VRA 2008 San Diego - Session 7:

Throwing the cat among the pigeons: Keeping Visual Resources Positions Viable through the Digital Transition

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

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Note: Images included in the original presentation have been removed since they cannot be posted to the Web.

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

Viable:

- **Able to be done or worth doing**

    (Encarta World English Dictionary)

- **Financially sustainable**

    (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition)

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

When considering viability, we need to ask two questions:

- Are visual resources viable to the institution? – speaking of higher education.

- If so, then how does the institution make Visual Resources positions viable for the professional?

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

Visual resources are viable where:

1) They are strongly supported by faculty.

2) Services are user centered.

3) There are sufficient resources (budgets, equipment, technical support).

4) There are positive collaborations and good relationships.

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

To effectively perform duties, the visual resources professional must have:

1) Appropriate status – same status as librarians,

2) Meaningful budget lines,

3) Adequate resources: equipment, technical assistance, and

4) Professional development support

"Moving the Cats" - A Response

Our viability lies in:

- Collaborating with our partners

- Discovering hidden values AND articulating them

- Advocating visual resources

- Making current positions competitive