



EMORY
LIBRARIES &
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

The Whys & Hows: Optimizing In-House Resources for Digitization at Emory University

Lars Meyer

Emory University

Nov. 19, 2014 ASERL Meeting

Team

Composition

- Manager with IT background
- 2 Photographers
- Book digitization specialist
- A/V Conservator
- Students

Responsibilities

- All formats
- Projects
- Ongoing collections digitization
- Patron one-time request
- Exhibits and publications

Optimization

Aligning activity in four key areas

1. Collections
2. Staffing
3. Metadata
4. Infrastructure and Dependencies

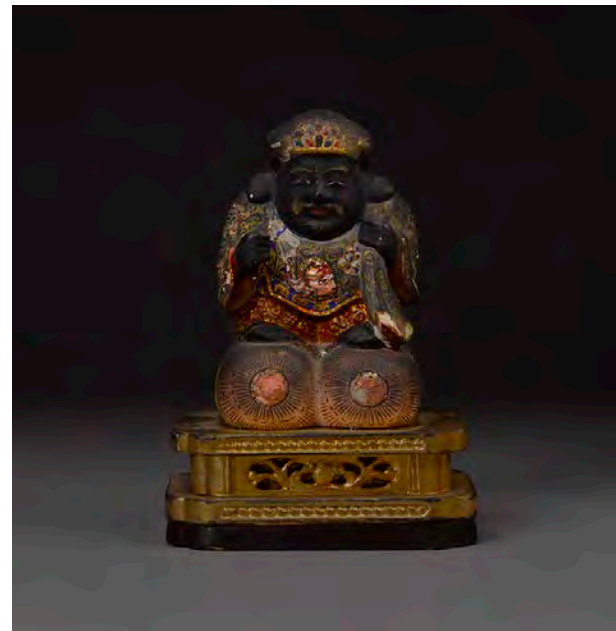
Collections

- What's the interesting stuff and where is it?
- Who decides?



Staffing

- Always learning new technologies
- Liasion and expert
- Project literacy



Metadata

- Interoperability and discovery
 - Metadata Working Group
 - Emory Core Metadata

Infrastructure and Dependencies

- Hardware, software, storage, and network
 - How much does this cost?
- Repository
- Colleagues
 - Conservation
 - Rights & permissions
 - Communications
 - IT
- Allied organizations



Optimization: Managing Polarities

Quantity ↔ Quality

In-house ↔ Vendors

Preservation ↔ Current interest or need

Take risks ↔ Be safe

Questioning Assumptions

- We can't digitize if we don't have a front end to display items
- Metadata creation is a barrier
- We can't digitize and display anything that might be copyrighted
- We must keep a locally archived copy of our digital objects
- We can't send materials to a digitization vendor because they're unique, expensive, fragile, etc.

Thank you.

Lars Meyer

lmeyer2@emory.edu

<http://guides.main.library.emory.edu/digitization>