Collaborating across workflows: Managing creative assets from legacy works

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Collaborating Across Workflows

Managing Creative Assets from Legacy Works

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ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

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Overview

1. Who we are

2. Challenges

3. What do we mean by collaboration?

4. Workflow case scenarios
    a. How do we make sense of this as a team in addressing DAM stages?

5. Learning outcomes

Milner Library, Illinois State University

- Enrollment of about 20,000 students 86% Undergraduates
- Sets of unique collections with strong local and regional interests

- Main objective in creating digital assets is increased **access** and discoverability in support of teaching and research

Two main departments at play

- Two small shops:
  - Preservation/Conservation
  - Digital Collections

Both departments reach across library units

- Main content providers:
  - Special Collections
  - Archives
  - Peripheral entities, .e.g. donors

Our challenges are not unique

- Limited staff (or personnel)

- Limited resources

- Tendency towards "silo-ed" decision-making

What do we mean by collaboration?

Collaboration is the underpinning of our work efforts towards DAM.

- Advocating for one another
- Solving a common problem
- Maximizing services

However, "collaboration can take us outside our comfort zone" (Langley, Gray and Vaughan, 2006, p. xi)

Facing possibilities and awareness

"Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them" (Ann Landers)

- Awareness, familiarity and education
- Alleviate / soften constraints of reaching goals
- Getting answers perhaps not tangible otherwise

Our sample workflows have a lot to offer, including addressing DAM stages

Peoria's Secret Scribe

Crowdsourced transcription to uncover the past, enhance discoverability --metadata--, engage the community, and save time

Historical Costumes

Redefining access to a physical object - fragile, deteriorating, etc. that will be used for teaching
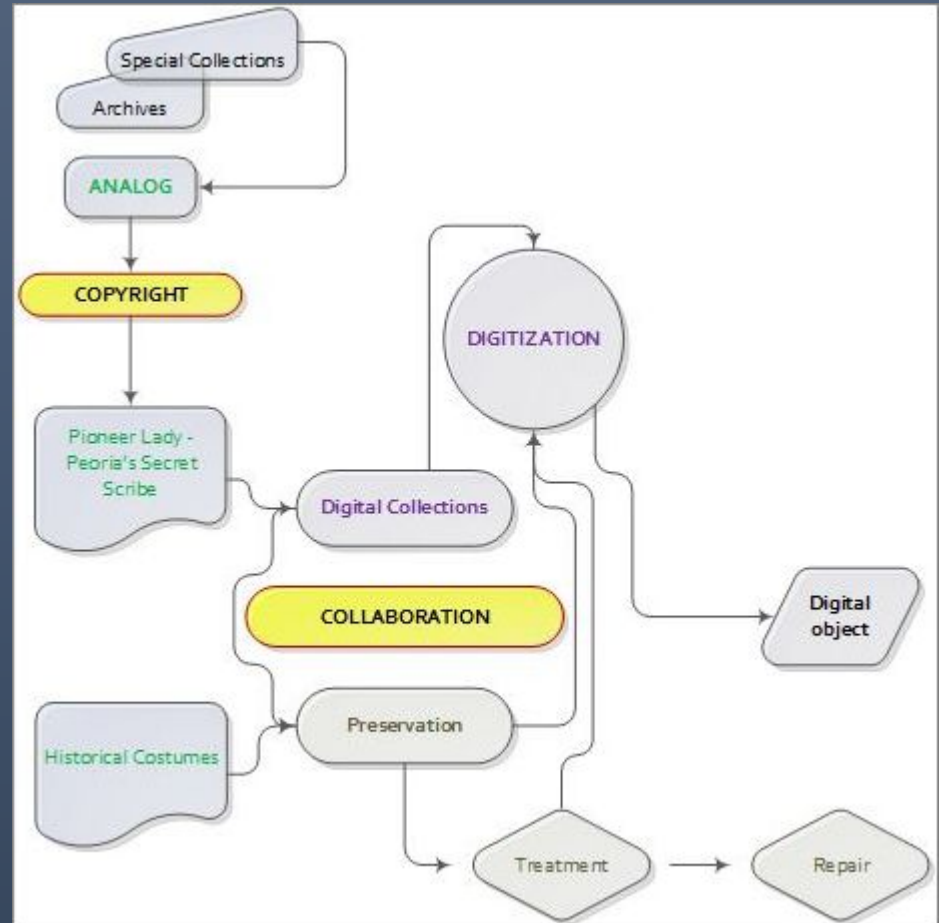
How do we define DAM?

" . . . management [of] tasks and decisions surrounding the ingestion, annotation, cataloguing, storage, retrieval and distribution of digital assets" Wikipedia

"an effective solution for enterprises to store, organize, find, retrieve and share digital files" WebDAM

"Digital assets are the result of institutional activities in content development, media production and digitization and can represent a substantial investment in time and expertise . . . " Government of Canada, DAM and Museums

Great benefits to engaging with the community:
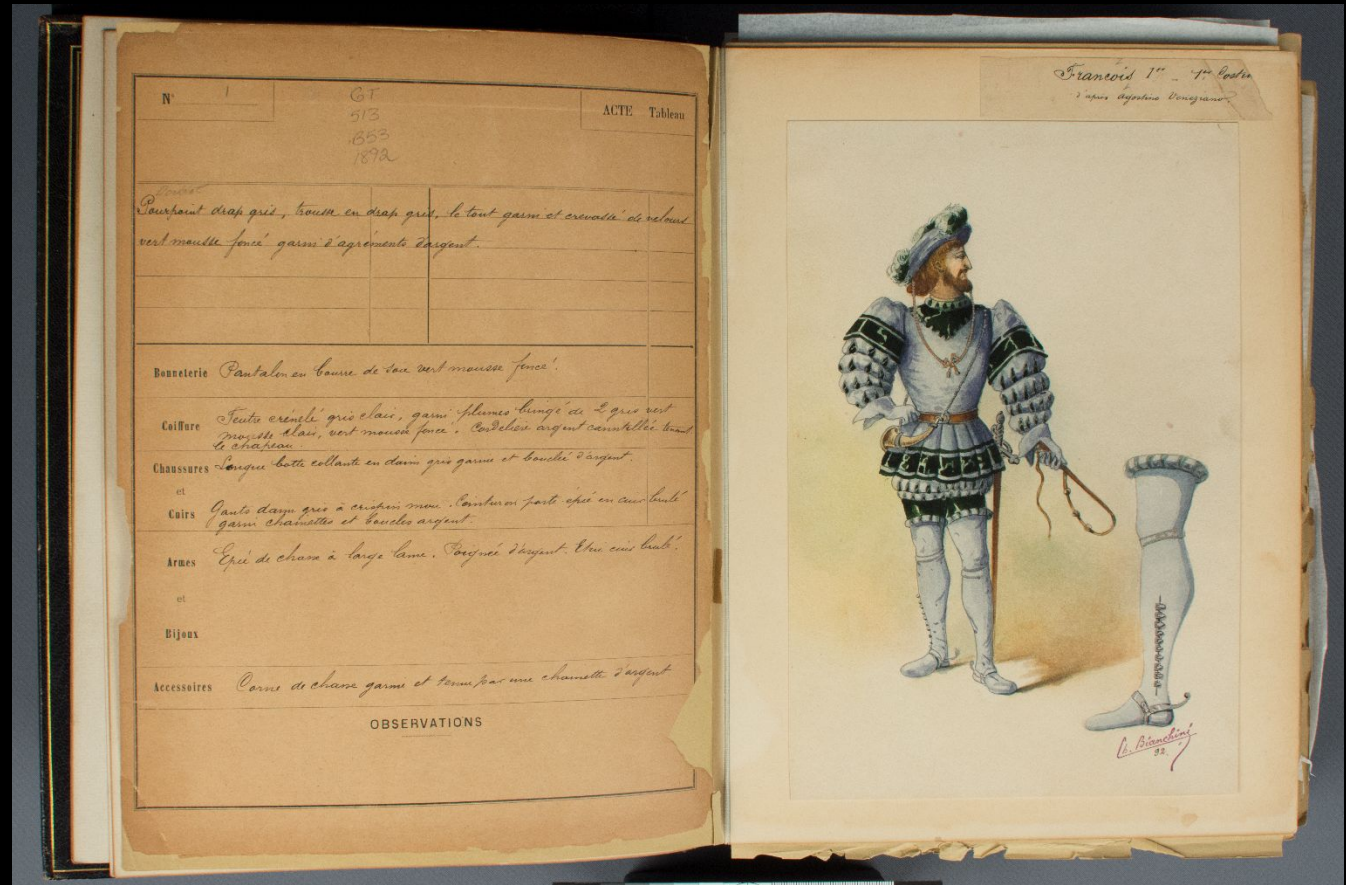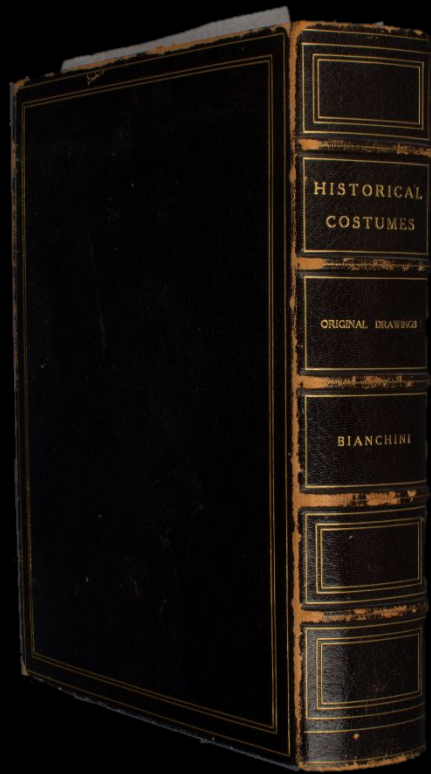Peoria's Secret Scribe
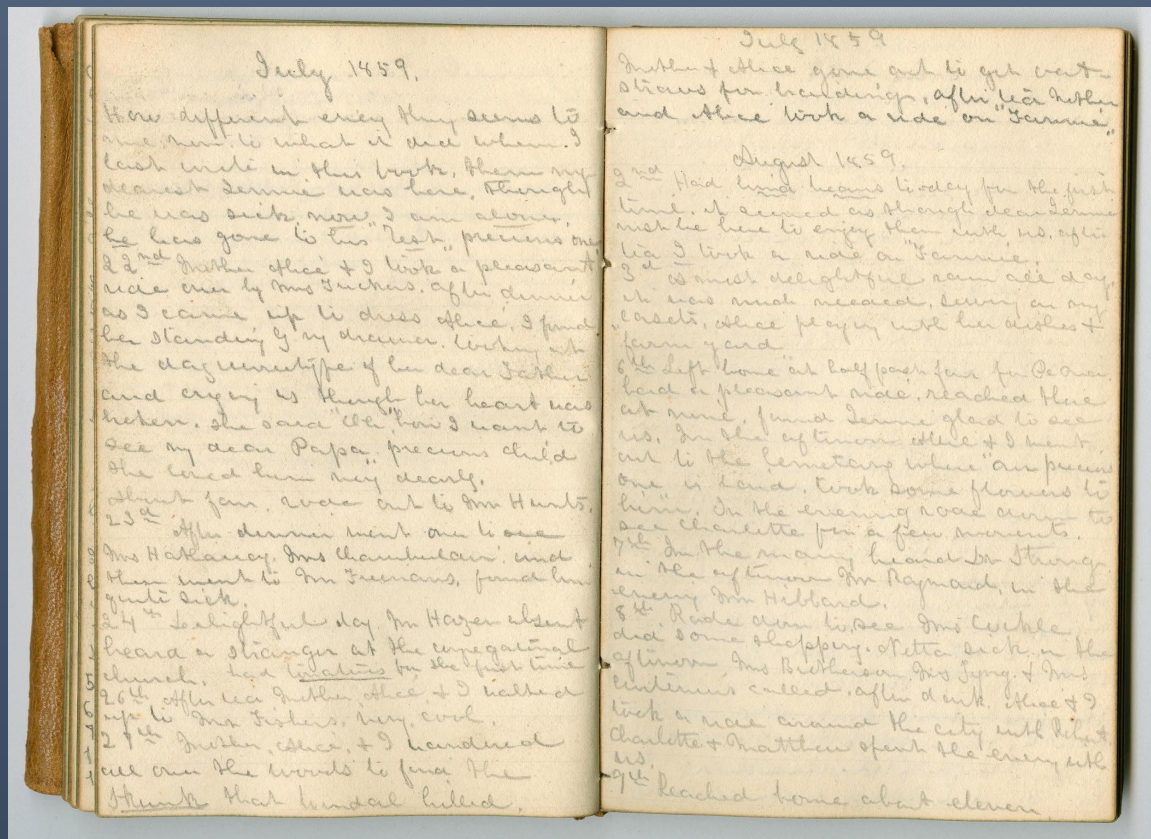
Building on knowledge of the past

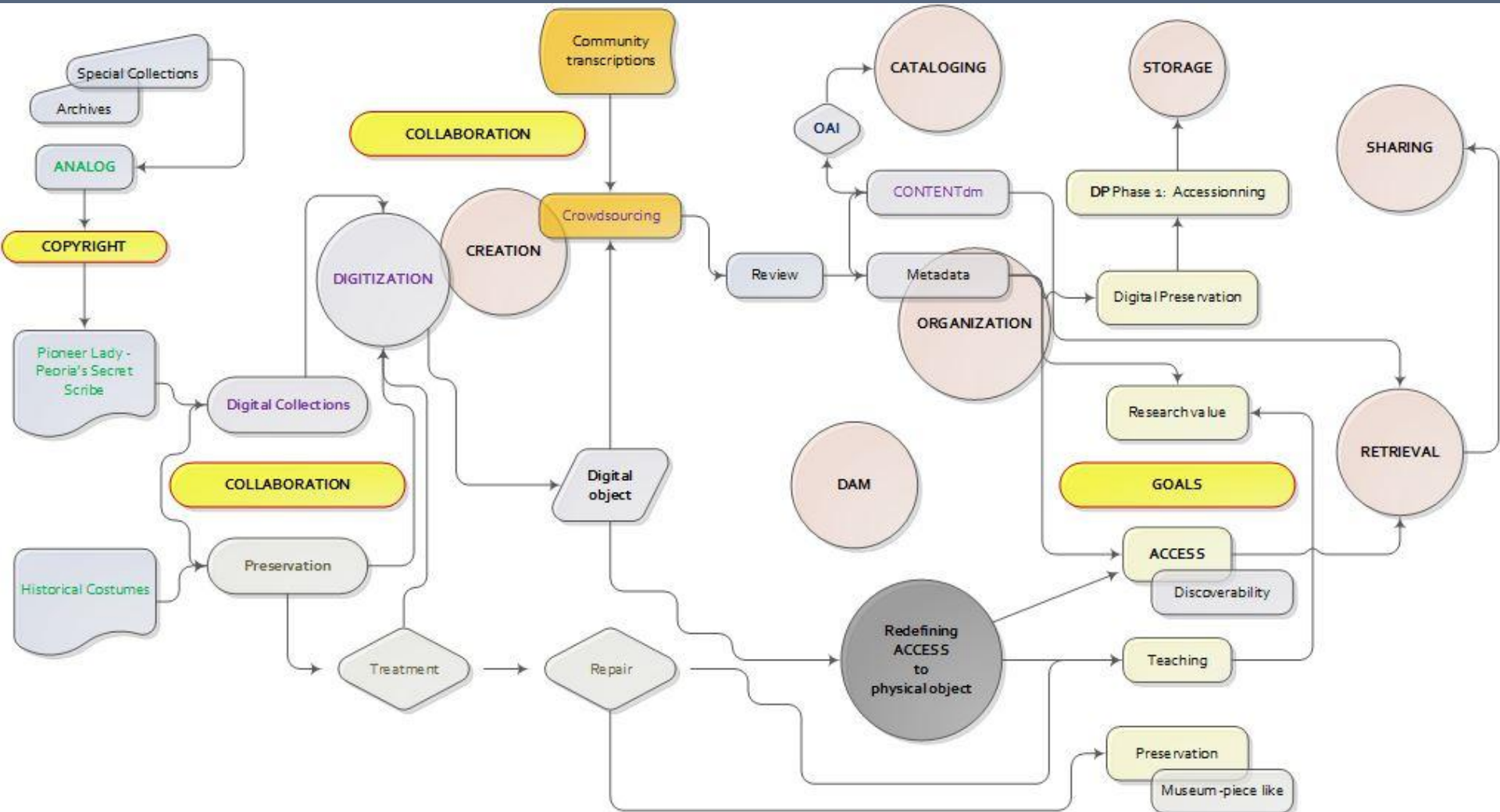Enhancing discoverability and research value

Management of digital assets, long term retrieval and distribution

Connecting to content & preserving the source:
Historical Costumes – Charles Bianchini

Let's look at workflow as the BIG PICTURE

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Prud'homme & Hunt Johnson

Making space: practical gains of collaboration

Greater investment leverages resources

- Shared tools and technology
  - Lights
  - Camera
  - Backdrops
- Shared space
  - Submitted a joint proposal for additional studio space to better meet the needs of both units
- Shared knowledge
  - Work together to devise imaging set-ups, troubleshoot problems, and maintain safe handling procedures

Summary

- **Collaboration** develops as we try to define and best meet the needs of patron use

- Facilitate and **open discussions** to drive workflow

- Meet jointly with subject specialists to develop digital and physical **assets**

- Complex workflows benefit from various **articulation** points

What lessons can we share?

- Enhanced flexibility in acting and operating
- Advocate for one another
- Bypass difficulties as compared to being sole actors
- Cross communicate and document throughout the process
- Interconnectedness is key

Collaboration is a **tool** to foster connection, creativity, and make better sense of all stages of DAM within the process of creating digital assets for access, discoverability, preservation, and knowledge

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Peoria's Secret Scribe, illinoisstate.edu, Decipher History

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Thank you very much.

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