

Digitize Your Photos: Proceed Wisely and with a Plan!

Synopsis

We will overview of some considerations and best practices to employ when starting a digitizing project. What are the different scan formats and resolutions, and when to use what? What equipment do I need? Where do I store my digitized photos and how do I organize them so I can easily find them in future? This sessions touches on these topics and gives you suggestions for follow up reading.

Introduction

If you have a large number of pre-digital photos in your family archive, digitizing them is one of the best ways to preserve them for posterity. It also gives you flexibility to use them in a number of ways: making collages, re-touching for special effects, cropping or extracting parts of a photo, embedding in blogs, family history books, and other publications, making mugs, calendars, etc. The list is long!

Outline

Why digitize?

Develop the plan

- Organize
- Digitize
- Label/log
- Store

Test, Review and Revise the plan

References

Informative Articles on Photo scanning and organization

“From Chaos to Order; Where to Begin Organizing Old Photos”, Lisa Lisson, Are You My Cousin? Genealogy

<https://lialisson.com/what-genealogists-ought-to-know-about-photo-organization/>

“Its Not About Photo Storage: How to Organize, Print, and SEE Pictures”, Jennifer Wise, Photo and Story Treasures

<https://lifetalesbooks.blogspot.com/2019/06/its-not-about-photo-storage-how-to.html>

“A Practical Guide To Scanning Old Photos”, Laura Schmalstieg, Artifact Uprising blog

<https://www.artifactuprising.com/tips-for-scanning-old-photos?epik=dj0yJnU9N0kwdm4yZnNMLUVhUHZRc3VxeW5kZjd3XzFaeU5iUTcmcD0wJm49SWlkaGhjLXNFbVcxN3JtZFI3SHBGUSZ0PUFBQUFBR05WMzVJ>

“You Can Do This: Photo Organizing and Preservation”, Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

<https://genealogybargains.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PREMIUM-RESOURCE-LIST-You-Can-Do-This-Photo-Organizing-and-Preservation.pdf>

Lisa Louise Cooke, Genealogy Gems, multiple podcasts and YouTube videos

<https://lialouisecooke.com>

Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, multiple podcasts and YouTube videos

<https://maureentaylor.com/reading-writing-and-exporting-metadata-why-it-matters/>

<https://maureentaylor.com/spring-cleaning-your-photos/>

<https://maureentaylor.com/episode-179-how-to-organize-photos-before-scanning-with-nancy-desmond/>

Also check your regional and state historical and genealogy societies for webinars and speakers on this topic.

Digital file types

Raster vs. Vector images simplified

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/digital-toolbox/visuals/images/two-types-digital-images-vector-and-raster>

Overview of file types and use

<https://ivanexpert.com/2010/05/the-5-types-of-digital-image-files-tiff-jpeg-gif-png-and-raw-image-files-and-when-to-use-each-one/>

***Comprehensive explanation of file formats, resolution, colors**

<https://guides.lib.umich.edu/c.php?g=282942&p=1885348>

Simplified explanation

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/digitizing-family-photos-records/>

Archival Supply Companies

Gaylord Archival

<https://www.gaylord.com/c/Cleaning-and-Protection>

Archival Methods

<https://www.archivalmethods.com/product/pec-12-photo-cleaner>

University Products

<https://www.universityproducts.com/photo-products1/photo-supplies/photo-film-cleaning>

PrintFile® Archival Storage

<https://www.printfile.com/product-category/accessories/>

Photo Scanning Apps

<https://expertphotography.com/photo-scanner-apps/>

Cloud Photo Storage

Overview

<https://www.consumerreports.org/digital-cameras-photography/best-cloud-storage-services-for-photos-a1596993466/>

Comparison of Photo Management Software/databases

<https://expertphotography.com/best-photo-management-software/eed?>