The Planning, Development, and Digitization of the Judy Chicago Art Education Collection at Penn State University Libraries
Terry M Schiavone

The Project
The Judy Chicago Collaboration is a digitization project between three institutions:
- Eberly Family Special Collections Library, Penn State University Libraries
- National Museum of Women in the Arts
- Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Harvard University

The institutes digitization of these collections, focus on the research and access impact through collaborative effort. The result is a portal that provides a clear link between the digitized items and the art and cultural impact Judy Chicago has had across multiple generations of artists.

Visit The Judy Chicago Collaboration Portal at https://judychicagocollaboration.org/

Who is Judy Chicago?
Judy Chicago is a prolific feminist artist with a career spanning over a half century. Her art education curriculum has been instrumental in developing a new generation of artists. It is the goal of the portal to provide digital access to her educational materials and experiences in the art world.

Development
Preparation of the collection
- Identifying collection content i.e. loose/bound items, audiovisual materials, 3D objects
- Create production workflow by using progress trackable project management tools e.g. Trello or Jira
- Define naming schema and scanning specifications
- Cloud-based spreadsheet to track metrics, RefIDs, and object level data

Who is involved in digitization projects?
Responsibilities are shared among several major stakeholders
- Eberly Family Special Collections Library
- Cataloging and Metadata Services
- Digital Preservation Librarian
- Digitization Unit
- Scholarly Communications and Copyright
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Department for Information Technologies

Why digitize records?
Provide open access to otherwise geographically locked collections.

How are items digitized?
- Following FADGI (Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative) to meet preservation standards
- Using a mixture of equipment to properly photograph/capture materials
- Creating workflows to properly scan and complete 100% quality check on files

Preparing items for public use
- Metadata creation
- Review for Personal Identifiable Information and redaction
- Upload access files to content management system (Contentdm) for display and digital collection access

Specialized Equipment
A digitization lab needs a wide range of photographic equipment to accurately and precisely capture the materials. This equipment is calibrated to cultural heritage standards in order to comply with FADGI guidelines.
- Betterlight System – An older system that uses a digital back and bellow to capture large format (4” x 5”) images.
- PhaseOne – A medium-format digital camera system. This camera is versatile for capturing various mediums including flat art, books, and transparencies.
- Epson Flatbed Scanner – Flatbeds are a cost effective solution to scanning loose paper and transmissive materials.
- Fosshape – A lightweight material used to shape into human form to provide an accurate representation of the clothing item.

Learning Outcomes
What was my role?
- Digital Processing Specialist: conducts the handling, imaging, and quality control of collection items.
- Ensuring files meet the standards and quality set by FADGI: http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov/guidelines/

Impact
- Digitization and subsequent publication in an online platform expands the reach and access of collections.
- Digitization if digital preservation – digital files require active preservation in order to protect from obsolescence.
- Accuracy and consistency through adherence to archival best practices and standards ensure longevity and minimizes data loss and/or corruption.

Acknowledgements: