

# Minimizing Compromises: Enhancing Access to Large-Scale Digitized Collections

**KRISTEN MERRYMAN**

**Abstract:** The recent shift from curated digitized collections to large-scale digitization leaves many questions as to how best assist researchers find what they are looking for. A grant project at the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at North Carolina State University Libraries that has materials being selected and reformatted at the folder level rather than the item level has put this problem in the forefront for the project staff. Creating the description for the materials is a collaborative effort between the Libraries' SCRC staff and Metadata and Cataloging Department.

A workflow was developed that initially utilizes an automated metadata creator, developed by NCSU Libraries, that can repurpose existing archival description from the finding aid into metadata records for digitized materials. The project staff is able to create many basic level records at one time using this tool and gets the materials online with a base level of access through the SCRC's digital collections site. Following the creation of these "stub" records, Metadata & Cataloging staff will enhance the subjects, genre, and original format fields in a resource record, as well as provide a short scope and content note for each folder. These fields are relevant for assisting researchers locate the necessary folder when doing a keyword search and increase the materials' visibility on the open web. This poster will describe the innovative workflow that has allowed this process to operate smoothly and provide a roadmap for future digitization projects that incorporate large-scale digitization methodologies and how to minimize the compromises that are made when doing large-scale digitization and increasing one's digital collections' search engine optimization.

## **About the author:**

*Kristen Merryman* is the Digital Project Librarian for the agriculture-focused grant project "Cultivating a Revolution: Science, Technology and Change in North Carolina Agriculture, 1950-1979," at North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries. Previously, Kristen served as Digital Project Librarian for the Beaux Arts to Modernism project and as Project Coordinator on the Built Heritage project, both digitization projects for North Carolina architectural materials at NCSU.

Kristen received her MSLS from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a concentration in Archives and Records Management and her MA in Public History from NCSU.