

COLLECTIVE COOKBOOK:
BEST PRACTICES IN VISUAL ARCHIVING BETWEEN
NEWS ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Newsroom research has begun to place a focus on digital news archival practices, attempting to identify ways to best preserve what many consider the first draft of history. This study refines the concept of archiving by placing emphasis on emerging still photography archives both on an individual level and on an organizational level to identify the best possible practices for visual archive development. In-depth interviews were conducted to examine the best practices for visual archiving amongst individual photojournalists and media organizations, using prior experience with Columbia Missourian archives as reference material to draw comparative analysis from. Following the theoretical framework of diffusion of innovations, this results of this study suggest that archival development and implementation gains more importance as technological growth continues, even in the presence of a fading industry workforce. Emerging archival programs can benefit from this research by heeding their peers' advice for proper archival methodology, structuring, indexing and management techniques while also acknowledging the need for a 'champion' of archival practices within the organization to further the protection of the visual archive.