Updating and Implementing Geospatial Image Digitization and Workflow Standards

ERIN ANTOGNOLI

Abstract: Institutions of various sizes often struggle with digitization standards, especially for their collections' visual materials. While general standards for image digitization are available, file formats, metadata standards, and quality control tools have changed, and current specific guidelines do not exist for institutions with aerial photography collections. As a result, their unique attributes are seldom considered during the digitization process. This poster outlines the importance of an institutionally implemented standard digitization protocol, necessary considerations to account for the unique aspects of geospatial images, and the process of implementing these solutions into an institution's regular digitization workflow. With a clear workflow protocol outlined at every step of the process using current tools and technology, future accession and digitization of visual materials will be more efficient, interoperability among aerial image collections will be improved, and patrons will have more convenient access to the materials they need in the formats they require.

The model for digitizing aerial photography presented in this poster is based on an ongoing project involving the development of a database for aerial photography at the National Agricultural Library (NAL). Using historical aerial photographs from LTAR (Long-Term Agro-ecosystem Research) facilities in Mandan, North Dakota and in Cheyenne, Wyoming, I developed a plan for building the NAL's aerial image collection including a collection development policy and SIP (Submission Information Package), requirements for staffing, digitization standards for the print and film based images, file naming conventions, metadata requirements, storage and access platforms, and quality management over the life cycle of the data.

About the author:

Erin Antognoli is pursuing her Masters in Library Science at University of Maryland's College of Information Studies with a specialization in Curation and Management of Digital Assets. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Photojournalism from Kent State University in Ohio, and her Master of Fine Arts degree in Photography from Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia. Erin has worked as a professional photographer and educator, and is an internationally exhibited artist. She is currently a Fellow at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland, and is a 2014 recipient of the University of Maryland iSchool Helen A. Tegnell Memorial Scholarship. Erin's professional interests include image archiving and assessing the impact of digital collections.