digital-first strategy***



Goals

Reach >>

- Enhance Smithsonian's ability to deliver on 'diffusion' mission in the 21st century.
- Increase public's use of Smithsonian digital collections.

Relevance >>

- Increase awareness of Smithsonian as a trusted resource for creative, education, and research projects.

Impact >>

- Enhance perception of the Smithsonian as a digitally-relevant organization.
- Increase the Smithsonian's appeal as a strategic partner and funding case for digital.



Smithsonian Open Access Launch



OPEN ACCESS FIGURES

2.8 million 2D and 3D objects

14 million metadata records

173 years of staff-created data

2,809 3D models

40,500 design objects


2.67 million scientific specimen images

20,000 library volumes



si.edu/openaccess

Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., including the National Zoo, and in New York City

 **Smithsonian**

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Smithsonian Open Access

Create. Imagine. Discover.

Smithsonian Open Access: 2.8 Million

CREATE. IMAGINE. DISCOVER.

#SmithsonianOpenAccess

Smithsonian

Welcome to Smithsonian Open Access, where you can download, share, and reuse millions of the Smithsonian's images—right now, without asking. With new platforms and tools, you have easier access to nearly 3 million 2D and 3D digital items from our collections—with many more to come. This includes images and data from across the Smithsonian's 19 museums, nine research centers, libraries, archives, and the National Zoo.


What will you create?

#SmithsonianOpenAccess


Search for Open Access Images and 3D Models

Enter your search terms


About Open Access




FAQ



Values




Usage Statistics




Updates


Featured Platforms




Developer Tools
Tap into nearly two centuries of data using the Smithsonian API and GitHub repository.



3D Voyager
View, interact, and download Smithsonian 3D content.



Smithsonian Learning Lab
Build lesson plans and projects with open access resources.



Smithsonian Figshare
Discover research datasets from Smithsonian researchers in a variety of disciplines.

si.edu/object/giant-panda:nzp_NZP-20050824-264JC

Apps Pin it Apple awards Blogs conferences cooking csa DC design digitization digitizing services Robert McCormic... educational partn... »

A close-up photograph of a giant panda's head and shoulders. The panda is facing slightly to the right, with its mouth open, eating from a bundle of green bamboo leaves. Its characteristic black and white fur is clearly visible, particularly around its eyes and ears. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.



Keywords

Creation Date

2005:08:24

Credit Line

Jessie Cohen, Smithsonian's National Zoo

City

Washington

Country

USA

Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

Record ID

nzp_NZP-20050824-264JC

Usage of Metadata (Object Detail Text)

CC0

bamboo,male,Tian Tian,Species: melanoleuca,Genus: Ailuropoda,Family: Ursidae,Order: Carnivora,Class: Mammalia,Phylum: Chordata,Kingdom: Animalia,Giant Panda,Bearyard,outside,vertical



VALUES STATEMENT

The Smithsonian Open Access Initiative supports and responds to the Institution's purpose of increasing and diffusing knowledge through the following core values:

Stewardship and Trust. The Smithsonian Open Access Initiative is committed to ensuring the accuracy and accessibility of its collections and data as stewards of the nation's collections, and it is committed to engaging with individuals, groups, and communities in the responsible pursuit of an increased diffusion of knowledge.

Diversity and Inclusion. The Smithsonian Open Access Initiative recognizes, embraces, and supports, as a core tenet and strength, the diversity of its research, collections, communities, and audiences.

Dignity and Respect. The Smithsonian Open Access Initiative recognizes the dignity and respect of those who created or are represented in the Smithsonian's collections and content.

We expect you will uphold these same values as you use, share, and build new knowledge with these resources.



Greater Reach



GREATER REACH

3,145,516

Total Open Assets

34.4 M

Views

(Feb - Nov 2020)

1.7 M

Downloads

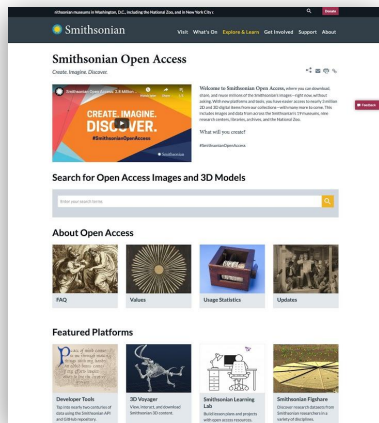
(Feb - Nov 2020)

26%

Percentage of collections
with Open Assets



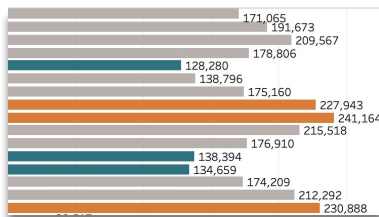
GREATER REACH



si.edu/openaccess

1M page views

1:47 avg time on page



si.edu/dashboard/virtual-smithsonian
Public Usage Dashboard

Greater Relevance



THIRD-PARTY PLATFORMS



Google Arts & Culture increased their content by 50% after adding 2.8M Smithsonian OA collections.

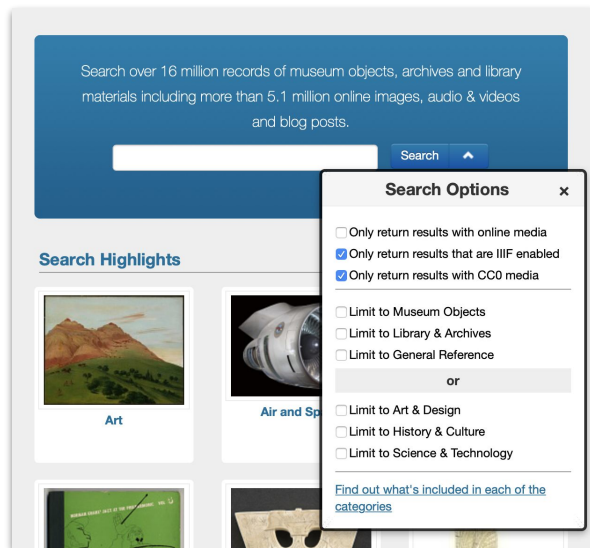
1.6M 3D views on Tinkercad

102K 3D views on Sketchfab

EXTERNAL PLATFORMS



online



Google Arts & Culture



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



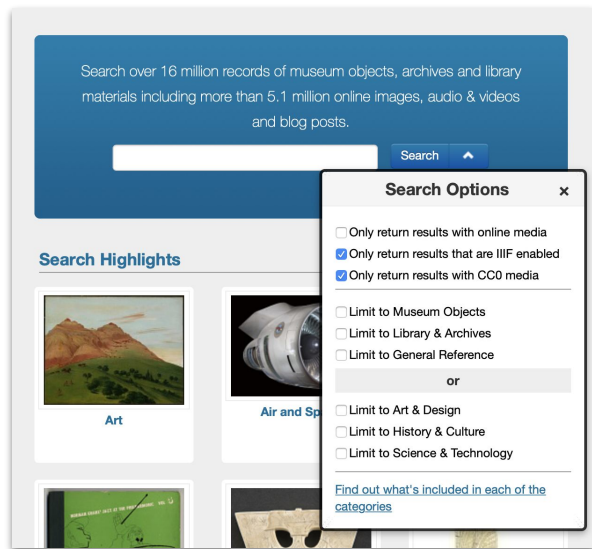
Sketchfab



API: ENABLING DATA WORKFLOWS



online



Open Access API



API: METRICS

Open Access API



320 K

API hits

(Feb - Nov 2020)

500

unique users

from 16 different countries

Spark AR



Lonnie G. Bunch III  @SmithsonianSec · Dec 9

I want to bring the Smithsonian to where people spend their time, to spark imagination and nourish curious minds. Today we launch 10 augmented reality experiences on Instagram that bring our 3D objects into your backyard or living room, including @NMNH's Mammoth.

One of my favorites among these @Smithsonian3D objects are @NMAAHC's 1970s platform boots from "The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz'" on Broadway. Visit @Smithsonian's Instagram account and these dancing shoes can ease on down the road in your neighborhood.



Profound Impact



FEEDBACK

"I never imagined a collection of open access images this large and of this quality would ever exist"

- survey respondent

"I love coming to SI when I can, but it's normally years in between. Now I can come on my lunch hour!"

- survey respondent

"A major step forward in democratizing American history"

- Fast Company

"The sheer scale of this interdisciplinary dataset is astonishing"

- scholar Simon Tanner, Smithsonian Magazine



CORALS 3D Educational Interactive

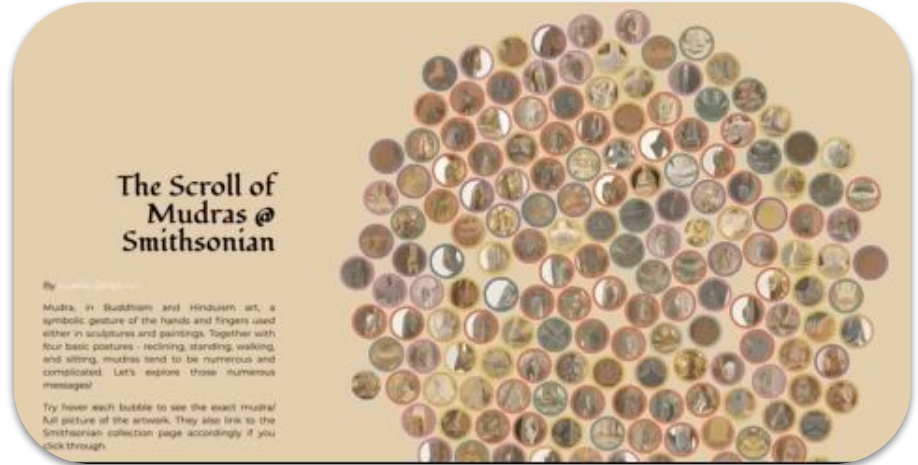


100 Open Access coral specimens from the National Museum of Natural history were published with a non-profit partner, *The Hydrous*, whose mission is to create 'open access oceans,'

Explore, download, and print at **3d.si.edu/corals**.



Parsons Data Visualization



Parsons Data Visualization

African-American Cultural Representation at the Smithsonian

Items organized by object type, topic, & status / HMAAHC

In this visualization, you'll view the distribution of items in the National Museum of African-American History and Culture. The representation is divided into tiers (from large to small):

- 1st tier = Entire collection
- 2nd tier = On display vs archived
- 3rd tier = Topics
- 4th tier = Object types
- 5th tier = Items

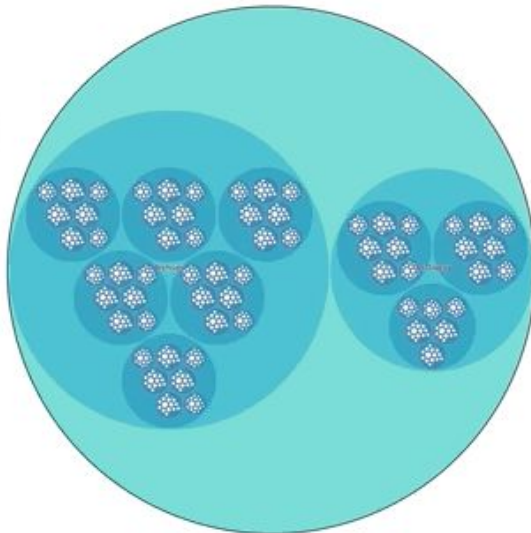
Circles can be clicked on to zoom in, and view item details.

This project is intended to help curators keep the larger picture in mind, as they manage the collection. This is also intended for students and researchers alike to view, search, and analyse the collection.

Legend

The size of each circle is scaled according to the number of elements within. The bigger the circle, the more elements within that tier.

Tier breakdown

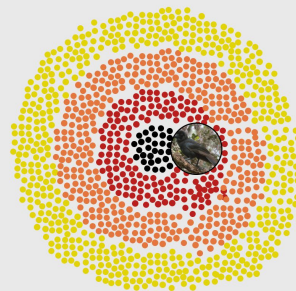


A GROWING WHIRLPOOL OF THREATENED AVIAN SPECIES

THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF THREATENED AVIAN SPECIES

Whirlpool
Bar chart
Tree map
Geomapping

- Extinct
- Critically Endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable



Hawaiian Crow

Corvus hawaiiensis

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras ornare eros eros, in semper nisi finibus non. Praesent tincidunt, augue at rhoncus auctor, dolor neque malesuada urna, sed semper diam mi quis diam. Nunc tincidunt vestibulum placerat. Mauris vel ullamcorper tellus. Suspendisse potenti. Nam ullamcorper elit libero, et scelerisque nisi rhoncus non. Sed egetas libero faucibus est laoreet vulputate. Quisque leo mi, imperdiet maximus nibh eu, dictum condimentum lorem.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cras ornare eros eros, in semper nisi finibus non. Praesent tincidunt, augue at rhoncus auctor, dolor neque malesuada urna, sed semper diam mi quis diam.

[See Taxonomy](#)



What's Next



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

ADA Accessibility Collections lack basic ADA accessibility

Cultural Stakeholder Engagement No mechanisms for community and cultural stakeholder input on digital platforms

Machine Actionability Computational systems aren't fully able to find, access, interoperate, and reuse data with minimal human intervention.

Representation of U.S. Populations Collections about underrepresented U.S. populations are very hard to find (class, culture, disability, gender, LGBTQ+, race)



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

API Scope API does not include non-CC0 low res images, so platforms, students, and machines don't receive entire data set

Collections Fulfillment We make it hard for paying customers to request services for specialty photography, research, and fulfillment (non CC0 collections)



Resources



si.edu/openaccess

Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., including the National Zoo, and in New York City c

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Feedback

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Peace of mind comes to me through making things with my hands. An added bonus comes if my efforts inspire others to try the creative process.

Developer Tools

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3D Voyager

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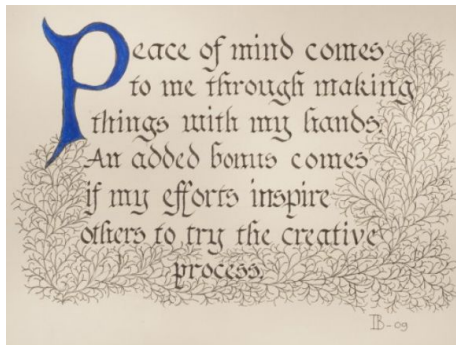
Smithsonian Learning Lab

Build lesson plans and projects with open access resources.

Smithsonian Figshare

Discover research datasets from Smithsonian researchers in a variety of disciplines.

API + GitHub



Developer Tools

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Overview:

<https://www.si.edu/openaccess/devtools>

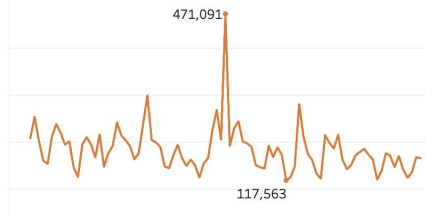
Documentation:

<https://github.com/Smithsonian/OpenAccess>

<http://edan.si.edu/openaccess/apidocs/>

<http://edan.si.edu/openaccess/docs/>

Open Access Dashboard



14 million records of museum objects, archives and library materials including more than **3 million** online 2D & 3D media assets.

<https://www.si.edu/dashboard/virtual-smithsonian#open-access>



Girl with Cat

Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery



Details

Related

Object Details

Artist

Henry Wolf, born Eckwersheim, Alsace 1852-died New York City 1916

Credit Line

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Transfer from the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

1902

Object number

1973.130.192

Restrictions & Rights

CC0



International media Interoperability Framework

IIIF provides researchers rich metadata and media viewing options for comparison of works across cultural heritage collections. Visit the IIIF page to learn more.

[View manifest](#)

[View in Mirador Viewer](#)



International Image
Interoperability Framework at
the Smithsonian

<https://iiif.si.edu>

2016 #OPENGLAM STUDY

@digitaleffie

Trailer - <http://s.si.edu/2cQ6PU1>

Research - <http://s.si.edu/2d8MNQS>



Biodiversity
Heritage
Library



RIJKS MUSEUM



New York
Public
Library

Thank you

