A Conversation about Curating Digital Collections

We will explore such topics as:

*organizing the physical collection before digitization;

*the importance of selection and curation; *provenance and copyright issues; *and thinking about your digital collections within the vast number of collections out there in the digital universe.

We will also look at and evaluate examples of well-curated collections versus a lot of "space junk" filing a void, all from the Indiana State Library's Digital Collections and Hosted Collections.

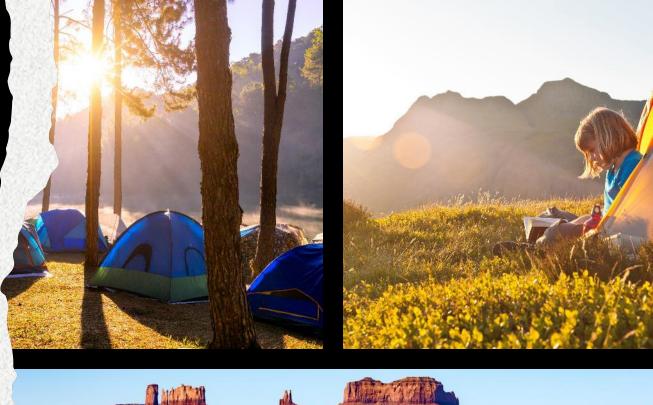
Let's get started. It's a long road to travel.



Before you start digitization, get **organized**.

Consider:

- 1. Used or requested frequently?
- 2. Already available online?
 - Internet Archive, Hathi Trust, Google Books, Library of Congress, etc.
- 3. Public interest?
 - Anniversaries
- 4. What is its condition?
 - Fragility, obsolescence, requires special equipment
- 5. Is it unique?
- 6. Provenance and most importantly, **Copyright!**





The next leg of the journey is visualizing your digital collection.

- 1. What is the purpose of your digital collection? Who is your intended audience?
- 2. What are your goals and/or focus?
- 3. Is it subject or format based?
- 4. Will the collection grow, or does it have an ending?
- 5. Do some exploration!

Let's look at some examples.



Select and Curate!

Tips and tricks:

- 1. Digital collections are not free! Storage space is expensive and an ongoing cost. You can't digitize everything, nor should you.
- 2. Consider structure and organization.
- 3. Quality control is boring but crucial.
 - Duplicates are not cool.
 - Wonky scanning.
 - Blurry images.
- 4. Create a comprehensive digital collection before publishing it.
 - Landing page
 - A decent number of digital items



The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

-- Walt Disney





Thank You

Brittany Kropf brkropf@library.IN.gov

Chris Marshall <u>chmarshall@library.in.gov</u>

