1. **TITLE:** ARCHIVAL DIGITAL IMAGES: A USER STUDY

2. **AUTHORS:**
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3. **ABSTRACT:** This user study is being conducted to identify what information researchers want to see presented digitally and how they want to see it presented. The study is being conducted by the Northwest Digital Archives consortium, a program of the Orbis Cascades Alliance.

4. **METHODS:**

5. **PRESENT TASKS:**
   - Bring in consultant Elizabeth Yakel, a leader in archival user studies
   - Design a user survey based on researchers' reactions to screen shots
   - Conduct a pilot test
   - Recruit researchers from the 30 NWDA institutions, based on type and location
   - Analyze survey results to learn user preferences
   - Use results to prepare consortium-wide digitization project

6. **NEXT STEPS:**
   - A survey conducted by web-conference and teleconference
   - In-house and remote users
   - Six pairings of websites offering digital content

7. **PRELIMINARY RESEARCH BY OTHERS:**
   - 1995 - OCLC paper, Selecting Research Collections for Digitization
   - 2001 - OCLC paper, Use and Users of Electronic Library Resources
   - 2003 - Elizabeth Yakel and Deborah Torres - "AU: Archival Intelligence and User Expertise" - American Archivist

8. **PRELIMINARY RESEARCH BY NWDA:**
   - Oct.-Nov. 2007 - NWDA Survey of Digitizing Initiatives - digital programs presently in place
   - May-June 2008 - NWDA researcher type study - researchers presently served and priority audiences
   - Aug.-Sept. 2008 - NWDA institutional needs survey - needs in regard to technical infrastructure, standards, training

9. **HOW RESEARCHERS FIND US AND WHAT THEY USE:**

10. **RESULTS:**
    - Recruitment to be conducted September 2008
    - Survey to be conducted October 2008
    - Results to be analyzed November 2008
    - DLRL National Leadership Planning Grant to be received (hopefully) September 2008
    - NWDA Digitization Project to be implemented 2009-2010

11. **SUMMARY:** Findings indicate that what was true for paper collections back in 1980 is still true today: "Identifying the users and potential users of archives and manuscript collections, and how these users approach the collections, are the most important considerations in constructing an (archival) information system." - Richard Lytle