Digital Collections: A Future for Small Museums
Amanda Shepp, MLS

Why Digitalize a Collection?
- Increase publicity & accessibility
- Chance to partner with other institutions
- Maximize
- Maximize limited display space
- Staff & Volunteers
- Chance to appeal to younger volunteers
- Expensive not mandatory
- Audience
- Increase accessibility of resources and information
- Keep interest through social media updates

Got Cool Stuff?
Is your collection...
- Especially interesting?
- Pertinent to local history or the history of your institution?
- Unique in some way?
**What Do You Have?**

**Skills**
- How detailed/involved should collection be?
- Main Audience
- In-House
- Internet
- Consortium
- Metadata requirements
- Copyright restrictions
- Are there staff or volunteers with these skills?

**Equipment**
- What is your collection's focus?
- Cameras, scanners, etc.
- Space for equipment/digitizing
- Is this equipment available to your institution?
- Are there staff or volunteers who can operate this equipment?

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**What Do You Need?**

**Software & Systems**
- Open Source
- Omeka
- Collective Access
- Open Exhibits
- Adlib Museum
- Pachyderm
- ContentDM
- Service
  - EasyO (Cumulus)
  - Lyraisis

What best suits your needs and skill level?
Budget

Availability of Funds
Number of Items in Collection vs.
Number of Items to Digitize
Desired Digital Display Method

Size and Scope of Digital Project

DCM Software
Time to Complete Project
Level of Cataloging & Metadata
Funding Needs
Federal Funding

- Institute of Museum & Library Services
- IMLS Museums for America Grant
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions
- Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants
- National Historical Publications and Records Commission
- NHPRC Digitizing Historical Records
- NHPRC Decoding Democracy: Access to Historical Records Projects
- National Historic Preservation Offices

National & Private Funding

- Knight Foundation
- Technology
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Science & Technology
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Conservation & Museums
- American Alliance of Museums
- Archives.com
- Local History
- Kickstarter.com
- Museum 2.0
Digital Project Checklist:
1. Significant Materials
2. Permission
3. Metadata & Descriptions
4. Research Value
5. Resources Assessed

For More Information, Check Out:
• Museum 2.0
• New Media Consortium
• Center For the Future of Museums

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