This summer I learned and practiced valuable web design skills by building a digital exhibition for the Bowdoin College Museum of Art (BCMA). In the late Spring, I was offered the opportunity to be the lead designer for the digital recreation of one of the Museum’s most historically significant exhibitions, *The Portrayal of the Negro in American Painting*. Commemorating its 50th anniversary, this project was a collaborative effort between the BCMA, the Department of Art History and the Department of Digital and Computational Studies. I was directed and advised by three Bowdoin staff and faculty members who were leading this project: Sarah Montross, post-doctoral curatorial fellow at the Museum, Dana Byrd, assistant professor of art history, and Jack Jen Gieseking, digital and computational studies.

This summer I began with an ambitious plan for making a modern website that reflected the clean styling of galleries at the BCMA, and that also conveyed all of the information regarding the history and impact of this exhibition. Despite my background in computer science and visual arts, I had never built a website. With the opportunity provided by this fellowship, I decided to design a more advanced and customized website, that would go beyond the original expectations of adapting a Wordpress template. I designated my first three weeks to learning about several web design coding languages including html, css and java script, as well as the many facets of web design that go along with them. After learning the parameters of conventional web design, I recreated a revised detailed vision for the exhibition’s website. I then built each major section of the website: an opening page, a customized gallery page for viewing the 80 works of art in the original exhibition, a history page that included research about the context of the show conducted by Bowdoin students and the aforementioned faculty, and an About page that provided details and credits for the website. At times it was difficult to not be able to build what I was so clearly envisioning, but thanks to my persistence, I found solutions, included the desired functionality and rarely had to make compromises to the design. In the end, I created a website that I was both proud of and is of the professional quality that the Museum deserves. The website will be publically launched on November 11, 2014 and is the first of its kind for the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Faculty Mentor: Sarah Montross, Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellow, Bowdoin College Museum of Art

Funded by the Mellon Foundation
Screenshots of Website:

Opening Page:

![Image of Opening Page](image1.png)

Gallery Page:

![Image of Gallery Page](image2.png)
History Page:


SARAH AND DANA'S ESSAY

STEPS TOWARD RECOGNITION THROUGH OPENNESS AND THE VIRTUAL
JEN JACK GIESEKING, DIGITAL AND COMPUTATIONAL STUDIES

Academics, activists, and business leaders alike call out for cross disciplinary ventures that address issues of social justice. The digital "open" movement responds by striving to give access to diverse modes of knowing and becoming rather than a technical label for a publishing or property model. [1] The complex labor of real collaboration and getting these projects off the ground and out to the public remains less addressed. In this brief essay, I reflect on the work of academics in open collaboration and some of the debates. [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16]