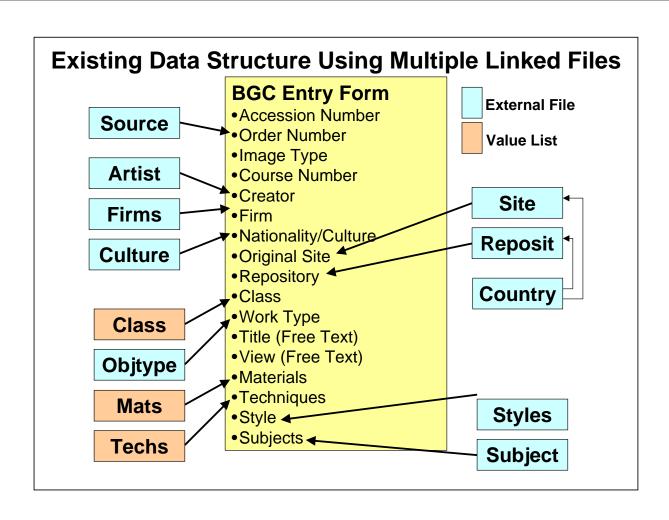
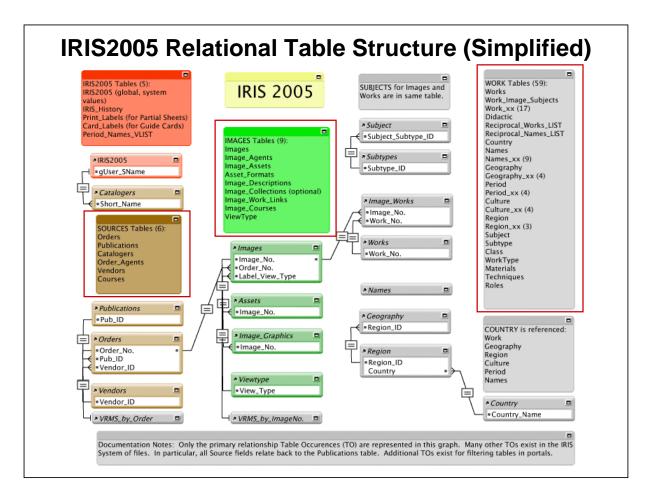
From Flat to Relational: Data Migration Strategies for a Small Collection

Johanna Bauman Bard Graduate Center Kansas City, March 28, 2007





State of the BGC Databases Before Migration

- c. 40,000 records in the "Yale (a.k.a. Susan) Template" on the FileMaker 6.0 platform (25,000 of these imported from a defunct VRMS database with only Access files
- c. 2,000 image and 1,600 work records in old version of IRIS that used linked files rather than a relational structure on the FileMaker 6.0 platform

Steps for Data Migration

- I. Planned and Developed Strategy
- II. Mapped Data
- III. Cleaned Up Data
- IV. Marked Work and Image Records
- V. Imported Files into Individual Tables and Created Relationships
- VI. Initial Data Clean Up Using Scripts
- VII. Developed Plan for Ongoing Clean Up
- VIII. Planning for the Next Migration....

I. Planned and Developed Strategy (Goals & Assumptions)

Goals

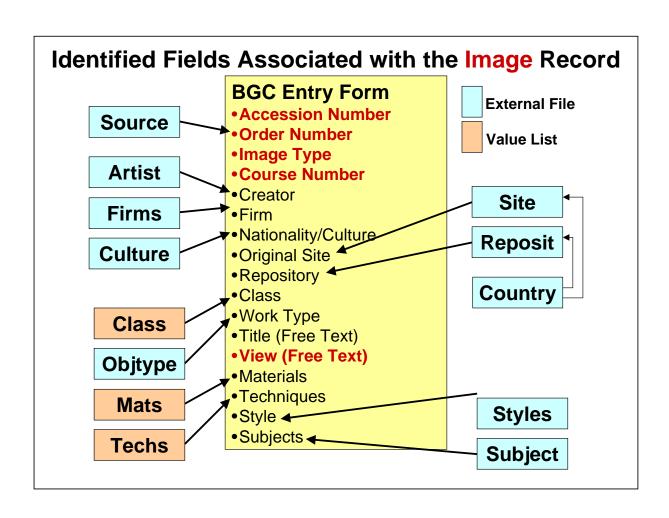
- Bard and BGC would have authority records that were consistent with one another
- Import records directly into the main image/work structure in IRIS rather than putting the legacy data into an intermediary place

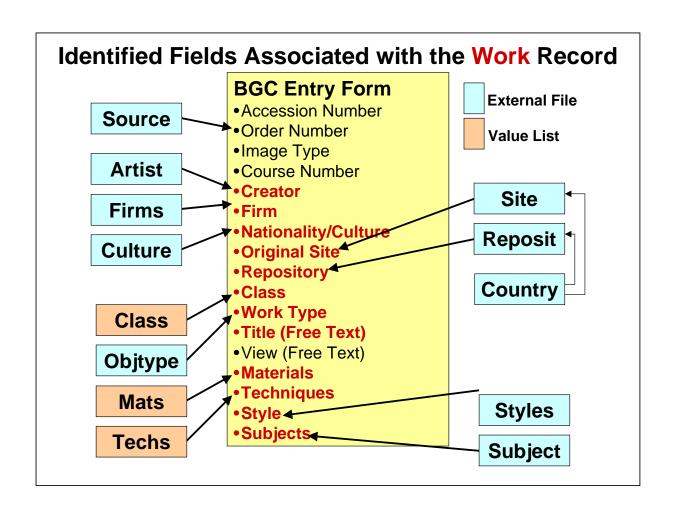
Assumptions

- All records would have to be cleaned up before being uploaded into MDID as part of the process of going digital
- Some data is better than no data
- Preserving data structure was paramount

I. Planned and Developed Strategy (Steps)

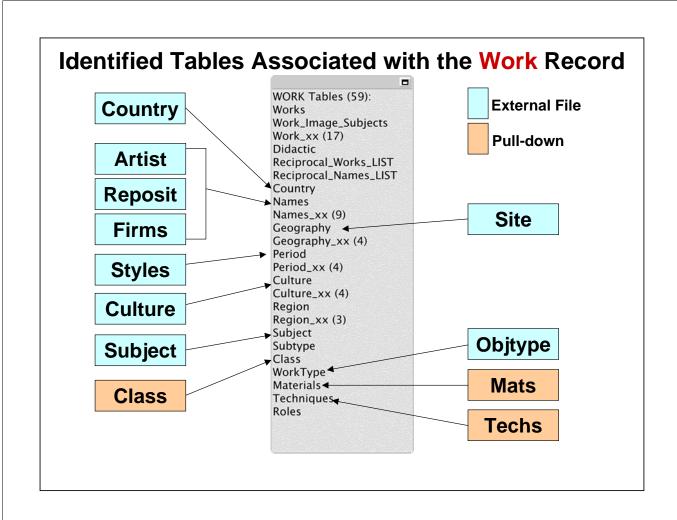
- Familiarized myself with the VRA Core
- Looked at data and identified what fields in use correspond to the VRA Core fields
- Analyzed the database and broke it down to image vs. work
- Thought about what information was repeated across fields and what was unique
- Made arrangements to work with a consultant
- Learned as much as possible about how FileMaker works and developed searching strategies





II. Mapped Fields

- Analyzed the new data structure and the old data structure
- Determined what fields/pull downs/files corresponded to authority tables in new system
- Created maps for all files and tables



II. Mapped Authorities

Sample Mapping for Artist Authority Table

BGC: Artist File
Artist/Era Culture
Artist Sort Name
Associated Nationality
Authority
B Descriptor
BCE
Birth Date
Country
D Descriptor
Date Modified
Death Date
Gender
Modified By
Notes

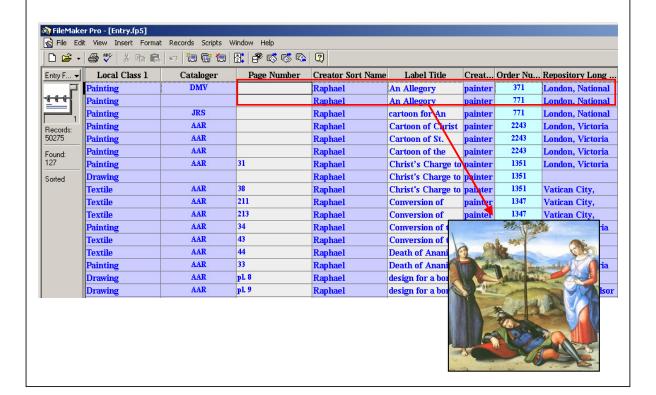
III. Cleaned Up Existing Data

- Identified duplicate source records and consolidated images connected to them
- Tried to make sure all creators and repositories had authority records even if they were incomplete
- Exported records and cleaned them up using Excel to standardize terms and names
- Filemaker Pro is very flexible and allows you to easily add fields to assist in the migration

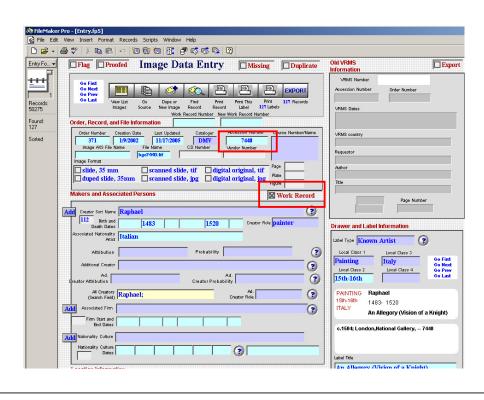
IV. Marked Work and Image Records

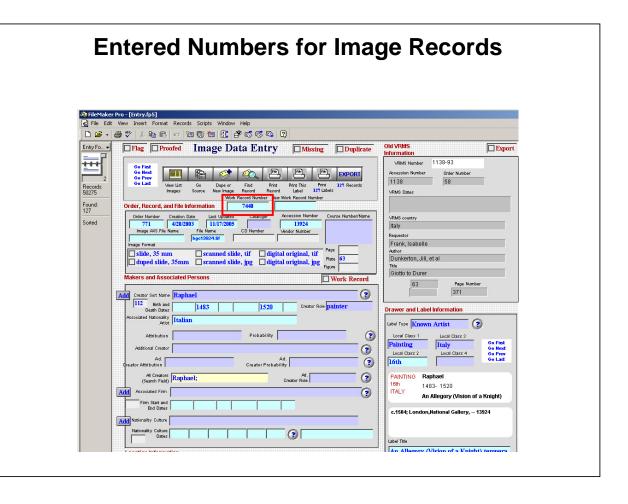
- Added a field to mark work records and a field for entering a work record number
- Developed a strategy for distinguishing between work and image records
- Spent c. 3-4 weeks of staff time on the project
- At the end of that time whatever records had not been marked as work records became image records by default
- Since the Site file contained a lot of architectural "works" these were also marked to distinguish between architectural works and true geographic locations

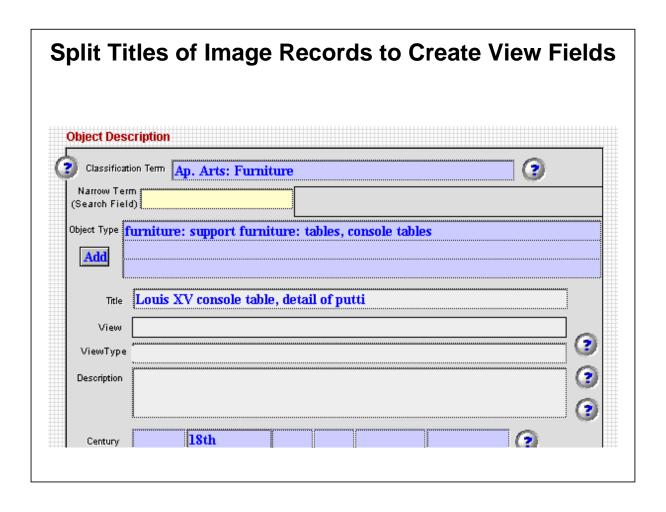
Records Grouped by Creator in Table View

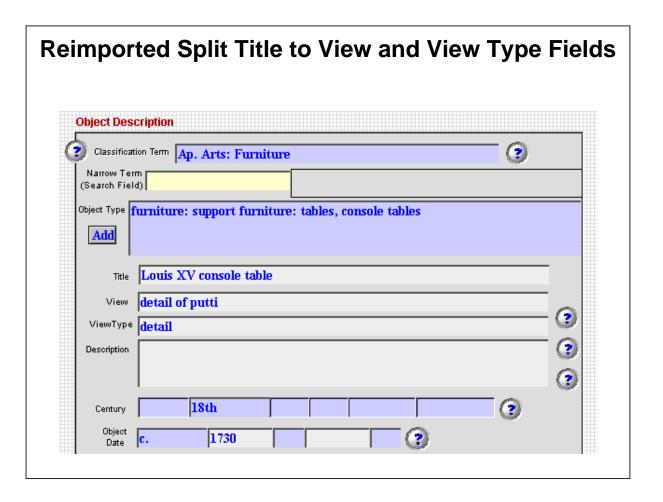


Marked Work Record









V. Imported Files into New System

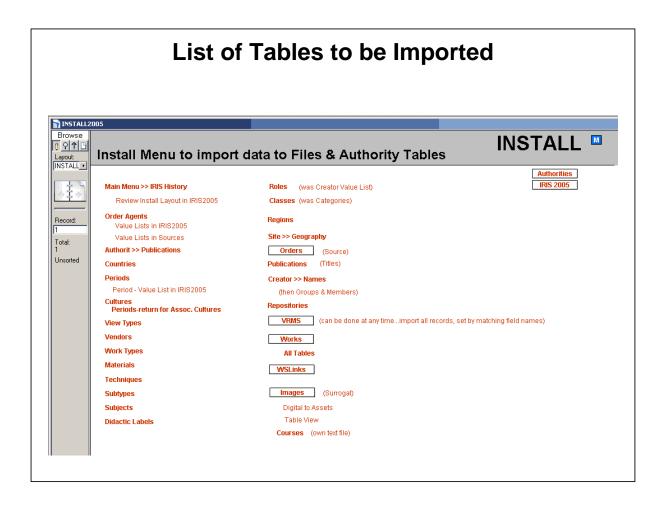
- Brought on a consultant to work on scripting
- Consultant had worksheets and checklists that went through step by step for us to follow

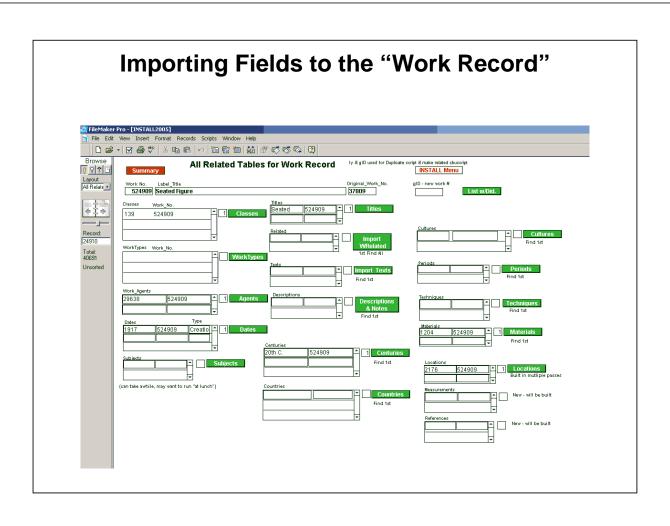
Relationship Between Work and Image in IRIS2005 **Using Relation Tables Works File Images File** WORK Tables (59): Works Work_Image_Subjects Work_xx (17) IMAGES Tables (9): lmages Image_Agents ➤ Images * Works Image_Agents Image_Assets Asset.Formats Image_Descriptions Image_Collections (optional) Image_Work_Links Image_Courses ViewType ▶ Image_Works Work_No.gFormerLoc • Image_No. Didactic Reciprocal_Works_LIST Reciprocal_Names_LIST □Image_No. ◀ Order_No. ■gCurrentLoc ■gDiscoveryLoc Work_No. Old_Accession_No. Country Label_View_Type Names Names_xx (9) Geography Geography_xx (4) Period_xx (4) gCreationLocDidactic_ID • gRepositoryLoc • gFormerRepLoc Period_xx (4) Culture Culture_xx (4) Region Region_xx (3) Subject Subtype Class WorkType Materials Techniques Roles Roles

V. Imported Files into New System

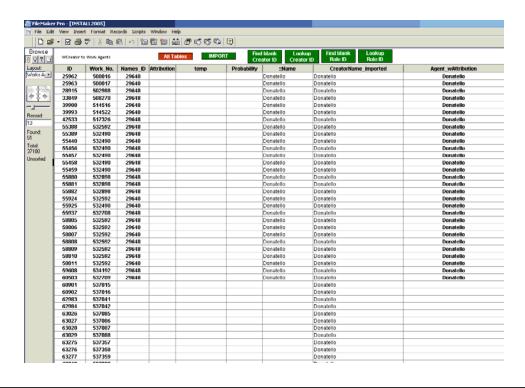
Import Order

- Authorities
- Orders
- Publications/Sources
- Works
- Images

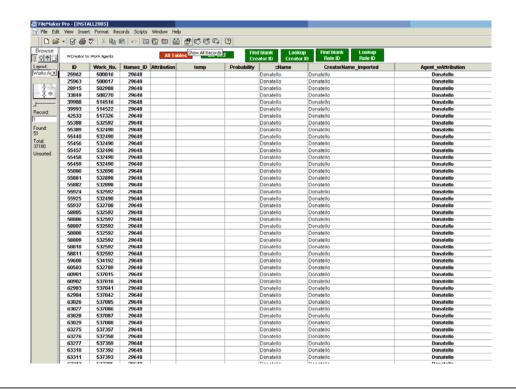




VI. Initial Data Clean Up Using Scripts Table Showing Unlinked Creators



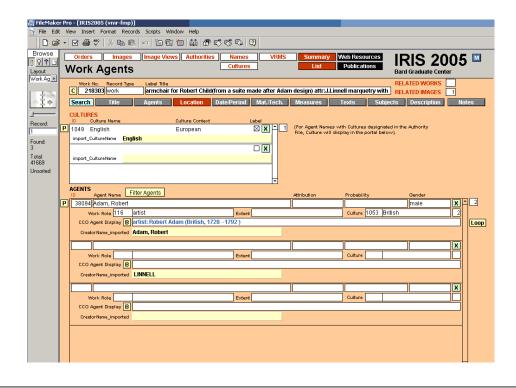
Same Table after Running the Update Script



VII. Developed Plan for Ongoing Clean Up

- Clean up records on an as-needed basis with data dumped into import and note fields
- Create authorities for unlinked creators
- Fill in authorities with complete information and sources

Layout Showing Imported, Unlinked Data for Creator



VII. Planning for the Next Migration....

- Keep up to date on changes in VRA Core and with the system you are using
- Be consistent and keep cataloging clean to make next migration easier
- · Learn from your mistakes

What we learned...

- Migration will always take longer than you think - Initially projected 2 weeks, it actually took more like two months
- You will have to stop cataloging for a time, need to come up with alternate projects for staff and student workers
- If you do have to go back to cataloging in the old system before the migration is over, be sure to catalog in a way that conforms to the standard to which you are migrating