



Intro to Digitizing Photos for Cultural Heritage

Matt Wheeler, Digital Collections Curator

Digitizing cultural heritage photographs creates exciting opportunities for accessing and sharing collections. It may also be a smart preservation strategy for materials at risk from age and deterioration. However, it entails unique challenges, dovetails with other considerations, costs money, and may seem daunting to the novice. Penobscot Marine Museum has been digitizing photo collections since 2005. Through making mistakes, seeking out professional development, consulting colleagues, trying new approaches, and fundraising, we've built capacity and established a set of practices that align with our goals, current level of expertise, and budget. If you work for a museum, historical society, or other cultural heritage organization that's planning a digital project for the first time, or you're looking to improve your current program, this hands-on course will help you lay the groundwork to get started. Please note that we'll demonstrate workflows with our existing hardware and software to provide sample use cases. The quality and performance of both is very good, and the costs are reasonable. Of course, there are other options which participants can explore on their own.

Topics Covered:

- Assessing the project
- Shopping for Gear
- Software Options
- Show Me the Money
- The Digital Darkroom
- On Targets
- Best Capture, Best Practice
- Software and Hardware Settings
- Image File Considerations
- Overview of Next Steps: Describing, Sharing, Storing

Program Benefits:

- Learn how to plan a successful photo digitization project using methodical steps
- Helpful technology recommendations from experienced professionals
- Tips on fundraising
- Practical intro to using hardware and software
- Overview of what to do with digital collections
- Links to additional resources

Target Audience:

- Museum professionals
- Historical society staff or volunteers

Experience Level: Appropriate for both Novice and Intermediate

- Novice - *Has minimal or textbook knowledge without connecting it to the practice*
- Intermediate - *Has basic knowledge of key aspects of the practice*

Program Fee: \$60**Contact Hours:** 2**Delivery:** Lecture/Hands on**About the Instructor:****Matt Wheeler**

Digital Curator

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Matt Wheeler serves as the Digital Curator at PMM and has been working in the Museum's Photo Archives since 2011. His educational experience includes coursework in digital curation from University of Maine, Orono, as well as ongoing professional development in evolving standards and best practices in the industry. He guides PMM in building sound digital collections with an eye to accessibility and sustainability. Matt grew up in Camden and Lincolnville, living on and appreciating Penobscot Bay, and enjoys engaging audiences in the digital age with stories of Penobscot Bay's cultural heritage. His personal photography explores the rich natural settings of the region.