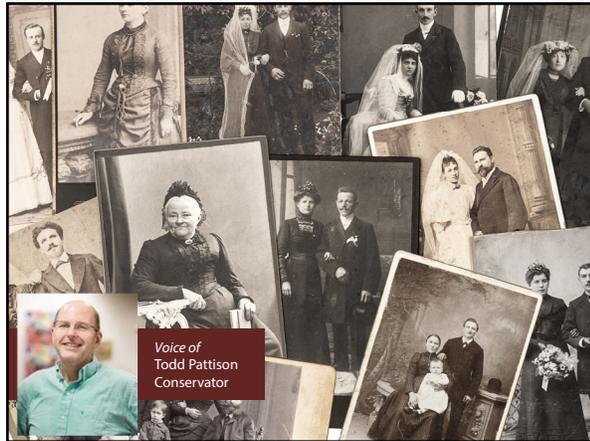




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Why are photos important?

- Putting a face to your genealogical research
- Captures a moment in history
- May provide clues to your research
- Tool to interest family and a next generation of family historians

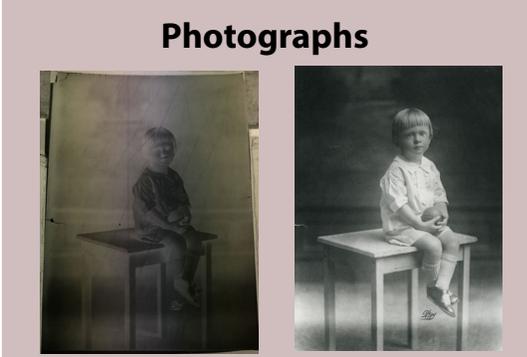
3

Glossary of Terms

- Photograph - An image produced by exposing a prepared light-sensitive surface to light (refers to both the positive and negative) that is then stabilized or fixed to the substrate using a photochemical process.

4

Photographs



5

**Brief History of
Photography
(pre-digital)**

6

Knowing Your History

- Dating of unidentified/unmarked photos
- Identifying the type of photograph informs preservation and storage
- Important when donating items to a repository

7

Daguerreotype



- Popular 1839-1860's
- Cased photograph
- Each daguerreotype is a unique positive (no negative was produced)

8

Cyanotype



- Created in 1842
- Potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate
- Essentially the same thing as a blue print
- Easy to identify!

9

Ambrotype



- Popular 1854-1860's
- Collodion emulsion on glass
- Cased photograph (usually)

10

Tintype (aka Ferrotype)



- Patented in 1856
- Wet collodion emulsion on lacquered iron plate base
- Sometimes placed in a Union case; can be confused with Ambrotypes

11

Home About Us News & Events Resources Join

Our Mission

The Daguerreian Society is committed to advancing the understanding and appreciation of daguerreotypes and other early photographs. Our purpose is to inform and inspire our members, build a sense of community, and contribute to the scholarship and preservation of 19th-century photography. We fulfill this mission through a variety of publications, events and activities. Learn more about becoming a Member



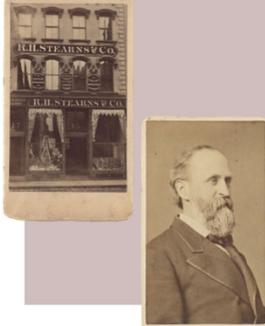
The Daguerreian Society is the leading organization dedicated to the history, technology, art, and preservation of 19th-century photography.

Our international membership brings together photography collectors and dealers, museum professionals, historians, scientists, students, educators, photographers, and artists. A 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 1988, The Daguerreian Society welcomes all who share an interest in early photography.

www.daguerre.org

12

Carte-de-Visite (CDV)



- Patented in 1854
- Popular 1860's
- Multiple copies created for visits to friends and family; business associates; customers
- Usually albumen print on card 4 x 2.5 inches

13

Stereograph

- Popular 1850's - 1920's
- Viewed through stereoscope for 3-D perspective
- *Easy to identify!*



14

Lantern Slide



- Popular 1860's - 1940's
- Wet collodion emulsion on glass base
- Typically viewed via "magic lantern" (a primitive projector)

15

Cabinet Card



- Popular 1870's-1880's
- Albumen, gelatin, and collodion emulsions used
- Usually include photographer and studio address

16

Gelatin Dry Plate



- Popular 1880-1925
- Gelatin emulsion on glass base
- A negative

17

Platinum Print



- Popular 1890's
- Platinum Print ... *or is it?* (made to look like it)

18

Silver Gelatin Print

- Created in 1874; not popular until 1900-1930's
- Gelatin emulsion on paper base
- Moving into amateur photography with release of Kodak's Brownie camera



19

Nitrate Negative

- First developed in 1889 but in greatest use between 1910-1930s
- HIGHLY combustible



20

Acetate Negative

- Released in 1920's
- Chemically unstable
- Also known as Safety Film



21

Polyester Negative



- Released in 1950's
- Most color photos will use a polyester base for the negative

22

Slide (35mm)



- Released 1940's
- Positive image on a transparent base
- Slide images were projected onto a screen

23

Internal Dye Diffusion Transfer



- 1972-2008
- Also known as Polaroids or Integral Film
- Easy to identify!

24

Kodachrome II



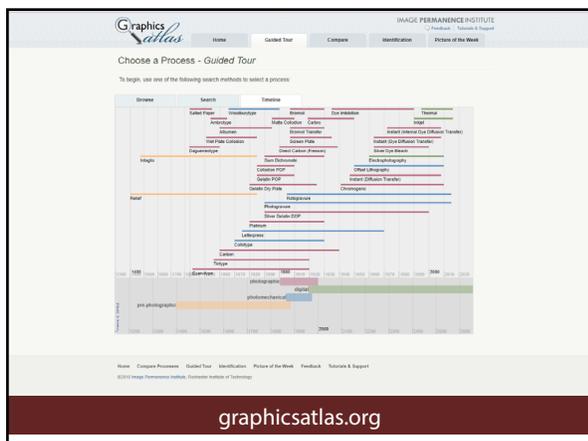
- Released in 1961
- No longer really in use
- Most photography is now digital

25

Dating Photographs

- What type of photograph is it?
- Stylistic elements
 - Border
 - Tinting
 - Tax stamp
 - Subject matter (fashion)
- Studio/photographer directories

26



The screenshot shows the Graphics Atlas website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Home, Guided Tour, Compare, Identification, and Picture of the Week. Below the navigation is a section titled 'Choose a Process - Guided Tour' with the instruction 'To begin, use one of the following search methods to select a process:'. The main content is a timeline from 1839 to 2000, with various photographic processes listed as horizontal bars of different colors. Processes include: Daguerreotype (1839-1840), Lanthanum (1841-1842), Cyanotype (1840-1860), Collotype (1861-1869), Albumen (1850-1900), Gelatin (1851-1900), Glass (1852-1860), Paper (1853-1900), Salt (1854-1860), Iron (1855-1860), and others. The timeline ends at 2000, with 'Digital' appearing as a process starting around 1970.

27

Photo Survey

- One per box or photo album/scrapbook

Photographic Collection Survey

Album/Box Description: _____ Number of Photos: _____ Date of Survey: _____

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS			
Type	Quantity	Internal Threats	External Threats
Daguerotype			
Cyanotype			
Albumen			
Tintype			
Carte de Visite			
Stereograph			
Collodion card			
Diamond Print			
Silver Gelatin Print			
Polaroid			
Kodachrome II			
Other			

NEGATIVES			
Type	Quantity	Internal Threats	External Threats
Gelatin Dry Plate			
Slide			
Ambrotype			
Slide			
Polyester			
Other			

TRANSPARENCIES			
Type	Quantity	Internal Threats	External Threats
Laurex slide			
Slide (13mm)			
Other			

Professional help: Will you need to consult an expert about any item?

Additional Notes/Questions:

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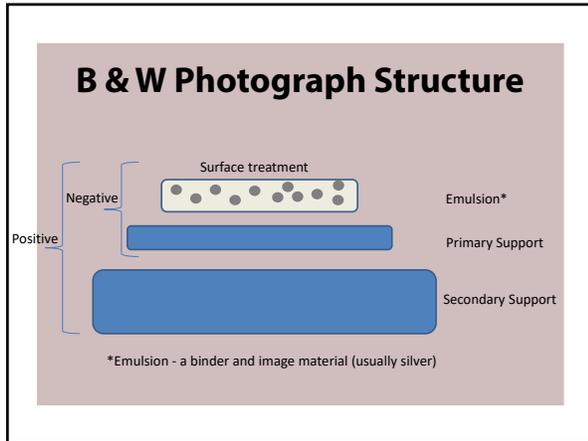
Common Preservation Issues

29

Internal Threats

- Internal flaws - poor processing
- Materials used (ex: nitrate)
- Natural chemical breakdown (ex: egg whites)

30



31

Sulfiding

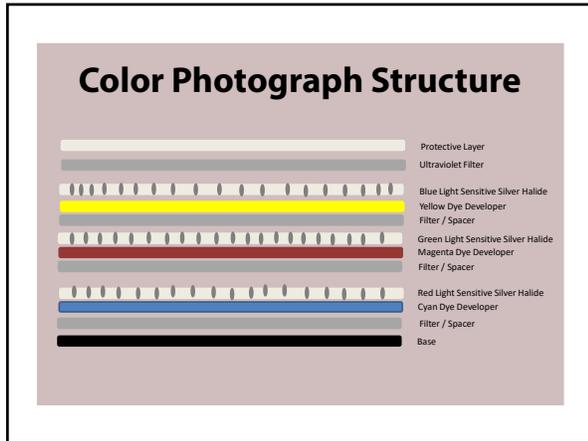
- Chemical reaction causing sulfide to be produced; increased acidity
- Caused by residual fixer
- Result of poor processing

32

Mirroring

- Silver is ionized and free to move around the emulsion; reflects visible light
- Natural chemical reaction

33



34

Unstable Color Dye

- Blue dye fades resulting in color shift
- Chemically unstable material used

35

External Threats

- Environment
 - Temperature
 - Relative humidity
 - Light
 - Insects and animals
 - Disasters
- Poor handling

36

Mold

- Caused by temperature and high humidity
- Mold growing in the emulsion and will continue to get worse
- Separate from rest of your collection
- Consider conservator services



37

Rust

- Caused by high humidity and poor handling
- Will continue to get worse (flake) if not treated
- Should be stored separately



38

Tarnishing

- Exposed to oxygen from damaged case
- Can be treated by a conservator



39

Animals and Insects

- Burrowing into material, eating, nesting, shredding
- Be vigilant about checking on collection!
- Exterminate!



40

Poor Handling ...



- Failed attempts at preservation
- Taping
- Folding or rolling
- Finger prints
- Paper clips, staples, and rubber bands
- Lamination
- Cleaning

41

Preservation and Storage

42

Basic Preservation Principles

- Lay items flat
- Remove fasteners (paper clips, etc.)
- Remove sticky notes, etc.
- Separate items (cased and iron photos)
- Remove from old developing packets
- Remove from frame?

43

Basic Storage Principles

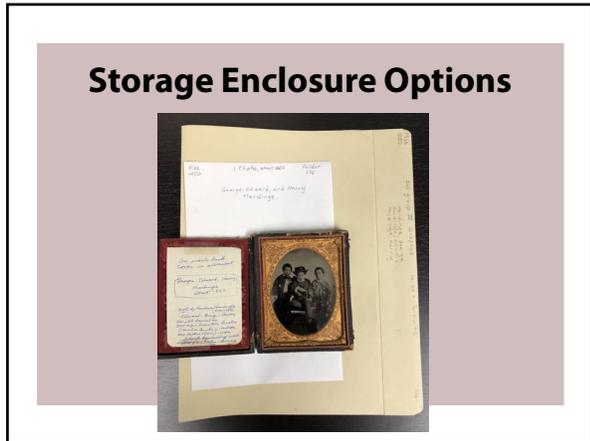
- Store photographs separate from papers
- Use archival paper or plastic enclosures
 - Use pH neutral envelopes (buffered materials can react negatively to certain photo types)
- Enclosures generally stored in folders
- Folders stored in boxes

44

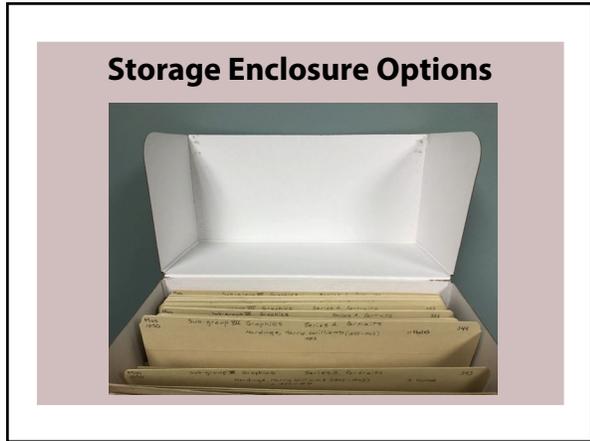
Storage Enclosure Options



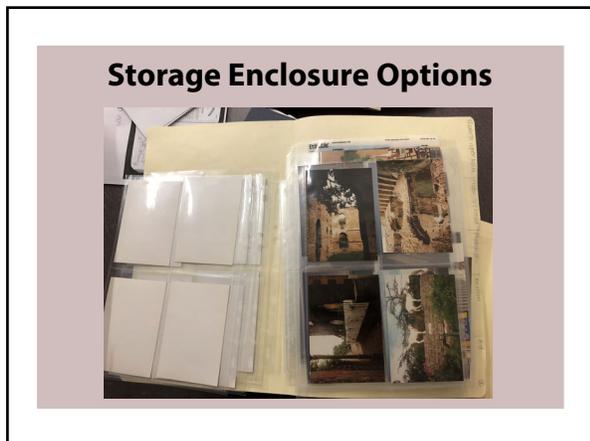
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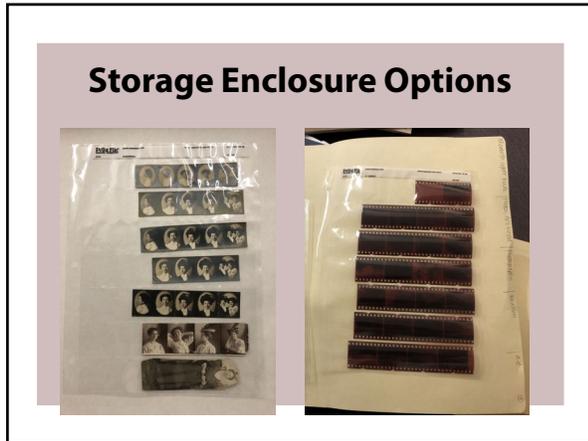
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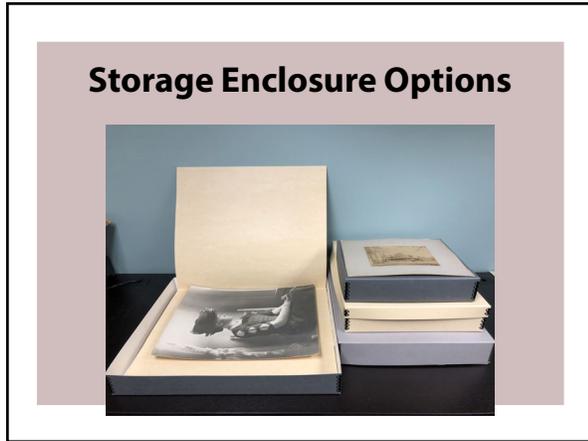
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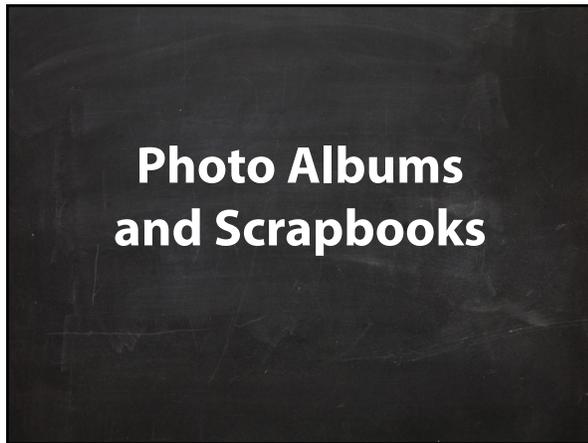
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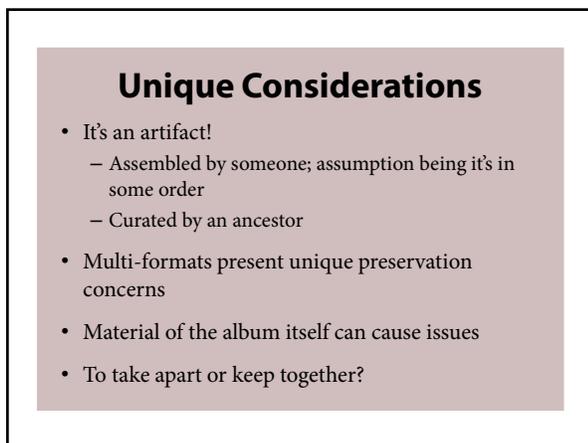
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52



53



54

When to Keep it Together

- Inclination is always to keep an item together
- Condition: Is it falling apart? Are the photos well attached? Is the binding intact?
- Photographer: Is it a prominent studio/photographer?

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What would you do?

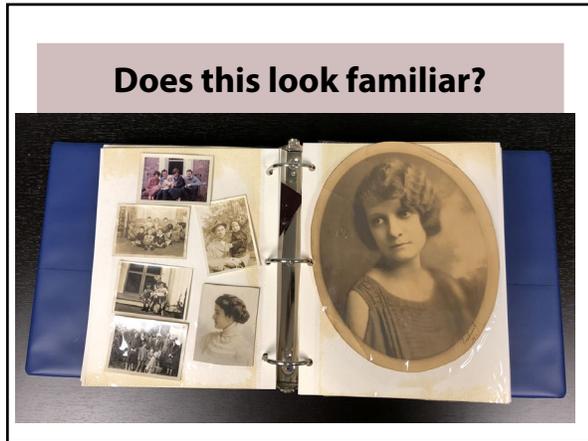


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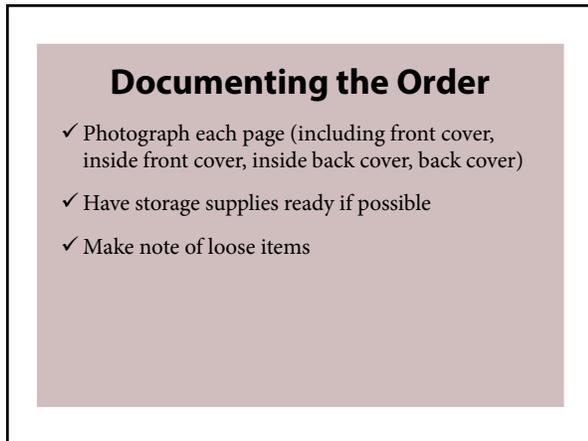
Taking it Apart

- What are the items attached to?
 - Disintegrating paper
 - Material of album
 - Use of adhesives
- Are there threats present that will continue to damage the items within?

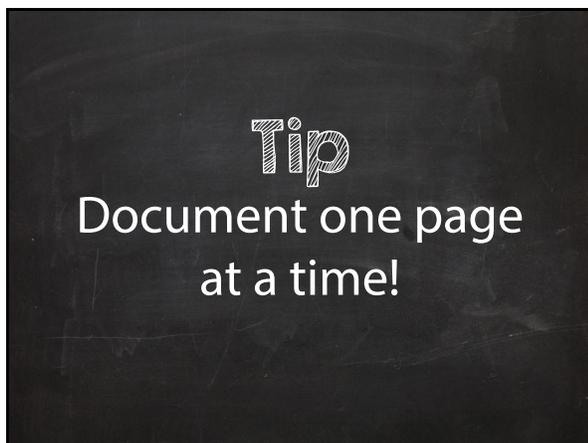
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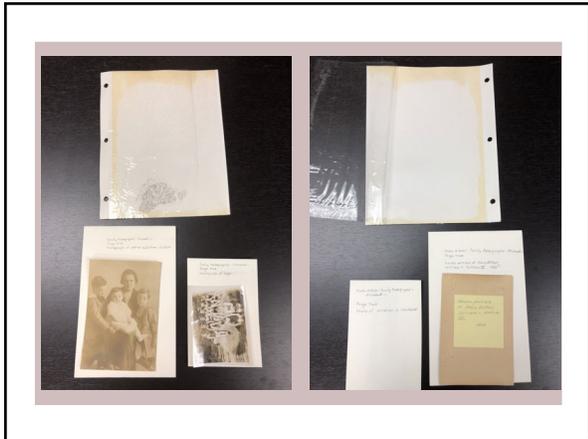
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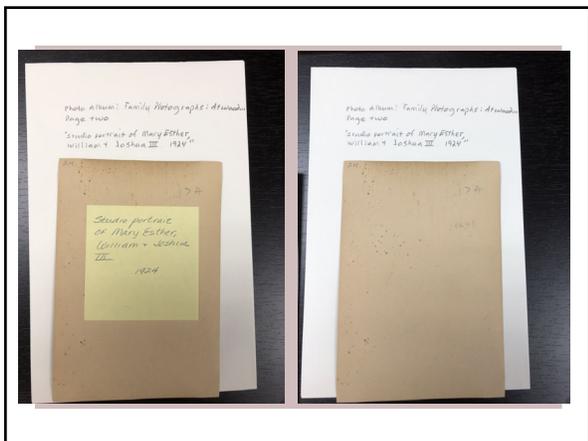
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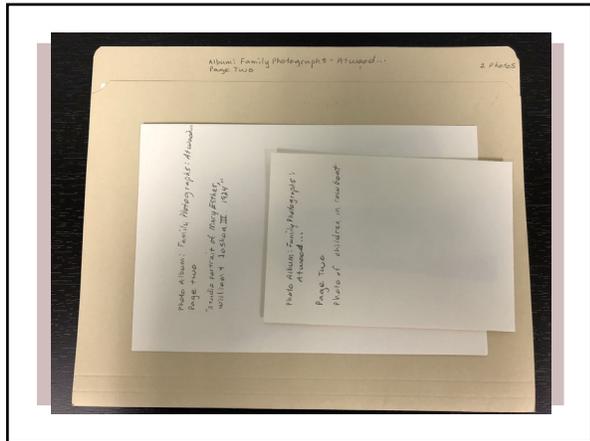
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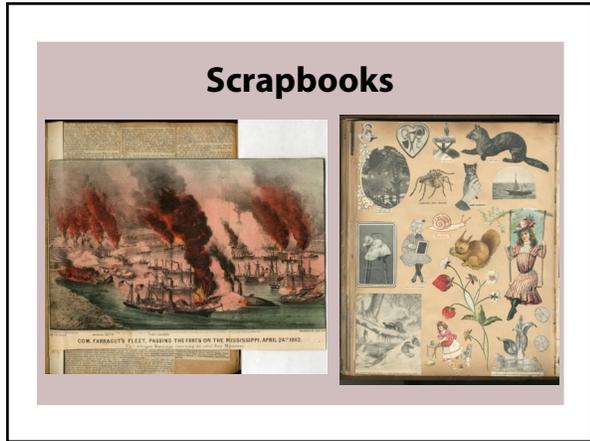
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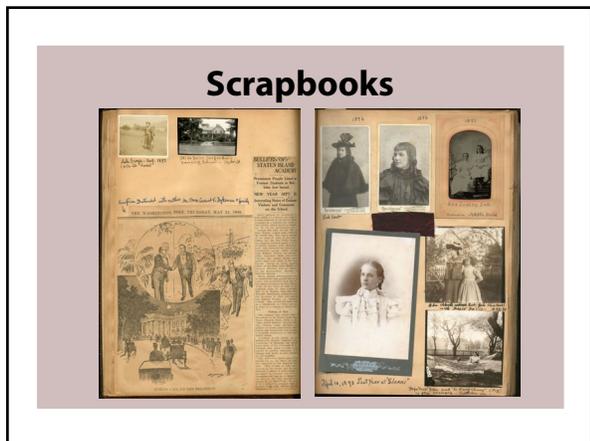
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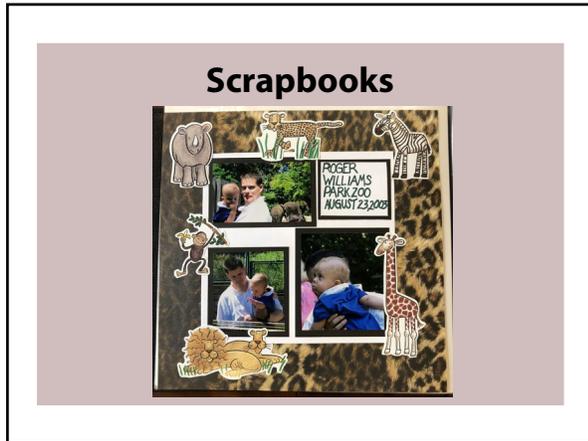
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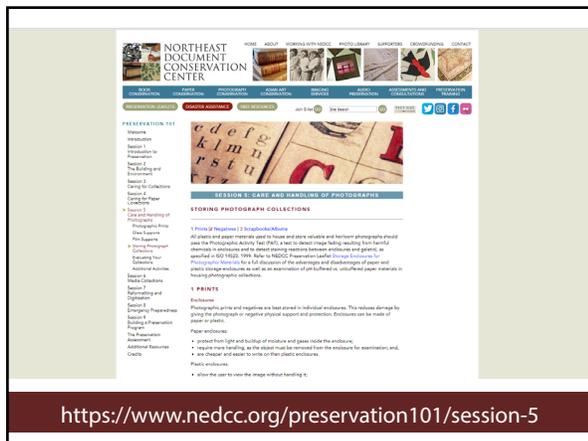
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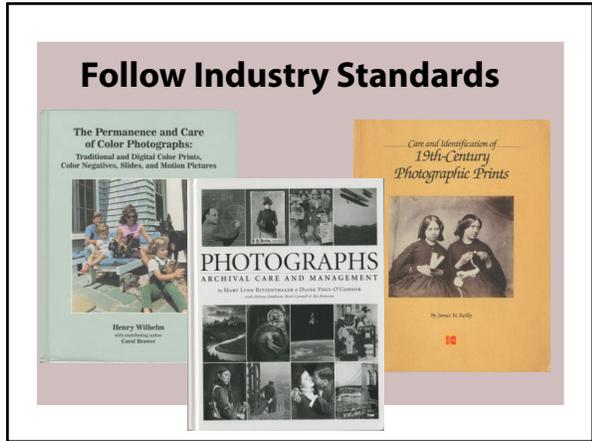
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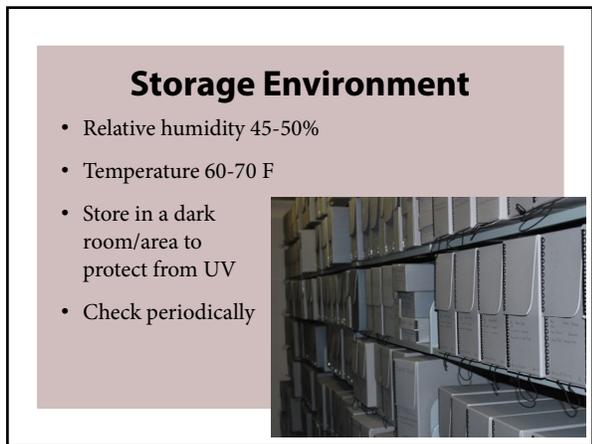
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