GRAPHICS ATLAS

IMAGE · PERMANENCE · INSTITUTE

www.graphicsatlas.org

The Graphics Atlas Web Resource
By Ryan Boatright, Research Scientist, Image Permanence Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology

Abstract

Graphics Atlas is a print characterization web resource for archivists, curators, historians, collectors, conservators, educators, and the general public. The Image Permanence Institute at the Rochester Institute of Technology began initial development of this resource in 2006. Its purpose is to detail the defining visual and physical characteristics of various print types ranging from the woodcut print, to the photograph, to the contemporary digital print. Characteristics including size, format, color, texture, sheen, and layer structure are explored logically through two key applications on the website. The print identification application guides you though a concise set of representations that replicate the experience of identifying prints using common tools (i.e., a loupe and simple stereomicroscope). The images are displayed in order of importance. A second application, the Object Explorer, allows you to browse and compare traits across processes using a set of 18 views made with various lighting techniques and magnifications. The Graphics Atlas contains additional web pages devoted to the history of printing technologies expressed through text, images, and diagrams.

Diversity of Research

The Graphics Atlas details the diverse characteristics of a range of printing processes, beginning with the woodcut, and extends through the digital processes. As new printing processes are introduced, the staff at the Image Permanence Institute will continue to update the web resource with new prints, as well as making major additions to the historical sample database available now.

Pre-photographic → Photomechanical → Photographic → Digital

Woodcut 1400-1600

Letterpress Halftone 1885-1970

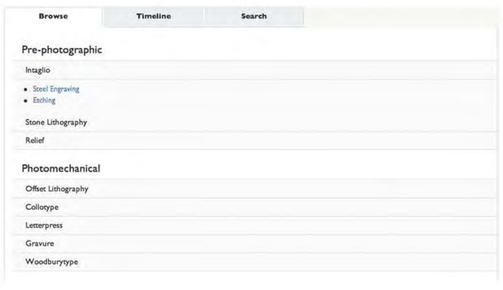
Silver Gelatin 1890-2000

Pigment Inkjet 2000 +

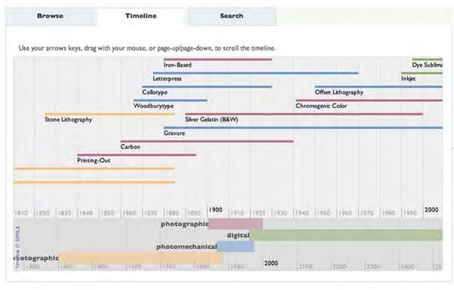
Process Selection Tools

Users may search for a process via three different search tools. By selecting *Browse*, process selections are made by first choosing a process group, and an individual process is then selected. The *Timeline* may be used to make selections according to the dates of the mainstream usage of a process. A smart search bar is also available for making quick selections.

Browse

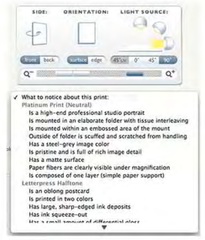


Timeline

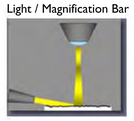


The Object Explorer

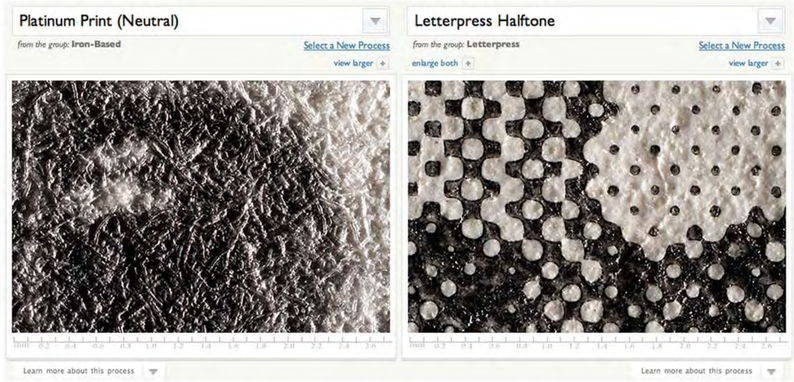
Browse and compare traits across processes using a set of 18 views made with various lighting techniques and magnifications. Characteristics including size, format, color, texture, sheen, and layer strucutre are explored logically.



Light / Magnification Bar



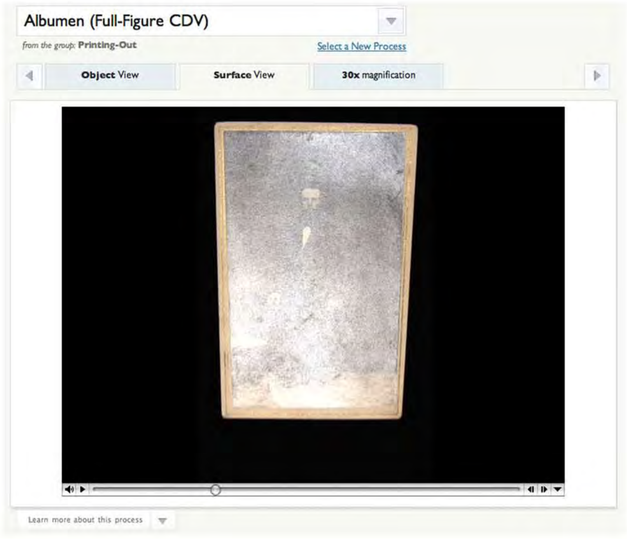
Raking Illumination



Raking Illumination depicts surface texture and paper fibers

Print Identification Tool

The print identification application guides you through a concise set of representations that replicate the experience of identifying prints using common tools (i.e., a loupe and simple stereomicroscope).



A surface video available through the print identification application depicts prints tilting in and out of light which effectively depicts gloss characteristics

Visit the project website:

www.graphicsatlas.org