Article: Actions for Preserving Digital Photographs (Abstract)
Author(s): Millard Wesley Long Schisler
*Topics in Photographic Preservation, Volume 15.*
Pages: 126
Compiler: Jessica Keister
Under a licensing agreement, individual authors retain copyright to their work and extend publication rights to the American Institute for Conservation.

*Topics in Photographic Preservation* is published biannually by the Photographic Materials Group (PMG) of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC). A membership benefit of the Photographic Materials Group, *Topics in Photographic Preservation* is primarily comprised of papers presented at PMG meetings and is intended to inform and educate conservation-related disciplines.

Papers presented in *Topics in Photographic Preservation, Vol. 15,* have not undergone a formal process of peer review. Responsibility for the methods and materials described herein rests solely with the authors, whose articles should not be considered official statements of the PMG or the AIC. The PMG is an approved division of the AIC but does not necessarily represent the AIC policy or opinions.
Abstract: Actions for Preserving Digital Photographs

Millard Wesley Long Schisler

Presented at the 2013 AIC & ICOM-CC Photographs Conservation Joint Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand.

We have been discussing the problem of preserving digital information, which includes the enormous amounts of digital photographs, for over 10 years. Much has been said and written about this topic. Unesco is preparing for the event this year in Vancouver, The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation. In the preparation of this upcoming event they state that “despite the adoption of the UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of the Digital Heritage in 2003, there is still insufficient awareness of the risks of loss of digital heritage”. The problem resides not only in the lack of awareness, but also the lack of implementation of preservation actions of those that are aware.

The challenges of preserving digital photographs for long term access are straightforward and simple on one hand, but complex when trying to implement because they involve changes in the way we do things, and the creation of new workflows, expenses and activities in our personal and institutional lives, already cluttered with the daily activities of survival. Many photographers that do try to achieve the preservation of their own work talk about the amount of time and energy put into this effort, and lack of certainty in their actions.

My presentation will be divided in three parts. The first part will give a brief outline of what the digital dilemma means today for digital photography. The second part will be an evaluation of some cases studies I have been working on, from NGOs, Museums, photographers and people from different social groups. The third part will talk about actions that are necessary for us to move forward. This last part is where we need to concentrate our energy!

Millard Wesley Long Schisler
Rede Memorial
São Paulo, Brazil