Digitizing a Large Garment Collection at a Small Institution

The Mount Mary University Fashion Archive

Co-Authors:

Amanda Cacich, Grant Curator/Stylist

Dan Vinson, Principal Investigator for DHC grant and Library Director

Marshall Lee, Photographer

Land Acknowledgment

Mount Mary University is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and we acknowledge that we are situated on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida, and Mohican nations remain present.

*Courtesy of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

History of the Mount Mary Fashion Archive

1913 - Mount Mary College founded by School Sisters of Notre Dame

1965 - Nation's first four-year Fashion Design degree program founded by Sister Aloyse Hessburg

Today - 10,000 items spanning the 18th century to the 21st century

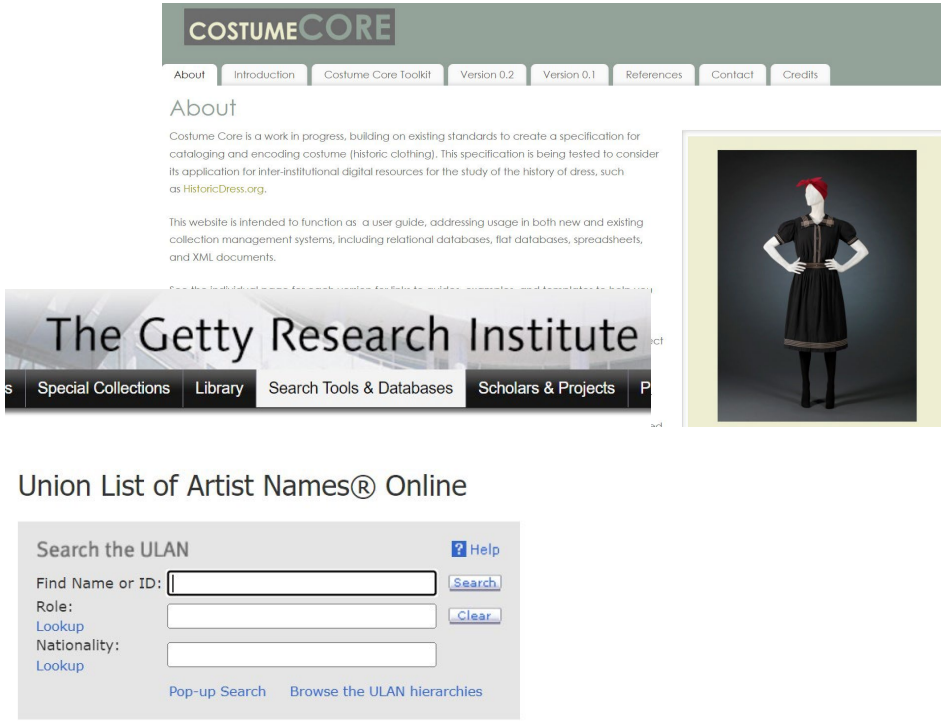
Only resource of its kind in the Milwaukee area

Pilot Grant and Platform

- Stella Jones Foundation pilot grant in 2018
- Iconasys photography software and turntable
- 360° images with high-quality zoom
- Omeka Classic

Metadata and Controlled Vocabulary

- Costume Core, based on Dublin Core
- Getty Research Institute's Union List of Artist Names (ULAN)



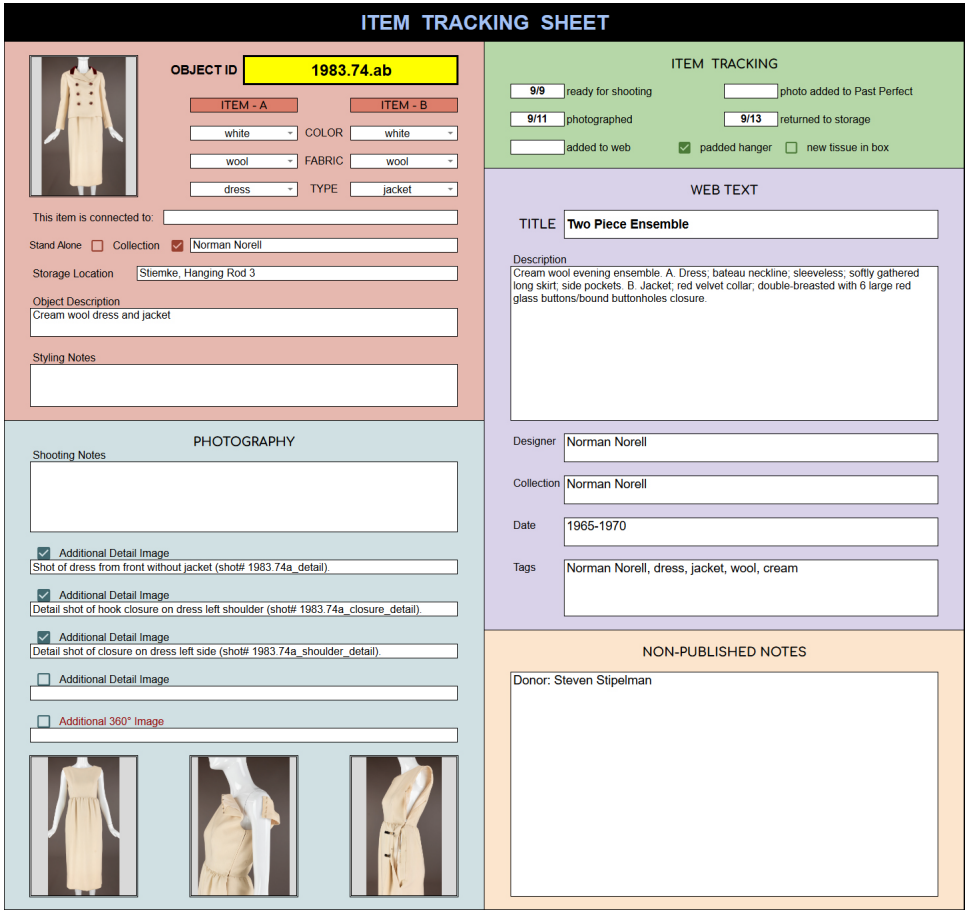
Getting Started

- Purchasing supplies
- Updating technology
- Working through challenges

Establishing a Workflow

Google Tracking Sheet

Curator → Photographer → Archivist → Omeka



Selecting Garments to Digitize

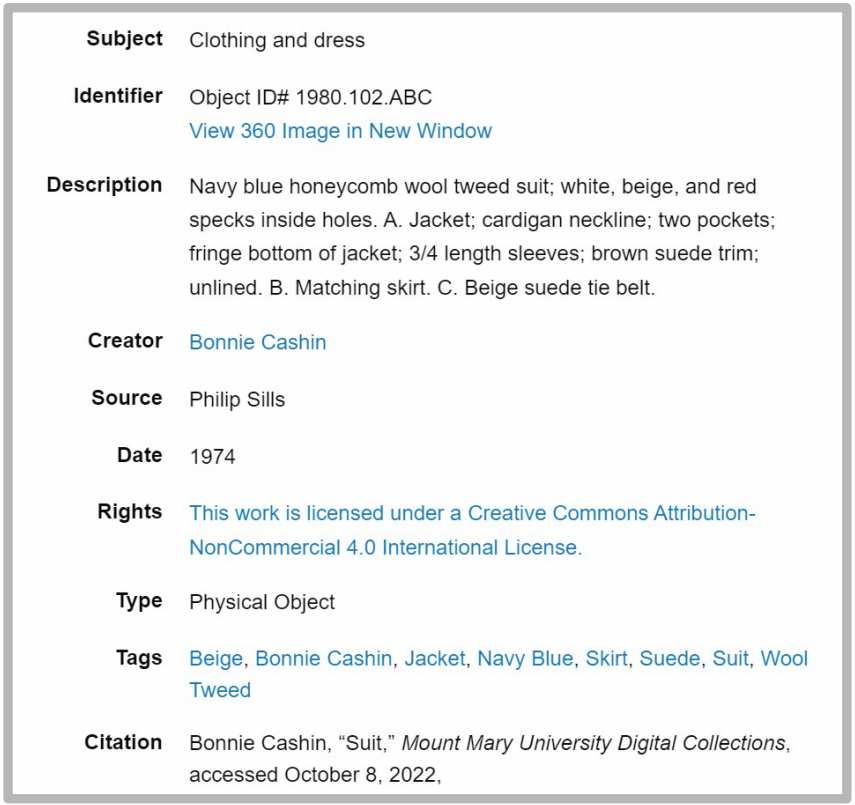
- Assess strengths of our collection
- What does the Fashion Archive have to offer that's unique?
- Female designers
- Milwaukee area figures and brands

Photography Process

- 360° spin = 36 stitched images + 1 color-correction image
- **Shutter Stream 360°** (by Iconasys) ~23 MB each X 37
- **Lightroom** (by Adobe) make JPG copies at <=2500 KB
- **360° View Creator** (by Iconasys) create HTML5 spin code

Getting the Garments Online

- Open-source Omeka
- Short biography, photographs, and archival material
- Metadata and tags added
- Exhibition Gallery



Subject	Clothing and dress
Identifier	Object ID# 1980.102.ABC View 360 Image in New Window
Description	Navy blue honeycomb wool tweed suit; white, beige, and red specks inside holes. A. Jacket; cardigan neckline; two pockets; fringe bottom of jacket; 3/4 length sleeves; brown suede trim; unlined. B. Matching skirt. C. Beige suede tie belt.
Creator	Bonnie Cashin
Source	Philip Sills
Date	1974
Rights	This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.
Type	Physical Object
Tags	Beige, Bonnie Cashin, Jacket, Navy Blue, Skirt, Suede, Suit, Wool Tweed
Citation	Bonnie Cashin, “Suit,” *Mount Mary University Digital Collections*, accessed October 8, 2022,

Looking Forward

- Uses for students and faculty
- Greater awareness of Fashion Archive both locally and nationally
- Research and collaboration

Final Product: Digital Fashion Archive

Let’s take a look!