



MUSEUMS SHARING A DATABASE: STILL GROUNDBREAKING

6 MUSEUMS SHARE 1 DATABASE

- * Historic Deerfield
- * Mead Art Museum at Amherst College
- * University Museum of Contemporary Art at UMass Amherst
- * Mount Holyoke College Art Museum and Skinner Museum
- * Smith College Museum of Art
- * Hampshire College Art Gallery

DATABASE SHARING IN MUSEUMS IS RARE, BUT

- * Is more efficient
- * Reduces certain costs for everyone
- * Can make access to information easier for the public

Because this sharing arrangement is rare, there are few other models to look at. We're building the road while we're driving on it.

Museum professionals are not traditionally trained to work with the needs of multiple museums in mind. Even though the six museums have been collaborating for 25 years, their staff may not have experienced this type of collaborative environment in other workplaces. Collaboration habits take time to develop.

Amherst College | Hampshire College | Mount Holyoke College
Smith College | University of Massachusetts Amherst | Historic Deerfield

*Joan Hartley Murray. Southwest II (detail). Acrylic on canvas.
Hampshire College Art Gallery. HC 1331*