Digitize It Yourself!:
A Method of In-House Digitization

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...Why DIY?
Advantages to DIY Digitization Using the Chamber Method

➔ Acts Like a Portable Photography Studio
  • Better focus on object being photographed
  • Improved control over photographic lighting
  • Adds to consistency of background in shots
➔ Easy to use
  • Train Library Assistants, Interns, or Student Workers quickly
➔ Versatile
  • Open-Ended Usage

Where to Use Your Portable Digitization Chamber

➔ Smaller in-house projects
➔ Digitization projects focused around specialized materials
➔ Test runs of larger scale projects
➔ Creation of sample images
➔ Personal digitization projects
Ready to Build Your Own?

Materials Needed:

1. 30”x20” black foam-core board sheets (4)
2. Hot Glue Gun
   a. glue cylinders (4)
3. Clamps (at least 4)
4. Right-angle brackets (at least 2)
5. Straight edge (like a yardstick)
6. Sharp edge (scissors, x-acto knife, box cutter, etc.)
**Step 1** - Make the back and bottom of the chamber by gluing two whole foam core boards together on one of the long sides to make a right angle.

It is VERY important that you work quickly on this step, in order to minimize the amount of glue that is exposed between the boards. Hot glue dries FAST, and this is easier when done with two people.

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**Step 2** - Once your glue is no longer hot and stringy, but still tacky and pliable (about twenty seconds after attaching the boards together,) use the right-angle brackets and clamps to secure and reinforce the right angle shape of the two boards. Leave set like this for at least fifteen minutes. You can use this opportunity to fill in any weak points in your glue seam, or to reinforce the existing glue.
Steps 3 & 4 - Once the back and base boards are dried, take the third board and begin to make your sides using the same technique. Make a glue seam along the sides of the back and base, and attach your board. Once this is tacky and pliable, use the clamps and brackets to support the form until it dries, another 15-20 minutes. Repeat with the fourth board on the opposite side to complete the sides of the box.

You Should End Up With Something Like This...
**Step 5** - Even up the sides by taking a straight edge (such as a yardstick) and tracing a perpendicular line to the back/bottom piece across the side piece (5-A & 5-B). Take a boxcutter, razor blade, x-acto knife, really sharp scissors, or other similar sharp edge and score this line, using the straight edge for reinforcement (5-C). Feel free to score the line a few times, but try to not cut through the board entirely (unless you are doing this on a surface that doesn’t mind scratches, in which case jump ahead to Step 6).

**Step 6** - Use the edge of your work surface (table, counter top, etc.) to line up your scored lines along the edge, and snap off the excess part of your side boards. To keep your construction more solid during this process, you can keep the brackets and clamps on your side edges to reinforce the structure and keep the edges from splitting. If you’ve already sliced your edges off and don’t need to break them, take this opportunity to clean up your edges (if necessary) and reinforce them with glue (if desired).
Hooray! It’s Built!

...Now How Do I Use IT?

What My DIY Digitization Space Looks Like
What Happens After Photography?

**PDF Format**

1. Make editable images from the master TIFF files
2. Organize files in desired system
3. Upload images into PDF creation program (i.e., ABBYY, Adobe Acrobat, etc.)
4. Stitch images into multi-page PDFs or individual pages
5. OCR PDF files (if necessary)
6. Display your collection proudly!

**Photographic Format**

1. Make editable images from the master TIFF files
2. Organize files in preferred system
3. Edit images using preferred program (i.e., GIMP, PhotoShop, etc.)
4. Save images in preferred file format (i.e., JPEG, JP2000, TIFF, PNG, BMP, etc.)
5. Display your collection proudly!
Collections that Have Been Digitized Using the DIY Method

- Nickell Snake Oil Collection
  - Center For Inquiry Libraries, Buffalo, NY
  - New York Heritage
- The Skeptiseum
  - Center For Inquiry, Buffalo, NY
  - Built digital museum using Omeka platform
  - Considering restructuring with a different service for better UI
- Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum
  - Dresden, NY
  - Museum Tour
- Newspapers for the IAPSOP Database

Recommended Supplements for Beginning Your DIY Digitization Project

- Tabletop LED photography lights
- Digital camera capable of taking TIFF-quality RAW images
- Photo processing/editing software (i.e. GIMP, ABBYY for PDF output)
Now...

...Go Forth and Digitize!!!

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, suggestions for improvement, or need assistance/advice with your digital project, please feel free to email me: loudmouthedlibrarian@gmail.com

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