From Filing Cabinet to iPhone: How Collaboration and Technology Can Introduce Photo Collections to New Audiences

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What does a visual resource archive mean to you?
Each of these images is intimately tied to a location.
Providing a historical record - not just of a time or an event - but also of the place where the photo was taken.
Camp Independence, Civil War Recruiting Camp
The Library Company of Philadelphia via
PhillyHistory.org

PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records

- 5 organizations
  - Philadelphia City Archives
  - Philadelphia Water Department
  - Office of the City Representative
  - Library Company of Philadelphia
  - Free Library of Philadelphia

- Over 93,000 historic photographs and maps
- Over 6,700 registered users
- 13,000 unique visitors per month
- Runs on Sajara platform
Why Collaborate?

1. Benefits to the Collaborating Organizations

2. Benefits to the Public

3. Benefits to Libraries, Archives, and Museums
Reach New Audiences

- Unified search and display
- Watermarks
- Metadata fields
- Links
Access to New Technology

1911

12th and Market Streets-Northwest Corner

2009

12th and Market Streets-Northwest Corner

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Mobile Web App
Collaborative Tools - Administrative

- Administrative access to only your institution’s assets
- Multiple collections per institution
- Collection based metadata fields
- Customizable features
  - Ecommerce
  - Licensing
  - Public commenting
Identification: 0030356

Source: Print and Picture Collection

*Title: Opening Day

Description: Opening day: the orator's silver albumen print; 33 x 41 cm. Mounted on backing board. "Opening day, May 10, 1876. The opening ceremonies took place on the terraces of the Art Gallery and in the area facing the Main Building. Speakers' stands were erected in front of the Art Gallery.


Date: [Day: 5, Month: 10, Year: 1876]

Links:
- URL: http://www.freelibrary.org/ConCol/Details.cfm?item=0030356
  - Text: View Additional Photo Information on the Free Library.
  - Image: Optional
- URL: http://www.phillyhistory.org/blog/archive/2010/04/1
  - Text: Find out more in the PhillyHistory Blog!
  - Image: App_Themes/PhillyHistory/Images/Actions/blog_text

Media Type: Albumen Prints

Media Size: 33 x 41 cm.

Grant Text: The addition of this image to PhillyHistory.org is supported by

Series: "Photograph Series III"

Bibliography: Reprinted in: Old Philadelphia in early photographs, 1839-1914

Series: "Centennial Exhibition 1876"
Did Someone Say Funding?

- Optional module
- Print sales
- Licensing system
- External photo vendors
Benefits for the Public

- Unified search and easier access
- Links to additional resources
- Opportunity to participate in preserving history
- More ways to interact with the assets
Tools for Public Participation

- Bookmark searches, save favorites, share with friends
- Submit error reports, request photos, leave public comments, and provide feedback
- Nearly a 93% accuracy for error reports
Public Mash-ups

"In the Hood: Between the Wars" - RRKennison

Rephotographing Philadelphia
Benefits for the Field

- Share ideas and resources
- Learn from each other’s successes and mistakes
- Research new technology that others can use
Our Next Innovation: Augmented Reality

Created by Carissa Brittain
Background Image from Google

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this presentation or project do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Why Augmented Reality?

- NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant
- Investigate AR tech as a tool in cultural institutions
- Connect the past to the present
- Engage users in the study of history, architecture, and photography using mobile technology
- Build on the rich geographic resources of PhillyHistory.org

Students and pretzel vendor at West Philadelphia High School, 1934.
Philadelphia City Archives via PhillyHistory.org
Augmented Reality

Background Image from Google

Created by Carissa Brittain
The result is a collaboration that makes seven historic collections from three institutions available to the public— all on one website.
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