

about the project



The *Pachyderm Project* is a partnership led by The New Media Consortium (NMC) and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project has brought software development teams and digital library experts from six NMC universities together with counterparts from six major museums to create a new, open source authoring environment for creators of web-based and multimedia learning experiences. The new tool, now in its initial release, is based on the authoring and publishing tool developed by SFMOMA to author its successful series, *Making Sense of Modern Art*.

Designed from the ground up to make the publication of modular and updateable rich media an easy task, Pachyderm has allowed non-programmers to create a variety of engaging resources that draw from the digital collections of museums and universities. The result has been detailed interactive learning programs such as *Ansel Adams at 100*, *Eva Hesse*, and dozens of others.

The *Pachyderm Project* has created an interoperable, robust, easily distributable, open-source digital storytelling tool that includes a wide range of specially-focused templates. Pachyderm has been tested extensively to ensure ease of use by experts in user interface design and usability, as well as in leading museums and universities across North America in an extensive series of field tests. The learning materials created with Pachyderm are optimized for Internet delivery, easily reusable, and conformant with key search, archival, and cataloging standards. Pachyderm has been released under the Apache license, and will be made available to the community at large, royalty free.

The effort has brought together the metadata and other expertise of the NMC's library community, the technological expertise in infrastructure and programming of key university members, and the expertise of a team of experienced interactive producers from six museums and six NMC universities advising on interface design, audience needs, and the technological capacities of future students, faculty, curatorial staff, and museum users.

Project Leads

The New Media Consortium
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

University Partners

California State University
Case Western Reserve University
Northwestern University
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary

Museum Partners

Berkeley Art Museum
Cleveland Museum of Art
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
Metropolitan Museum of Art
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
The Tang Teaching Museum & Art Gallery

For more information on Pachyderm and the Pachyderm Project, please visit the website at m.pachy&m.org. The site provides up-to-date project reports, news, extensive documentation on the software and the projects, and detailed user manuals and support materials.

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