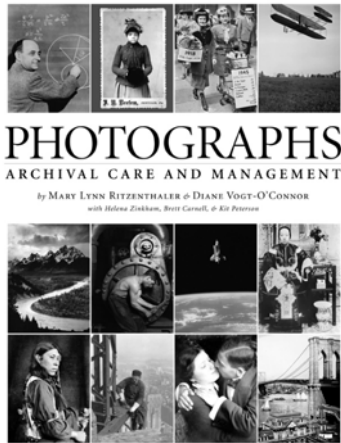


Photographs: Archival Care and Management / Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler and Diane Vogt-O'Connor, with Helena Zinkham, Brett Carnell & Kit Peterson.—(rev. ed.)—Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists, 2006.—550 p.: ill.—ISBN 1-931666-17-2: \$84.95 (SAA Member price: \$59.95).



Here it is at last! The long awaited revision of the Society of American Archivists' 1984 publication *Archives & Manuscripts: Administration of Photographic Collections* is now available. Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler is joined by Diane Vogt-O'Connor, with important additional contributions by Helena Zinkham, Brett Carnell and Kit Peterson of the Library of Congress. Intended to serve as a manual and "compendium of practice" the volume does indeed address a much wider range of issues than the earlier edition, extending into the digital realm and including an expanded and updated section on preservation and archival procedures. Although it is focused on archival practice the volume will be indispensable for both libraries and special collections.

For more than a decade I have used the 1984 version in combination with James M. Reilly's indispensable, but now out-of-print *Care and Identification of 19th-Century Photographic Prints* (Rochester, NY: Eastman Kodak, 1986) in teaching the management of photographs in libraries and archives. During the fall semester I had my first opportunity to work with the new volume and integrate it into

my teaching. With only a few reservations, I have found that it is an excellent resource. The chapters by Helena Zinkham (one on reading and researching photographs and another on description and cataloging) are outstanding as is Brett Carnell's chapter on accessioning and arrangement. Kit Peterson's chapter on digitization is extremely well done, with enough general information to satisfy the beginner and more than enough to deepen the grasp of experienced practitioners. The chapter on digitization is the one with the most risk of becoming rapidly out of date and with the prospect of waiting another twenty-two years for updates may be an area of concern. There is much information here that may not age badly, except perhaps for specific references to current products, media, and websites. The terminology boxes and tips are great and designed to catch the eye and be useful to the "lone arranger" as well as to those in larger repositories.

The principal flaw for this reviewer was in the chapter on the history of photographic processes. It is mostly a reprint of the chapter from the earlier book, co-written by Gerald J. Munoff and Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler. There are many new illustrations that greatly enhance the narrative, but the lack of emphasis on the identification of historical processes disappoints. This is the area in which Reilly's book excels, but with his book increasingly hard to come by, photo archivists and students need another resource. While this publication has a wealth of useful information, the archivist struggling to differentiate between a carbon print and a woodburytype will not find the answer here.

On the whole this is a most welcome addition to the photo archivist's shelf and should be on most libraries' reference shelves, as well as in curator's offices. It will be essential for anyone working with photographs, regardless of the type of collection. The new features such as the stand-out boxes of "tips" and "terminology" will help users who need to dip into the volume for quick refreshers and the tables and sample forms and memos will be most useful. In addition to the thoroughness of the text, the inclusion of many checklists (such as Appendix 13-B: Sample Intellectual Property Permission and Appendix 13-E: Sample Digital publication project checklist) and the six comprehensive appendices are invaluable.

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