Introduction to Visualizing Cultures

1. **Visualizing Cultures is a gateway to seeing history through images that once had wide circulation among peoples of different times and places.**

We do historical research this way as scholars to better understand how people saw themselves, how they saw others including foreigners and enemies, and how in turn others saw them.

视觉文化介绍

视觉文化是通过观看曾经在不同时代、不同地点在人们中广为流传的图像来了解历史的一种手段。

我们作为学者用这样的方法来研究历史，以便能更好地了解人们是怎样看待他们自己的，他们是怎样看待别人的，包括外国人和敌人，同时也了解别人是怎么样看待他们的。

2. **Visualizing Cultures has been designed to offer viewers—especially scholars, teachers, and students—ready access to hitherto inaccessible materials, as well as guides for careful analysis and use.**

To this end, each topical unit is (or eventually will be) accompanied by a substantial Database, Bibliography, and lengthy Lesson Plan. Videos, including interviews, complement some of the presentations and analysis. All images can be enlarged and scrutinized in detail, and also downloaded for use in educational projects.

视觉文化的设计是给观众--特别是学者、老师和学生--提供那些至今为止不易得到的材料，也为仔细分析及使用这些图像提供指导。

为此，每个主题单元都（或最终都将）带有一个必要的数据库、目录，及一个详细的教学计划。录像资料，包括采访录像，用来对一些介绍和分析进行补充。所有的图像都可被放大及观看细节，也可下载来作为教育 资料使用。

3. **Visualizing Cultures is not an "art appreciation" project.**

Rather, these units invite the viewer to examine each image carefully and critically. To this end, each topical unit imbeds its many visual images in a detailed explanatory text identified as the Core Exhibit.

视觉文化不是一个"艺术欣赏"的项目

相反，这些单元旨在让观众对每幅图像进行仔细地、批判性地审视。为此，每个主题单元的很多图像都附有详细的解说文字作为展览核心。

4. **Some of these images are harsh, for history itself is harsh.**

While many images may be aesthetically attractive, or entertaining, or "realistic" (like photography), some are cruel, brutal, and offensive. Users must keep in mind that the purpose of Visualizing Cultures is to gain a more accurate, first-hand sense of all the many ways in which people have presented and viewed their times.

其中有些图像看起来令人难受，因为历史本身也是令人难受的。
很多图像看起来具有美感，有趣，或"真实"（像照片一样），可是有些图像却残酷、野蛮，并具有挑衅性。使用者应记住，视觉文化的目的是为了更为准确的感知过去的人们在反映他们自身以及他们的时代时所使用的各种方式。

5. Graphics that depict dark aspects of history—such as violence, intolerance, racism, aggressive nationalism, war and atrocity, abuse of others and of the environment in general—have not been censored.
We must confront such harsh images directly—and struggle to critically understand them—if we hope to ever make a better world.

图像中所描绘的历史黑暗方面，比如说暴力、不宽容、种族主义、具有侵略性的民族主义、战争和暴行、以及虐待他人等等的情况都未经删改。
如果我们希望创造一个更美好的世界，我们就必须直接面对这种令人厌恶的图像，并尽力从批判的角度来了解这些图像。

6. To date (2006), Visualizing Cultures uses Japan since the mid-19th century as a case study for gaining new perspectives on "cultures" in the broadest sense—the "cultures" for example, of Westernization, modernization, changing modes of technology and mass communication, imperialism, nationalism, militarism, racism, commercialization and consumerism, etc.
Projected future units will deal with photography in late 19th and early 20th-century Asia; modernism in Japan before World War Two; and the Asia-Pacific War of the 1930s and early 1940s (including China) as seen from the perspectives—and through the propaganda—of all the various antagonists.

视觉文化迄今(2006)采用的是日本自十九世纪中叶以来的历史进行案例分析，以便在最广义的层面上对"文化"作出新的阐释；这种"文化"包括诸如西化、现代化、技术与大众传媒的变化模式、帝国主义、民族主义、军国主义、种族主义、商业化、及消费主义，等等。
该项目将增添的单元包括亚洲十九世纪晚期至二十世纪早期的照片；第二次世界大战前日本的现代主义；以及从各种角度、包括相互敌对势力的宣传、所反映出来的那场发生在十九世纪三十年代至四十年代早期的太平洋战争（包括中国）。

7. PLEASE VIEW & USE THESE "VISUALIZING CULTURES" UNITS CAREFULLY & IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN PREPARED.
The goal must be to understand the past so that we can make the present and future world a better place. To this end it is important that these images be viewed in the context in which they are presented. To take images out of context and use them irresponsibly and

provocatively destroys the highest ideals of uncensored sharing and communication that technology now makes possible. To use the graphic imagery of the past to perpetuate cycles of violence and hatred runs counter to everything for which Visualizing Cultures stands.

请小心并遵循该项目的精神来观看和使用"视觉文化"单元中的图像。
我们的目的必须是了解过去，以便能使现在和未来的世界更美好。因此，根据图像展示的上下文来观看这些图像是非常重要的。如果把这些图像同其上下文割裂，不负责任并带有挑衅性地使用这些图像，那将摧毁我们因技术的进步而获得的分享交流未删改信息的最高理想。使用过去的图像来继续维护暴力和仇恨的行为，跟该"视觉文化"项目所代表的一切是绝不相容的。