Managing Digitization Personnel & Workflows

Larry Gall

Computer Systems Office
Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
Motivating
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Different situations call for different solutions
Anthropology
Botany
Entomology
Invertebrate Paleontology
Invertebrate Zoology
Meteorites & Planetary Science
Mineralogy
Paleobotany
Scientific Instruments
Vertebrate Paleontology
Vertebrate Zoology

~12 million specimens
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1. Reflect, know thyself, context matters
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2a. Create solutions that can be reused & recycled
2b. … copying/pinching is quicker than creating
Managing Digitization Personnel & Workflows

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Managing Digitization Personnel & Workflows

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3. Provide a tasty buffet of discrete/iterative tasks
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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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalog Number</th>
<th>View of Specimen (dorsal, ventral, etc.)</th>
<th>Image Number</th>
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<td>IMG_123</td>
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<tr>
<td>456</td>
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<td>789</td>
<td>interior ventral</td>
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<tr>
<td>567</td>
<td>interior ventral</td>
<td>IMG_567</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The digital camera’s image number, minus the prefix (e.g., IMG_), is listed next to the catalog number and view of specimen.
IP Image Processor

~ 1.5x
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

~ 3x
“Hands free” voice-activated data capture

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<th>A</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Processing

~ 3x
“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.

former Bayer complex
130+ acres
1.5+ million sq. ft.
Vignette Two

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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
Yale Art Gallery

Peabody

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
Anthropology—new/many staff, many rooms, big time pressure, packing/barcoding was rate limiting
tethered
MC3090 scanner, simple CGI script, invokes existing database functionality
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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”
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
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“Picture on label” into cataloguing comments field
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Student-Powered Paracurating

Rosa Li
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 crotch 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”

Toruk, Pegasus, Provost Salovey
Yale Precision Marching Band

The Yale Precision Marching Band (affectionately known as the YPMB) or more simply, The Band (for short), is the official marching band of Yale University. It is a scatter band (what some peers might call a "scramble band"), as distinct from university marching bands that emphasize precise movements and geometric field formations. Band members refer to themselves as "The Members Of", which is derived from their introduction at Yale events.

Yale Precision Marching Band
YPMB, The Band

School: Yale University
Location: New Haven, CT
Conference: Ivy League
Founded: [Unknown]
Director: Thomas C. Duffy
Members: 89+
Formation: Bulldog: Down the Field
Uniform: Navy blue Yale blazers, white colored button-up shirts, white pants, black shoes; decorative pike and accessories known as "schwee"
Website: Yale Precision Marching Band

Rosa Li brings to the job of drum major star magnetism, keen and engaging along, even when she fell game she’s ever missed was on the field; after that, she went again.

Rosa Li 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

New York George Pataki while clad only in white pants and a YPMB sports bra.
Student-Powered Paracurating

Precision Marching Band

The job of drummers in a precision marching band is crucial. They keep time and set the rhythm. When the drummer missed a beat, the whole band would miss a beat, throwing off the whole rhythm. Unlike the other instruments, the drummers carry the steady drumbeat, and they must focus on their timing and coordination. The drummer is often the leader of the band, setting the tempo and keeping the group synchronized. Being a drummer in a precision marching band requires precision, timing, and focus.
Student-Powered Paracurating
Student-Powered Paracurating
Student-Powered Paracurating
The Village

57 students
The Village

57 students

18 subject majors

Student-Powered Paracurating
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Options shown are not available in all stores & locations …
Motivating Managing Digitization Personnel & Workflows

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