

### Fundamental Questions

- What is the purpose of the digital collection?
  How does it align with your organization's strategic goals?
- What is the scope of the collection? How many items will be digitized? Will the collection continue to grow? What subjects will they cover?
- O Who is the audience?

# Selection for digitization

- O Who will decide what falls within the scope of the project?
- Can items be handled and digitized without causing damage? Will any items require special equipment to digitize?
- Can digitization be outsourced?
- Not everything should be digitized!

#### Timeframe

- How long will it take to complete each phase of the project?
- O What milestones can you set?
- O Are there hard deadlines to meet?
- Who is responsible for assuring that milestones and deadlines are met?

#### Outcomes and Assessment

- What are the expected results of the project?
- O How will the outcomes be measured?
- Are there ways for qualitative outcomes to be measured?

## Budget

- What will the labor, digitization equipment, workstations, preservation strategy and asset management system cost?
- Are there funding sources outside of the organization (grants, etc.) that can be tapped?
- Are there strategic partnerships that can be made to share the costs?

## Copyright and Access Restrictions

- U.S. copyright law is designed to foster use in the commercial sphere. It does not recognize cultural stewardship or address ethical usage
- Who owns the physical item? Who owns the intellectual rights?
- Does access need to be restricted for all or some items?

### Access Strategies

- O How will you share the digitized items?
- When choosing a digital asset management systems consider the needs of your audience
- DAMS provide access to the digitized item as well as intellectual access and context

#### Preservation

- Estimate your space needs for all digital objects created
- o 3-2-1 Rule
  - 3 copies saved in
  - 2 formats with
  - 1 offsite backup

### Digitization Standards

- FADGI (Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative) compliance
- Pixel Array and Resolution depend on the size of the original
- Grayscale or RGB colorspace
- 8 or 16 bit grayscale (1 channel), 24 or 48 bit
  RGB (3 channels of 16 bit information) bit
  depth

#### File Formats

- Use non-proprietary formats whenever possible
- Archival master files vs. Service master files vs. Web-deliverable files
- Lossless vs. Lossy
- o RAW vs. TIFF vs. JPEG vs. PDF and PDF/A

# File Naming

- Use a logical, systematic convention
- Keep it simple and consistent
- Keep it machine readable and platform neutral
- Use lowercase letters
- Avoid special characters such as & , \* % # ; : (
  )! @\$^~'{}[]\?<>-

## Equipment and Space

- What equipment do you need to digitize what you have?
- Find equipment that can digitize to the standards you are following
  - Find a physical space that can accommodate your equipment and lots of room to prepare analog materials
- Light, temperature and humidity

# Color Management

- Each piece of equipment should be objectively calibrated to ensure that the analog items is reproduced as accurately as possible
- Use color bars or targets when scanning
- General settings: 24 millions of colors, 2.3 gamma, 5500 degrees Kelvin for LCD monitors

#### Metadata

- Decide on a scheme that will allow interoperability while accommodating all the information you want to convey
- Decide on a strategy to record the metadata

# Project Management

- Who will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring all parts of the process?
  - Tracking progress
  - Addressing roadblocks/questions
  - Ensure procedures are followed
  - Creating and update documentation
  - Coordinating staff training
  - Tracking on milestones and deadlines

#### Documentation

- O DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!
  - Planning documentation
  - Digitization procedures
    - Item digitization tracking
    - Quality assurance tracking
  - Metadata procedures
    - Quality assurance tracking
  - Assessment procedures