Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

Larry Gall

Computer Systems Office
Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
Motivating

Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

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Motivating Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

Different situations call for different solutions
Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

1. Reflect, know thyself, context matters
2a. Create solutions that can be reused & recycled
2b. … copying/stealing is quicker than creating
3. Provide a tasty buffet of discrete/iterative tasks
4. Always remain flexible as matters arise
5a. Listen closely, users know what's failing
5b. … prepare to alter workflow, perhaps wildly
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3. Provide a tasty buffet of discrete/iterative tasks
4. Always remain flexible as matters arise
5a. Listen closely, users will find what’s amiss
5b. … prepare to alter workflow, perhaps wildly
Vignette One

Invertebrate Paleontology -- imaging 75,000 brachiopods

Jess Utrup
EMu Power User
Vignette One

Invertebrate Paleontology -- imaging 75,000 brachiopods
Vignette One

Invertebrate Paleontology -- imaging 75,000 brachiopods
Vignette One

Invertebrate Paleontology -- imaging 75,000 brachiopods
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- **Catalog number**
- **View of specimen** (dorsal, ventral, etc.)
- **Digital camera’s image number, minus the prefix (e.g., IMG_)**
Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?
Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?

“Hands free” voice-activated data capture
"Hands free" voice-activated data capture
"Hands free" voice-activated data capture
Vignette Two

Moving collections to Yale’s West Campus (2007-2009)  
Anthropology, Vertebrate Zoology, et al.
Vignette Two

Moving collections to Yale’s West Campus (2007-2009)
Anthropology, Vertebrate Zoology, et al.
Vignette Two
Moving collections to Yale’s West Campus (2007-2009)
Anthropology, Vertebrate Zoology, et al.
Yale Art Gallery

Laptop, barcode printer, tethered scan gun – barcoding for tracking & inventory
Laptop, barcode printer, tethered scan gun – barcoding for tracking & inventory
Specimen barcode
Container barcode

Specimen barcode
Vertebrate Zoology -- existing staff, one room, little time pressure, cataloguing was rate limiting
Anthropology– new/many staff, many rooms, big time pressure, packing/barcoding was rate limiting
We hired expert digitizers

Anthropology—new/many staff, many rooms, big time pressure, packing/barcoding was rate limiting
Ethafom!

Anthropology—new/many staff, many rooms, big time pressure, packing/barcoding was rate limiting
wireless
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality

No need to get to cart
No need to login to EMu
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality
Set scanners on stun! Aye, Captain!
Set scanners on stun! Aye, Captain!
Ethafoam Madness
Vignette Three

57 Yale student workers in Entomology (2007-present)
Sort to Family then Subfamily (Larry)

Sort to Genus then Species (Larry, students)

Sort within Species by Collecting Event (students)

Database (students)
Sort to Family then Subfamily (Larry)

Sort to Genus then Species (Larry, students)

Sort within Species by Collecting Event (students)

Database (students)
Student-Powered Paracurating

Schedule in overlapping timeslots, so students can work in groups
“Play Darwin - invent & separate out species of biblidine nymphalids”
“Play Darwin - invent & separate out species of biblidine nymphalids”
“Play Darwin - invent & separate out species of biblidine nymphalids”
Student-Powered Paracurating

Sorting within species to State/Province or comparably “digestible” geographic unit
Student-Powered Paracurating

Geography, and the “Student Enforcers”
Student-Powered Paracurating

Geography, and the “Student Enforcers”
Student-Powered Paracurating

Geography, and the “Student Enforcers”
Student-Powered Paracurating

Geography, and the “Student Enforcers”
Always check reverse of labels to uncover any hidden information
Always check reverse of labels to uncover any hidden information
“Picture on label” into cataloguing comments field
“Picture on label” into cataloguing comments field
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“Picture on label” into cataloguing comments field
Student-Powered Paracurating
Rosa Li CC’09

Hailing from the far-off land of Texas, Rosa Li brings to the job of drum major an unbeatable combination of rock star magnetism, keen and piercing intellect, and a penchant for singing along, even when she doesn’t know the words. The only football game she’s ever missed was the one where the band spelled her name on the field; after that, she resolved never to miss another YPMB event again.

Rosa earned her YPMB wings as KBB section leader, banging her way into the hearts of the band. She continued her career as band social chair before assuming the role of whistle-bearer. Other highlights of her career in the band include being the crutch of the pre-game Y, accidentally locking herself and the band president in the band office...and carrying on an extensive conversation with then-governor of New York George Pataki while clad only in white pants and a YPMB sports bra.

Rosa is a psychology major, and when she’s not directing the band, she’s playing with monkeys in Yale’s Capuchin Cognition lab or looking at
“Uberprops”

Student-Powered Paracurating

Toruk, Pegasus, Provost Salovey
Rosa Li brings to the job of drum major star magnetism, keen and swinging along, even when she'll game she's ever missed was on the field; after that, she's great again.

As section leader, banging her way through her career as band social dancer, Rosa Li brought to the Yale Precision Marching Band the energy and enthusiasm that characterized her role as drum major. She was a key member of the pre-game Y, and president in the band, also a good conversationalist with then-governor of New York George Pataki while clad only in white pants and a YPMB sports bra.

Rosa is a psychology major, and when she's not directing the band, she's playing with monkeys in Yale's Capuchin Cognition lab or looking at
Marching Band

Precision Marching Band

The job of drum
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Student-Powered Paracurating
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Student-Powered Paracurating

The Village

57 students
The Village

57 students

18 subject majors

Student-Powered Paracurating
Motivating
Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

Options shown are not available in all stores & locations …
Motivating Selecting & Managing Digitization Personnel

Options shown are not available in all stores & locations …