The fearless Lone Arranger

Are you ready to ride, Cowboy?

It ain't your Mama's digitization project any more



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In the beginning

Oya Rieger



Anne Kenney

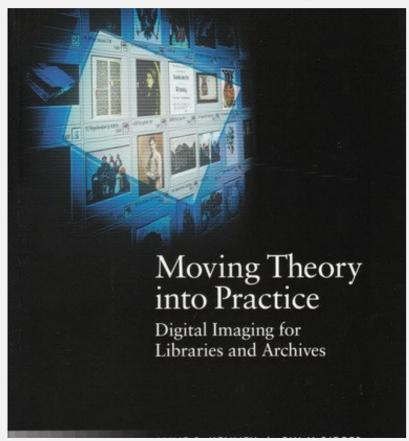


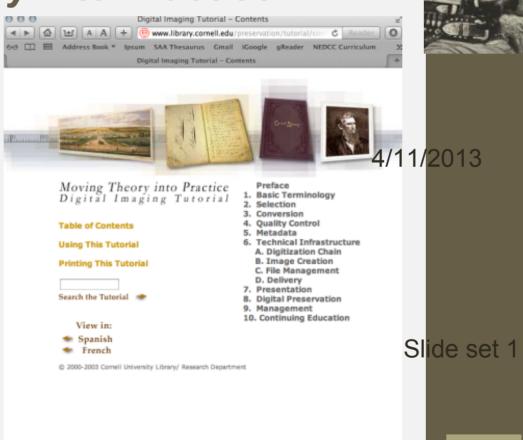


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In the beginning

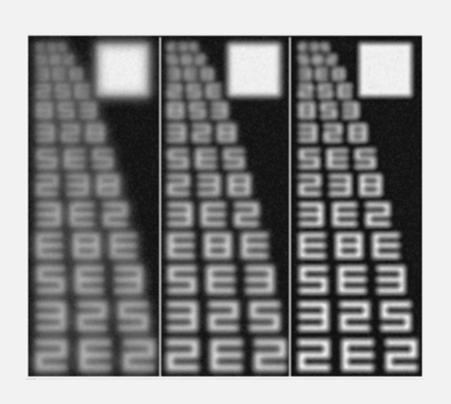
Moving Theory Into Practice





In the beginning

Moving Theory Into Practice







4/1 1/2 01 3

And then they rode into town

Dennis Meissner Minnesota Historical Society



Mark A. Greene **University of Wyoming**



Slide set 1

MPLP, Fall 2005

Them's fightin' words

- 'More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing.' *American Archivist* 68(2), 2005.
 - 'The archival profession has been *unwilling* or *unable* to change its processing benchmarks in response to the greater quantity of acquisitions.'
 - 'The result tends to be a small number of beautifully processed collections.'
 - 'It is time that we focused on what we *absolutely* need to do instead of on all the things that we *might* do in a world of unbounded resources.'
 - '...We evince a *dismaying lack* of concern for user access to our holdings.' ... 'haphazard dedication to certain rituals'... etc.
 - Users don't care about item-level description



4/1 1/2 01 3

Them's fightin' words

Instead:

- 'We should be paying more attention to... research access to all our holdings, rather than being content to process a few to perfection.'
- What is the least we can do to get the job done in a way that is adequate to user needs now and in the future?'
- Use databases to locate different areas of the collection, rather than full-on reprocessing
- Not all collections need to be treated with the same level of intensity
- Open un-processed collections to researchers
- Be tougher on appraisal and deaccessioning (or fearless)
 Slide set 1



Digitization meets MPLP

The ideal

- Carefully done, inhouse scanning
- High-resolution lossless images
- Comprehensive metadata and export
- Standards and quality control
- Preservation of scans

The real

- Scanning vendors
- JPEGs
- Metadata by keyword
- Stand-alone systems linked virtually
- 'Good enough'
- Don't promise 'digital preservation'



4/1 1/2 01 3

The Twitter Moment

- April, 2010: Library of Congress agrees to archive Twitter.
 - Free to LoC, a donation from the company
 - 21 billion tweets and counting at the time
 - 170 billion tweets and counting today
 - No advance preparation, just take it!
 - Today (April 2013), storage and backup are secure
 - Searchability still in development
 - Gnip.com offering commercial access for a price
- The takeaway: Digitize now, grab now, figure it out later!





Sidebar: Digitization and preservation SCANNING IS NOT PRESERVING.

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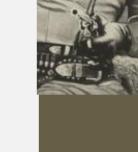
Sli de set 1

Who is a Lone Arranger
What is he or she up against
What's in that holster you're wearing, Cowboy?

HOW LONELY ARE YOU, ANYWAY?



The predecessors

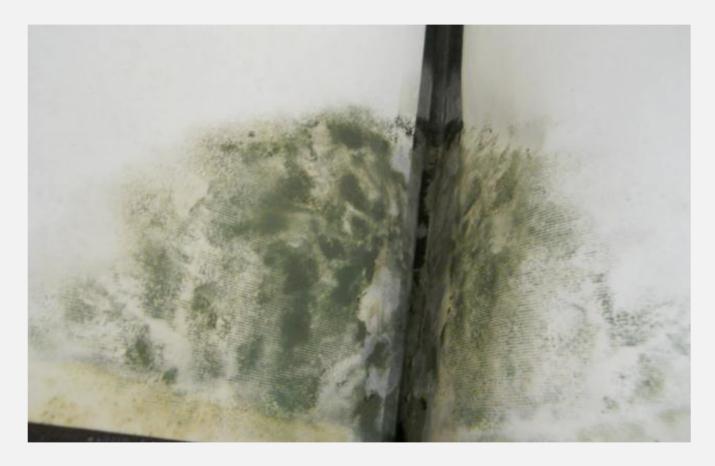


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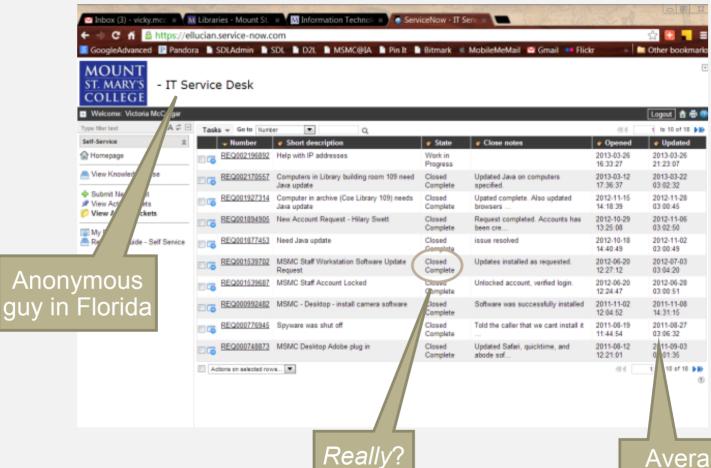


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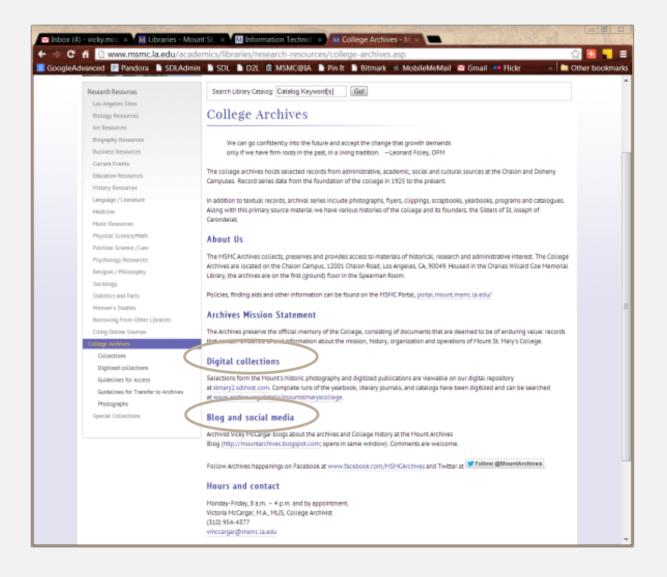
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Average completion 2 weeks

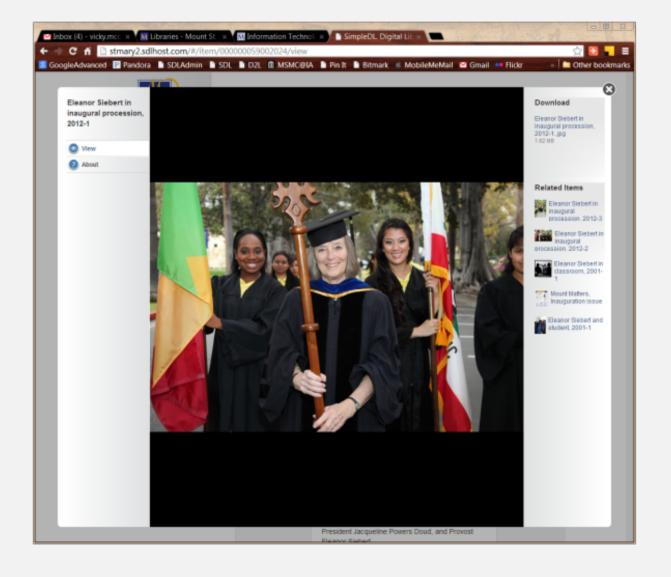


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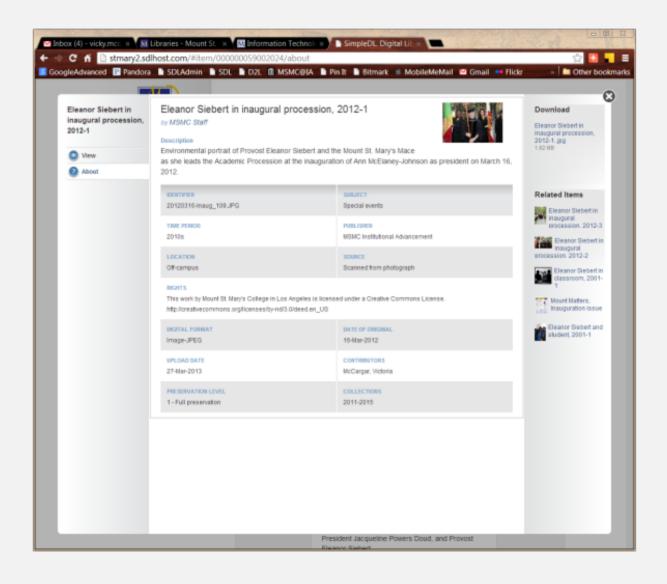


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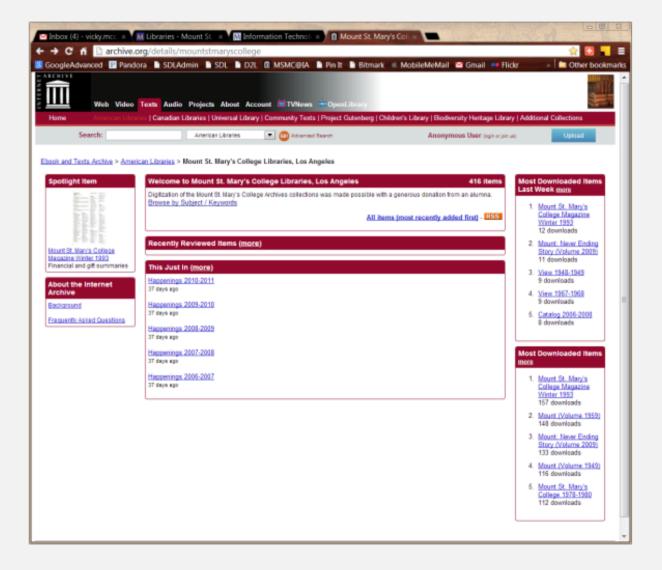


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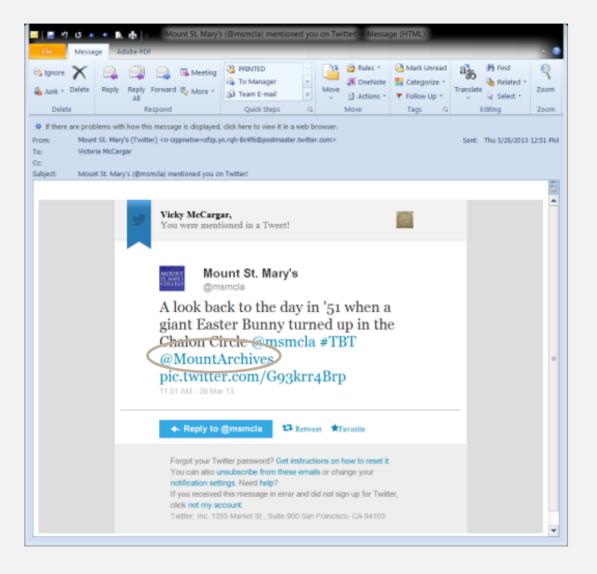


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4/1 1/2 01 3





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Issues with Lone Arrangers

'An individual who works alone or with only part-time or volunteer staff.' — Christina Zamon

- Lack of funding
- Little or no dedicated budget
- Too many priorities
- Do-it-yourself IT support
- Overwhelming backlog
- Few opportunities for conf
- Not necessarily full-time jo
- Non-professional voluntee



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Benefits for Lone Arrangers

- Few colleagues understand what we do all day
- Modest successes can be made to look like digital magic
- Flying under the range
- Freedom in decisi
- Reduced expectations for integration, interoperability
- Ability to set policy on our own
- More and cheaper tools out there all the time
- Not having to share the kudos (if any)
- Win-win-win almost anything we do is better than things were before



4/1 1/2 01 3

Is that a six-gun, Cowboy?

- Empowerment through FEARLESSNESS
 - We CAN put collections online
 - We DON'T HAVE TO be perfect
 - We don't have to be burdened by metadata like

We're in the CLOUD Kemo-sahbee!

- ... EAD
- · ... MARC
- ... LCSH
- ... DCME
- We DO have to be curious
- We DO have to enjoy technology (up to a point)
- We DO have to understand and explain what we do, don't do – and why … empowerment through policy
- We CAN be empowered by a confident attitude



4/11/2013