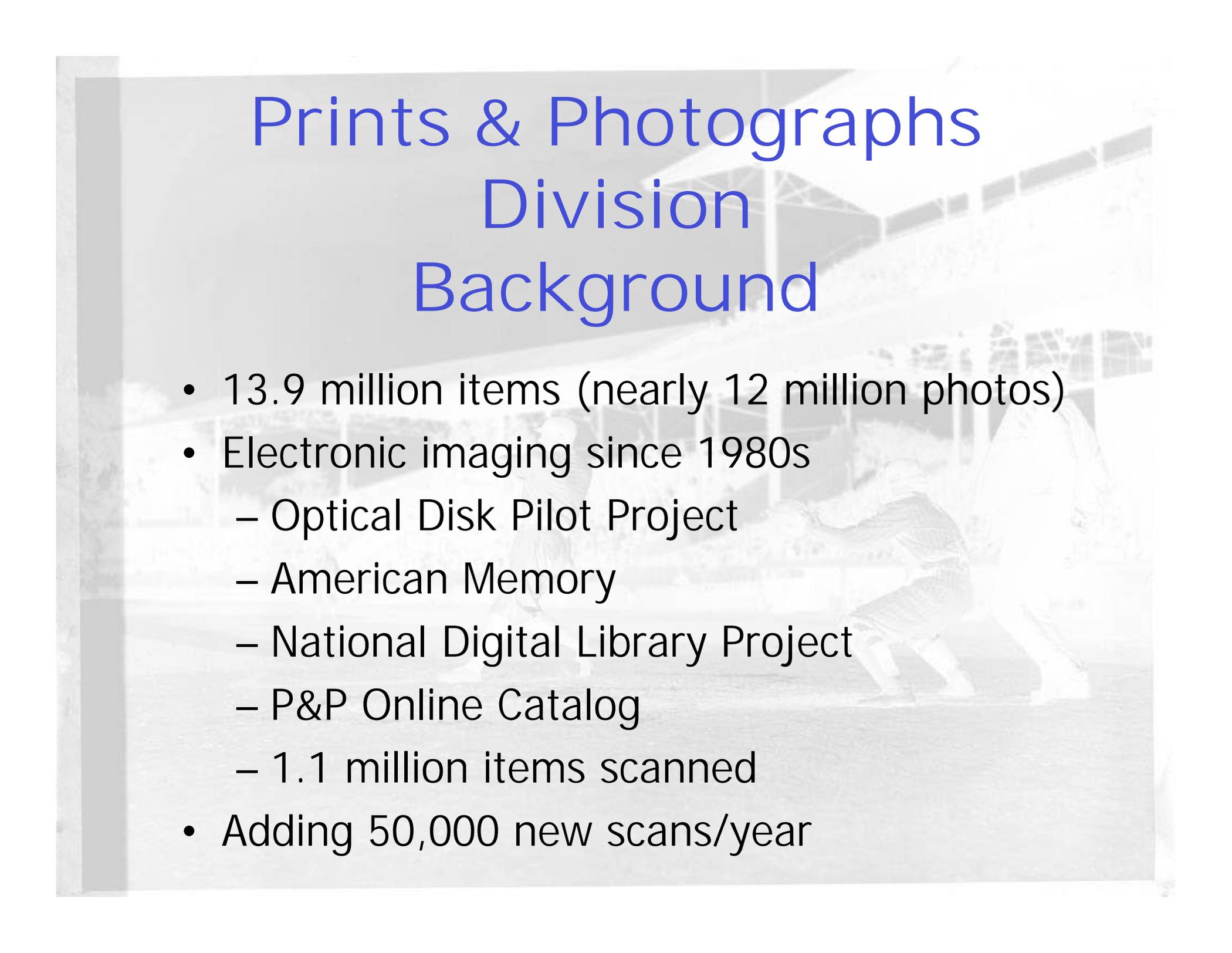


# Scanning Negative Collections at the Library of Congress

Phil Michel, LC Prints & Photographs Division  
NARA Preservation Conference 2007



# Prints & Photographs Division Background

- 13.9 million items (nearly 12 million photos)
- Electronic imaging since 1980s
  - Optical Disk Pilot Project
  - American Memory
  - National Digital Library Project
  - P&P Online Catalog
  - 1.1 million items scanned
- Adding 50,000 new scans/year

# Imaging Goals

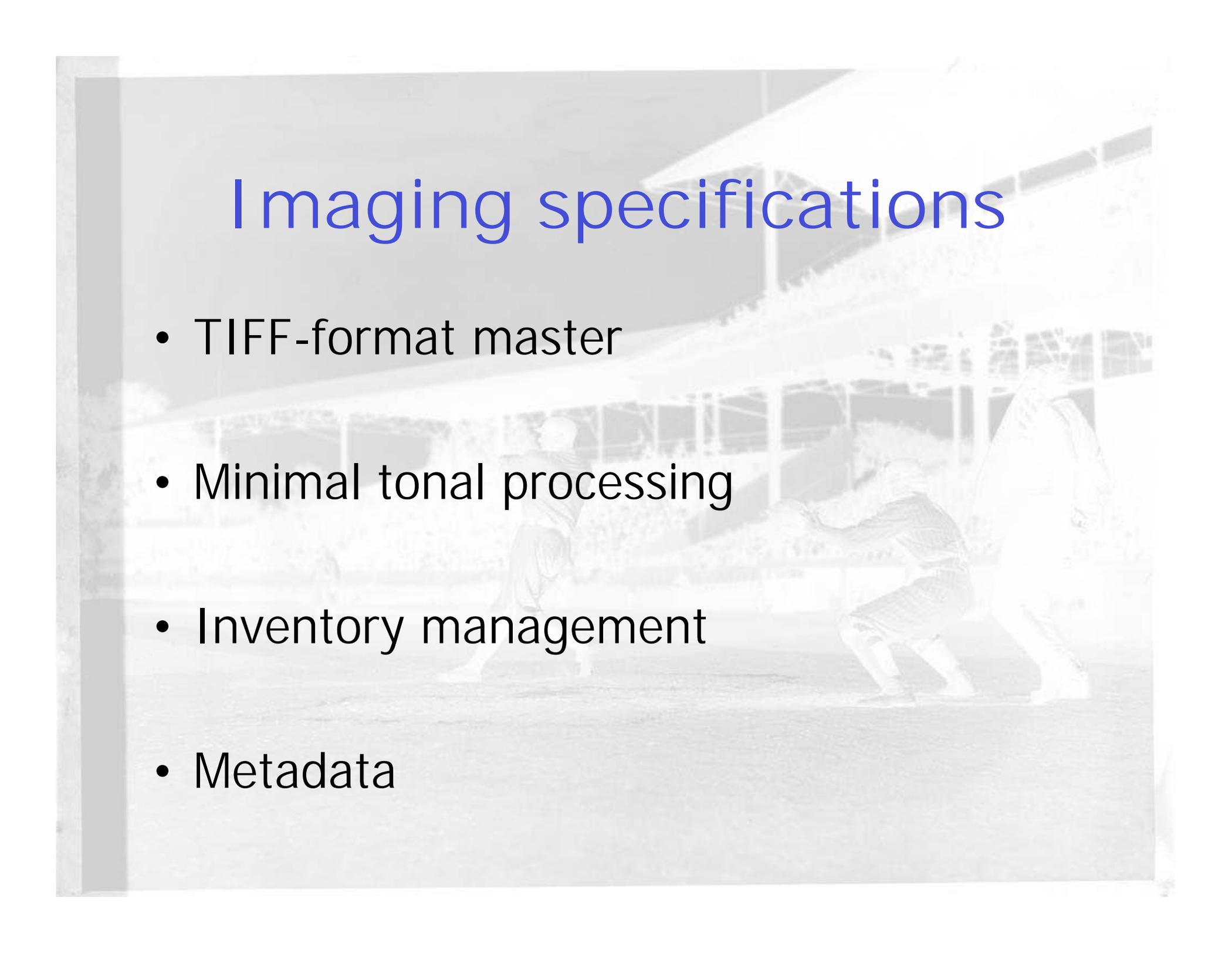
- Access surrogate
- Reproduction surrogate
- Accommodate most use cases
- Photographic negatives are priority
- Whole collections

# Production overview

- Contractors working *in situ*
  - Sinar 54 camera on custom built workstation
  - Custom production software
    - Designed for high throughput
    - Capture and processing stages separate

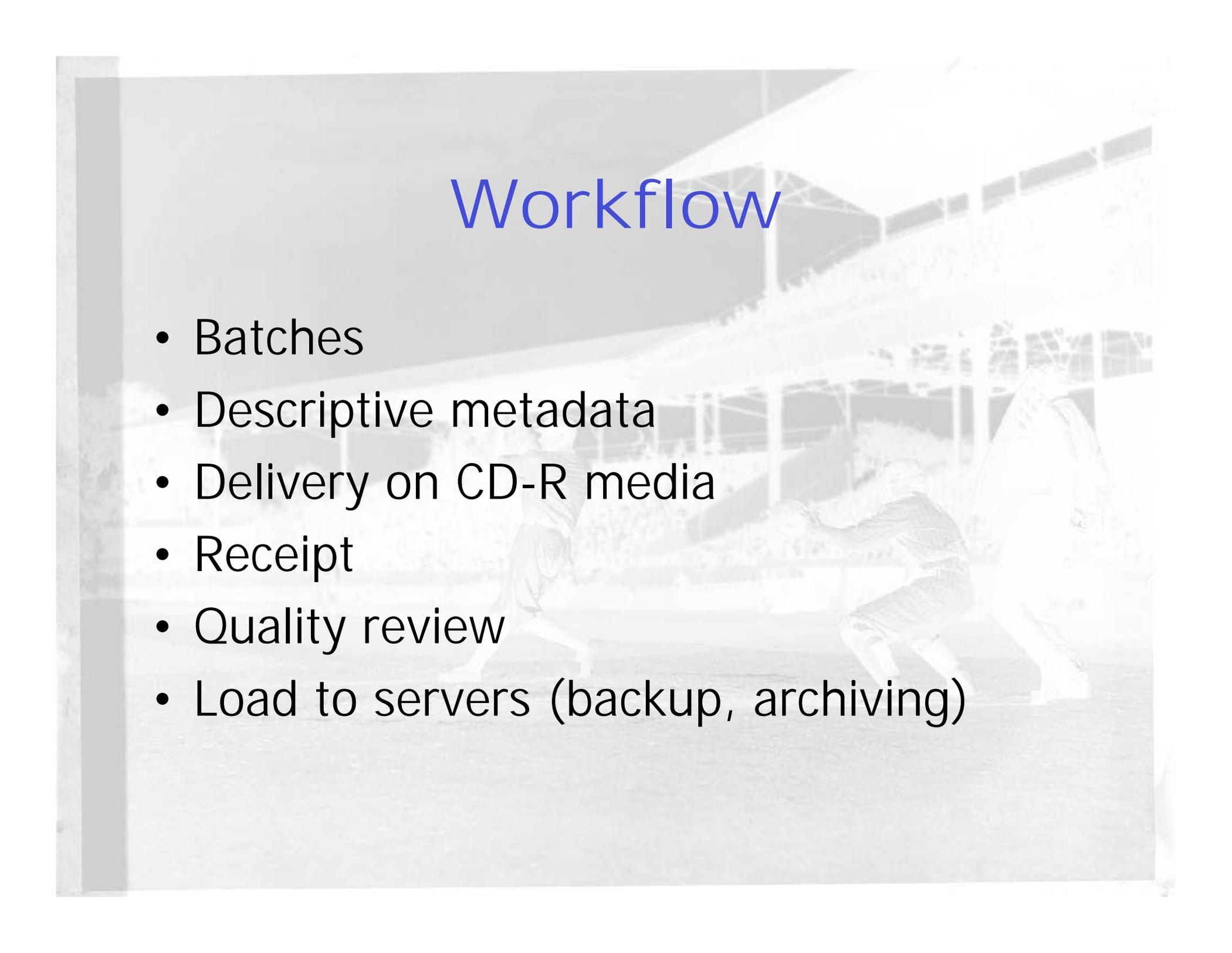


# Imaging specifications



- TIFF-format master
- Minimal tonal processing
- Inventory management
- Metadata

# Workflow



- Batches
- Descriptive metadata
- Delivery on CD-R media
- Receipt
- Quality review
- Load to servers (backup, archiving)

# Workflow

- LC staff create derivatives
- Linkage to catalog records
- P&P Online Catalog
  - Thumbnail
  - Service JPEGs
  - Master accessible if rights OK



P&P Online  
Catalog Start

[NEW SEARCH](#)

[HELP](#)

[ABOUT COLLECTION](#)



Go to P&P  
Reading Room

*Click on picture for larger image, full item, or more versions.*



[How to obtain copies of this item](#)

**TITLE:** S.L. Clemens

**CALL NUMBER:** LC-B2- 572-8[P&P]

**REPRODUCTION NUMBER:** LC-DIG-**ggbain-02702** (digital file from original neg.)

No known restrictions on publication

**MEDIUM:** 1 negative : glass ; 5 x 7 in. or smaller

**CREATED/PUBLISHED:** 1909

**NOTES:**

Forms part of: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress)

Title from unverified data provided by the Bain News Service on the negatives or caption cards.

Temp. note: Batch one loaded

**FORMAT:**

[Glass negatives.](#)

**REPOSITORY:** Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

**DIGITAL ID:** ([digital file from original neg.](#)) **ggbain 02702** <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/ppp/ggbain.02702>

**CARD #:** [ggb2004002702](#)

View the [MARC Record](#) for this item.



P&P Online  
Catalog Start

[Bibliographic Information](#)

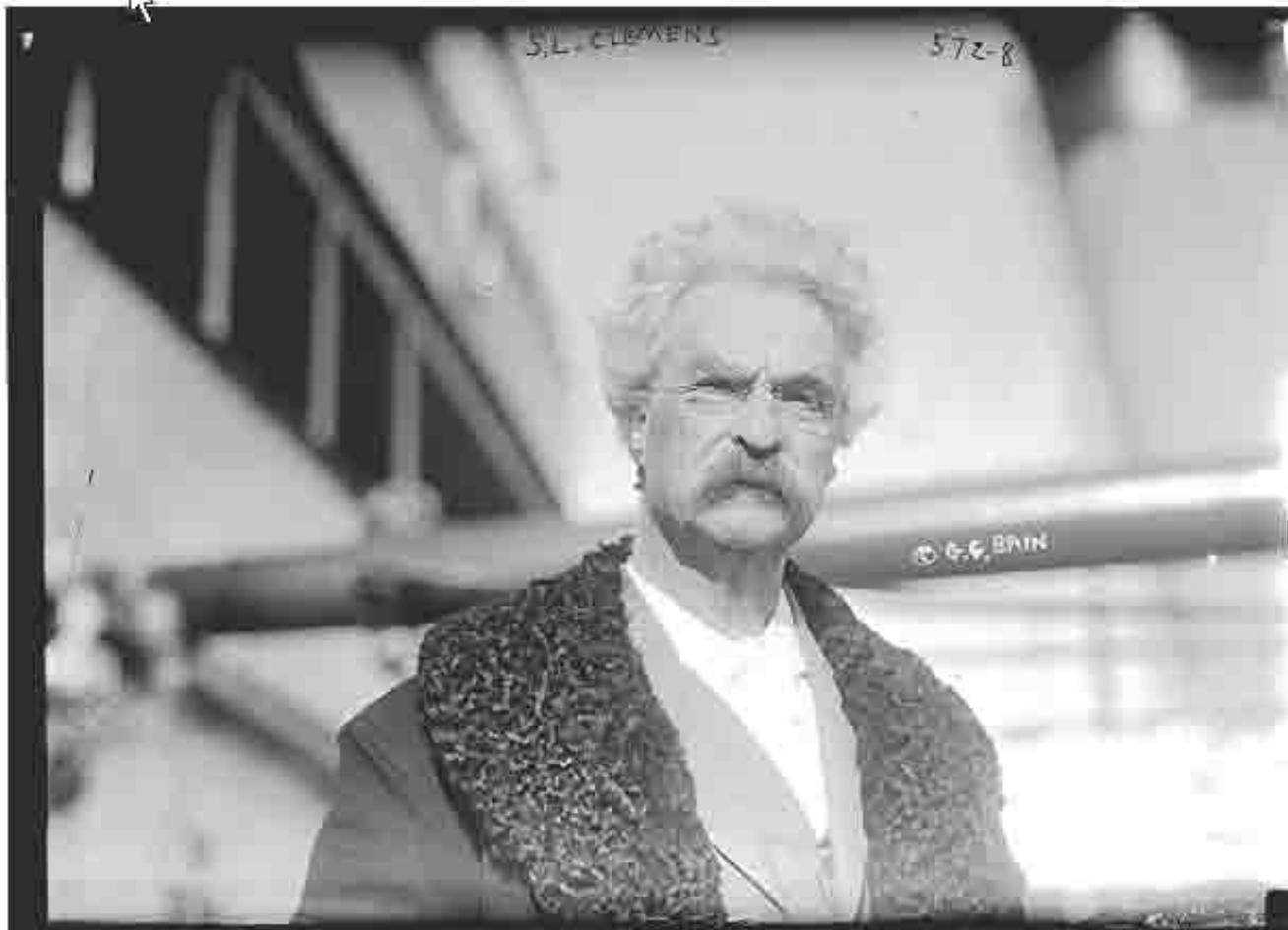
**Digital ID:** ggban 02702 **Source:** digital file from original neg

**Reproduction Number:** LC-DIG-ggban-02702 (digital file from original neg.)

**Repository:** Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D C 20540 USA

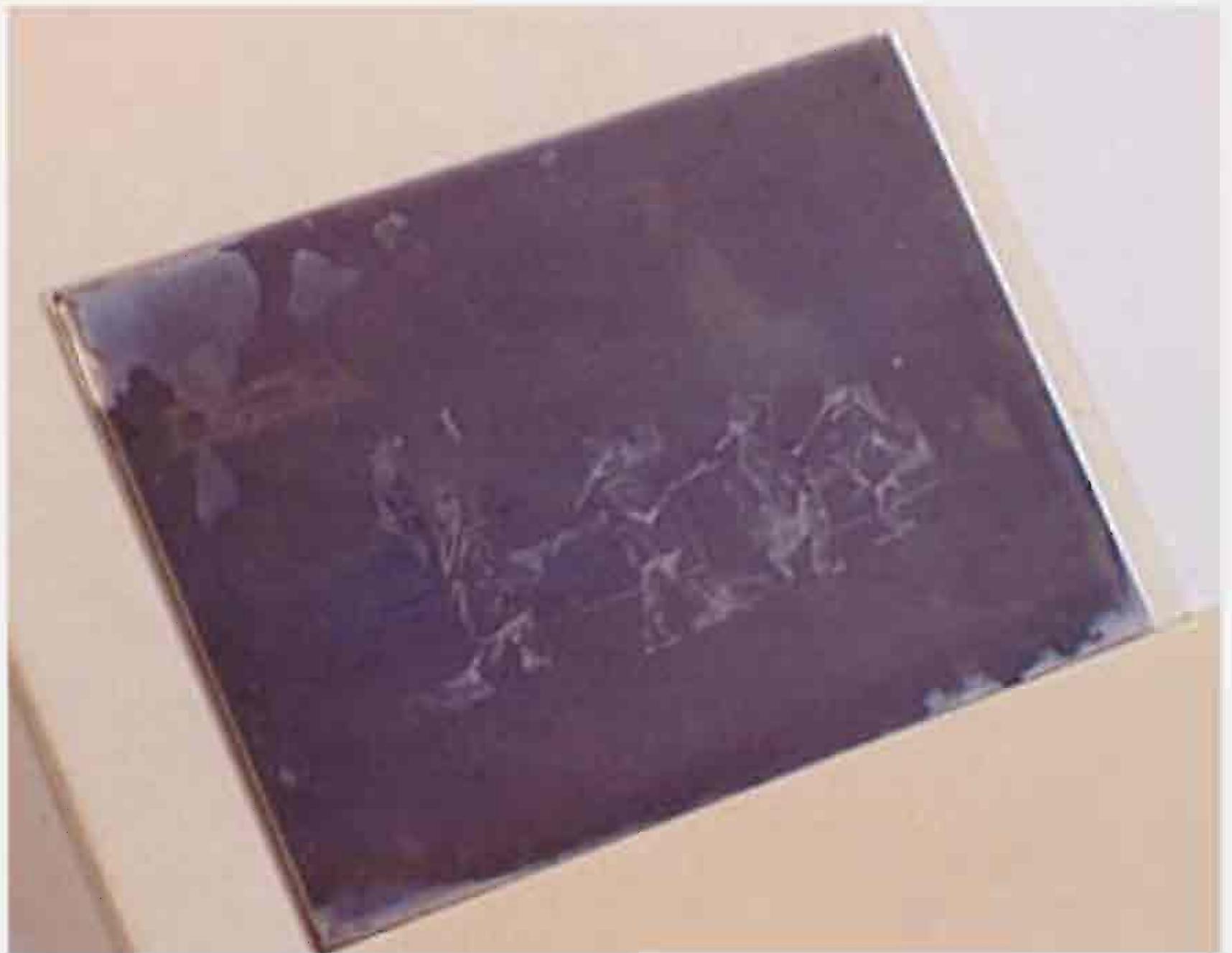
[Retrieve higher resolution JPEG version \(78 kilobytes\)](#)

[Retrieve uncompressed archival TIFF version \(23 megabytes\)](#)

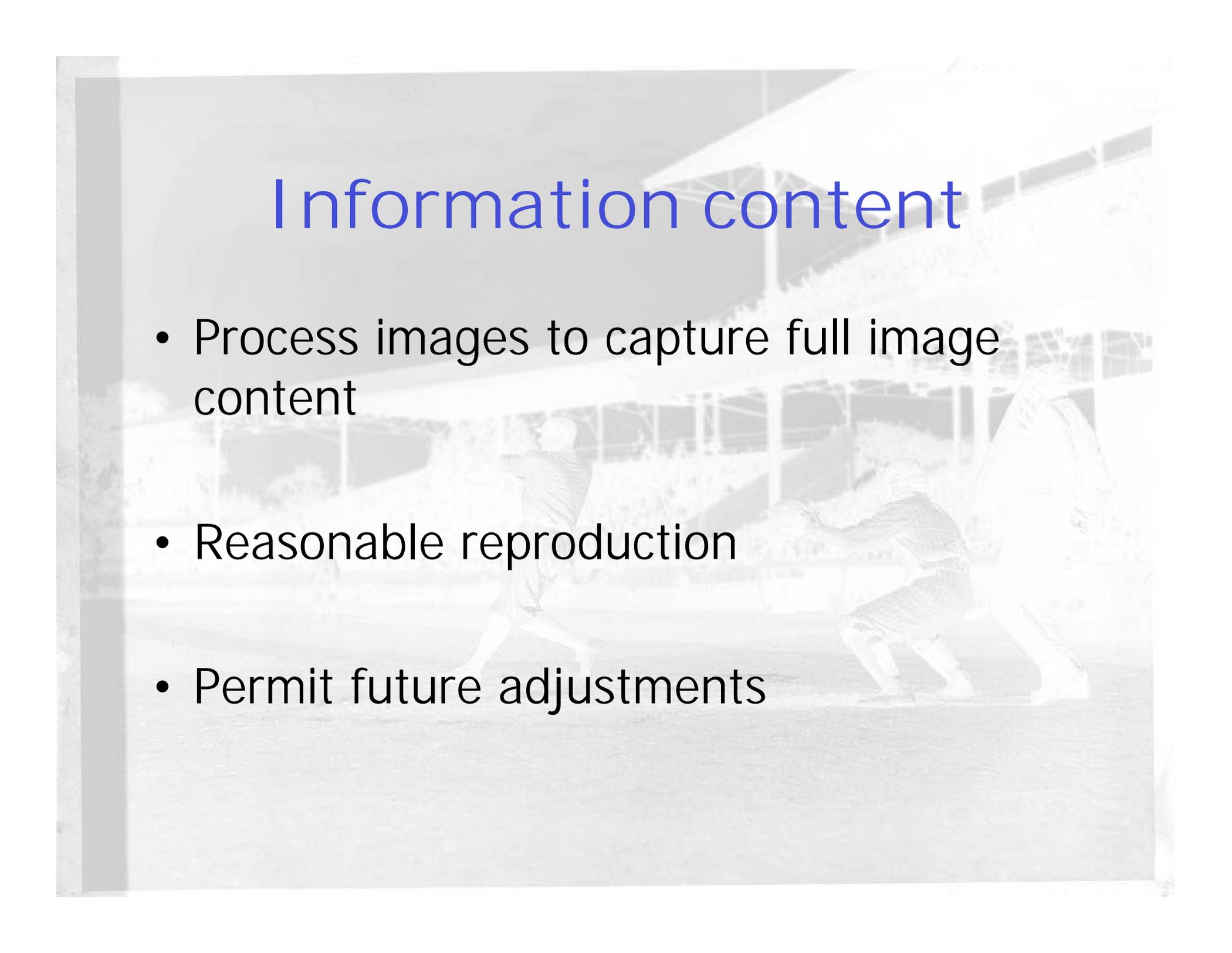


# Negative collections

- Sizes range from 1/2 frame 35mm to 16x20
- Glass, nitrate, acetate carriers
- Usually very homogenous
- Sometimes very fragile, channeled, or outright broken



# Information content



- Process images to capture full image content
- Reasonable reproduction
- Permit future adjustments

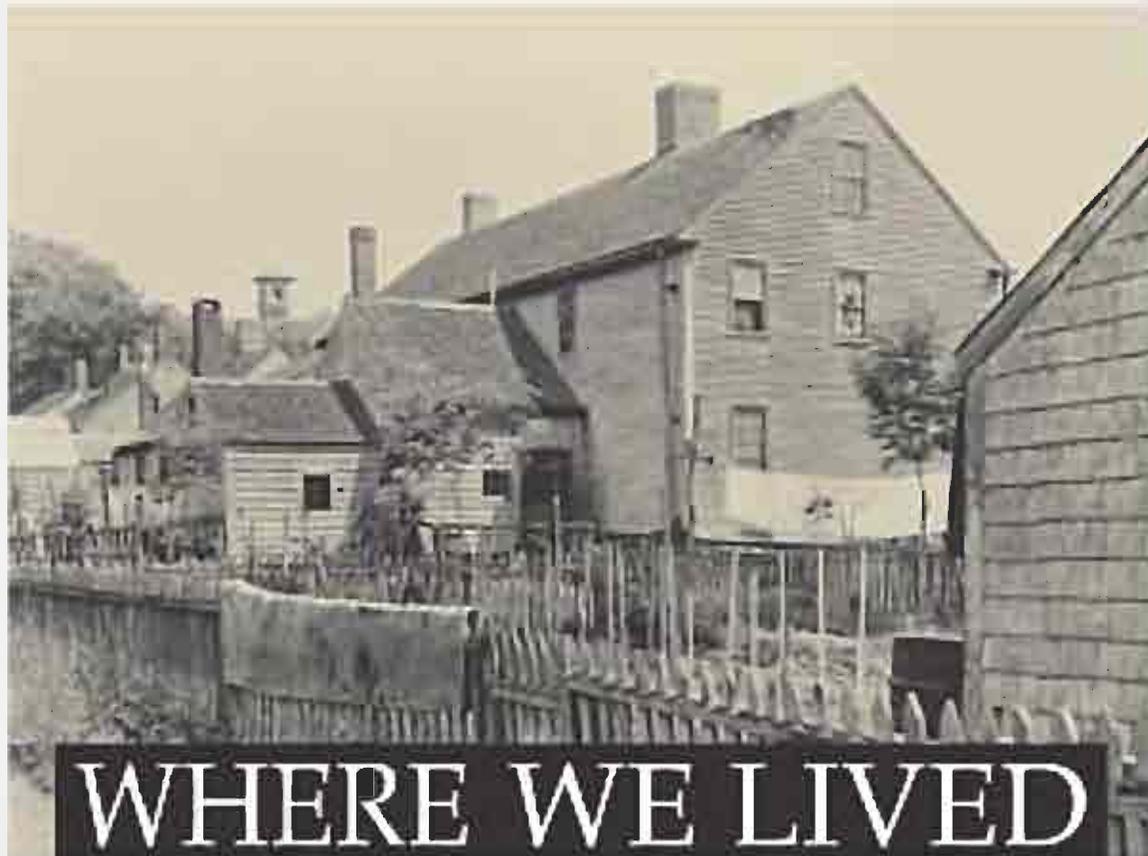












# WHERE WE LIVED

DISCOVERING THE PLACES WE ONCE CALLED HOME

*The American Home from 1790 to 1840* | by JACK LARKIN



# Repository Digital Asset Management System

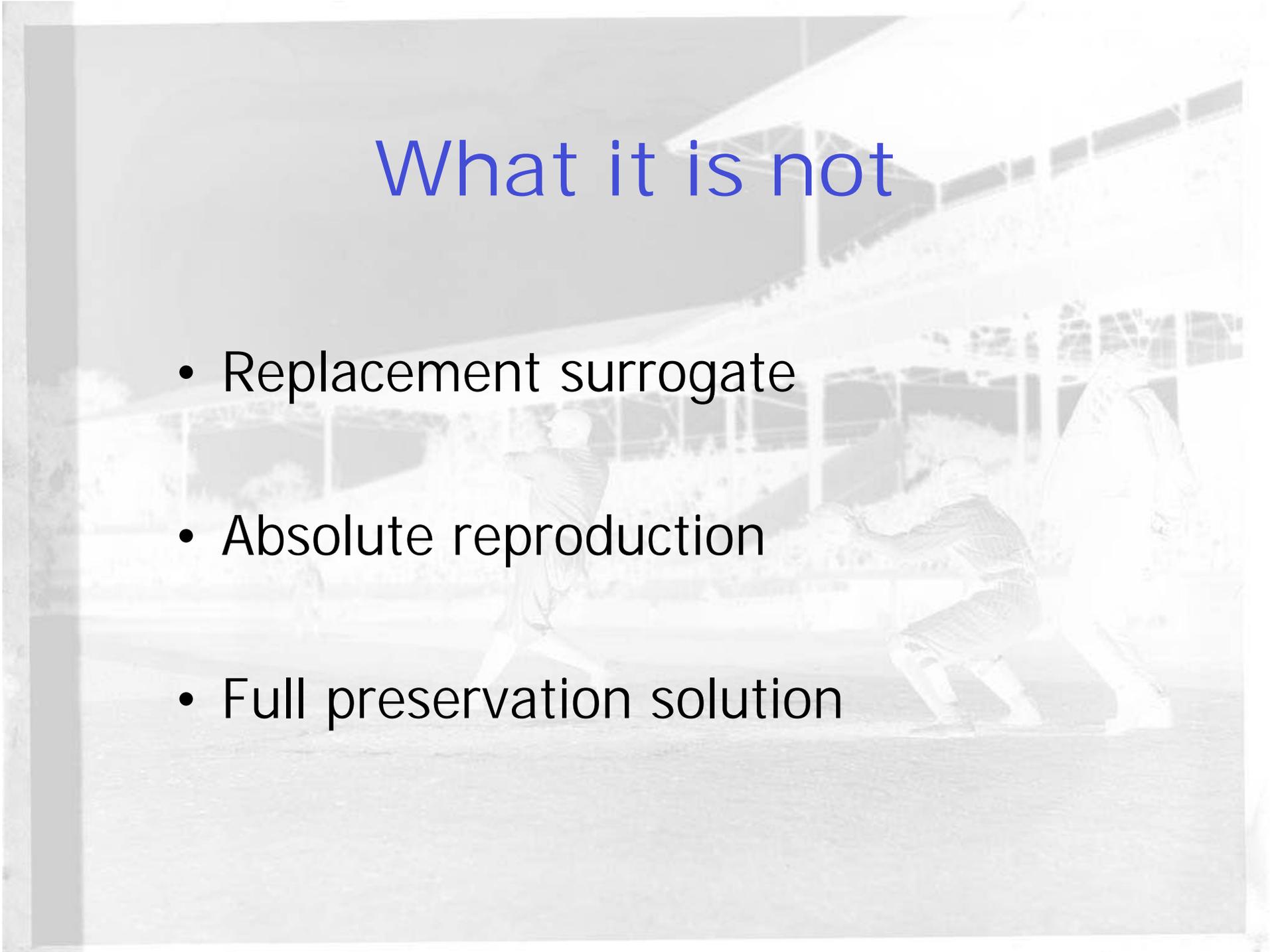


# Repository Digital Asset Management System

- We don't have one
- ...but the metadata and images have been transformed into many packages
- Organized storage on servers
- TIFF header content
- Catalog records & digitizing specs readily available online
- Retaining source contractor-generated metadata

# What it is not

- Replacement surrogate
- Absolute reproduction
- Full preservation solution



# Some future directions

- Retaining unprocessed master (functional equivalent to RAW, DNG)
- Support for more high-end use cases
- Standardization of practice
- Process control (targets)
- Repository services (ingest, managed storage, object delivery...)



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