Jerry-Rigging Your Way to a Better Digitization Workflow
Unique needs, limited tools
Game plan

Part 1: Problem-solving exercise
Part 2: Some Jerry-Rigging Principles
Part 3: Barriers to using obscure tools
Part 4: Discussion/QA
Potential Problems

Scenario 1

A large project is underway and all of your scanners have been used extensively during the past week, but one was used briefly for a different project and the color profile was changed. No one noticed the issue until a few days later, and the incorrectly scanned files are mixed in with the rest. Assuming the error cannot be tolerated for this project, how might you identify the bad files quickly?

Scenario 2

Your current project requires many forms of output: TIFF files, JPEG derivatives, and OCR’d PDFs. The items being scanned are book-like, and each item’s pages are scanned into a unique folder. Once scanned, each will go through an identical process to create JPEGs and OCR’d PDFs. How might you automate all or part of this process?
The computer can (probably) do it FOR you.
Know what your existing tools can do.
PHOTOSHOP - BATCHING

- Record any number of edits as an action
- Can specify save type and location
- Could stack multiple edits and saves
- Apply to any number of open files or entire folders
Adobe Plug-Ins

Capture One

Lightroom

Available Plug-ins for Photoshop Lightroom

The following list comprises all of the resources that tools and utilities may be added in the future.

- Adobe DNG Flat Field plug-in—a tool used for shading, also known as “lens cast”. Please read notes for additional information.
Automate What You Already Have

Automator

Action(s)
Consider Command Line

- Some tools need it
- You can talk directly to your system
- Some powerful shortcuts and tricks available
- Helpful in certain types of troubleshooting
Technical metadata is your friend.
Some TIFF Exif metadata

File Size
File Modify Date
Color Profile
File Type
Date Time Original (when captured)
Serial number (of capture device)
Programs used for editing

Image Width & Height
Bits Per Sample (bit depth)
Compression
Make and Model (of capture device)
Resolution
Lens data (if captured on a camera)
Certain editing history
One way we use technical metadata
ExifTool

- Reads/writes embedded metadata
- Generates reports
- Can read a wide variety of image, movie, audio, and other file types
Honesty weigh trade-offs.
Will it take longer to create the perfect solution than it would to live without it?
Replacing line scanners

- Well over 2x as fast
- Flexible use
- Comparable image quality

- A little over 2x the cost
- Higher user skill required
- Color correction offsets time gain for color negatives
Don’t overcomplicate.

“If you automate a mess, you get an automated mess.”
-Rod Michael
## Barriers

### Finding tools
- Ask colleagues
- Ask people outside your normal circle
- Use a variety of search terms to describe what you need
- Leverage the services of local experts, where available

### Learning curve
- Identify basic skills that may be useful
- Talk to others who know the tool
- Ask for help - especially with jargon
Comments?

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