

## **Historic Costume Collections in the Digital Age**

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Historic costume has long been an inspiration for contemporary fashion designers. Publications and visits to the collections of museums and universities provide traditional access to these historic objects. Distance from collections and libraries limits accessibility for many designers and scholars. This paper describes an online digital museum of historic costume, replete with high quality images of the objects from multiple views, details of embellishment and construction, multiple search criteria to the database and online galleries of exhibitions of historic costume. The project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design (AWCoMAD) and the College of Information Science (IST), Drexel University, and can be viewed at <http://digimuse.cis.drexel.edu>

The website is freely accessible to anyone with an internet connection from anywhere in the world, creating unlimited access to a small, world class teaching collection. It is meant to be used as an educational tool by designers, scholars, students and aficionados of fashion design. The best practice standards of the Museum Online Archive California <http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/moac/classic/bpg.html> and the Open Archive Initiative <http://www.openarchives.org/> have been implemented into the project to insure the best quality images, formatted for repurposing via a variety of media, and to provide a data structure that will allow fluid sharing of the objects' data among a variety of users.