Are We There Yet?
Strategies for Digital Collections Access

GLAMPS: Galleries, libraries, archives, museums and publishers

Leigh A. Grinstead, Digital Services Consultant, LYRASIS
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Data from

- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to study collections and digitization technology, 2018
- LYRASIS Archival Materials Digitization Survey, 2018
- Heritage Health Index, 2014/2019
- You!
- Benchmarking for the future
Collections Digitization and Strategy

- Who Responded?
- Digitization
- Collections Online
- Software Selection Process
- Collections Strategy
3/4: digitizing fewer than 1000 objects per year

Almost all shooting/reshooting original

1/2 have unmanaged digital assets (No DAMS)

2/3: digitize everything (eventually)

Collections increase by 1% / year

Cataloging & digitization rates = 1.5% / year

35,000 museums | 9.3M objects | 4.5 millennia

What a beautifully optimistic field we work in....
78% have an active digitization program

96% digitize to create a long-term digital object

1/3: digitize in-house
1/3: outsource materials
1/3: have a hybrid program
58% of all orgs actively digitizing collections

40% of all orgs involved in preservation of born-digital collections

1/3 of libraries, museums, and historical societies doing neither
COLLECTIONS ONLINE: ACCESS

1/10: 100% collections online; 1/2 <10%

3/4: less than 20% of their collection on view physically

2/3: less than 10% of objects have educational or interpretive copy

40%: leverage their CMS’ online module

What percentage of your collection is available online?

“We thought this would be done years ago”

“Would like to but no plan yet”

“Discussed often but no plan of what/when”

Broken promise of “digital” addressing comprehensive collections access
Involved: Mostly collections/curatorial BUT half of staff have now left

Led: Mostly by collections BUT staff that have now left

Final decision: 1/3 not sure, 1/4 leadership, 1/4 collections

Only 1/4 followed a formal process

Majority peer recs, prior familiarity, other “informal” methods

Half of staff involved in selection have left

Lack of formal matching requirements

Frustration with incumbent system is expected
83% annual budget: $20k or less

48% have obsolete equipment that needs replacing

87% own flatbed scanner avg. cost: $500-$5K

Top Digitized Formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-house</th>
<th>Outsource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loose Papers (69%)</td>
<td>Bound Volumes (59%)</td>
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30% own a book scanner avg. cost: $20K-$60K
COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- 50%: broad collections management institutional goals
- 40%: specific goals but unassigned resources
- 16%: specific goals and a genuine resourced plan
- 2/3: 15+ years managing collections electronically
- 1/2: have had the same CMS for 10 years or more

Disconnect between collections management strategy and the ability or commitment to deliver on it
16 of 21 (76%) states represented in survey have a DPLA Hub.
please contact us for more info.

Phone 800.999.8558
Email leigh.Grinstead@lyrasis.org

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