

Making the Case for Change



The Ramifications of Collection Conversion
at The State Historical Society of Missouri

Anne Cox (@woozymoose), Midwest Archives Conference 2015

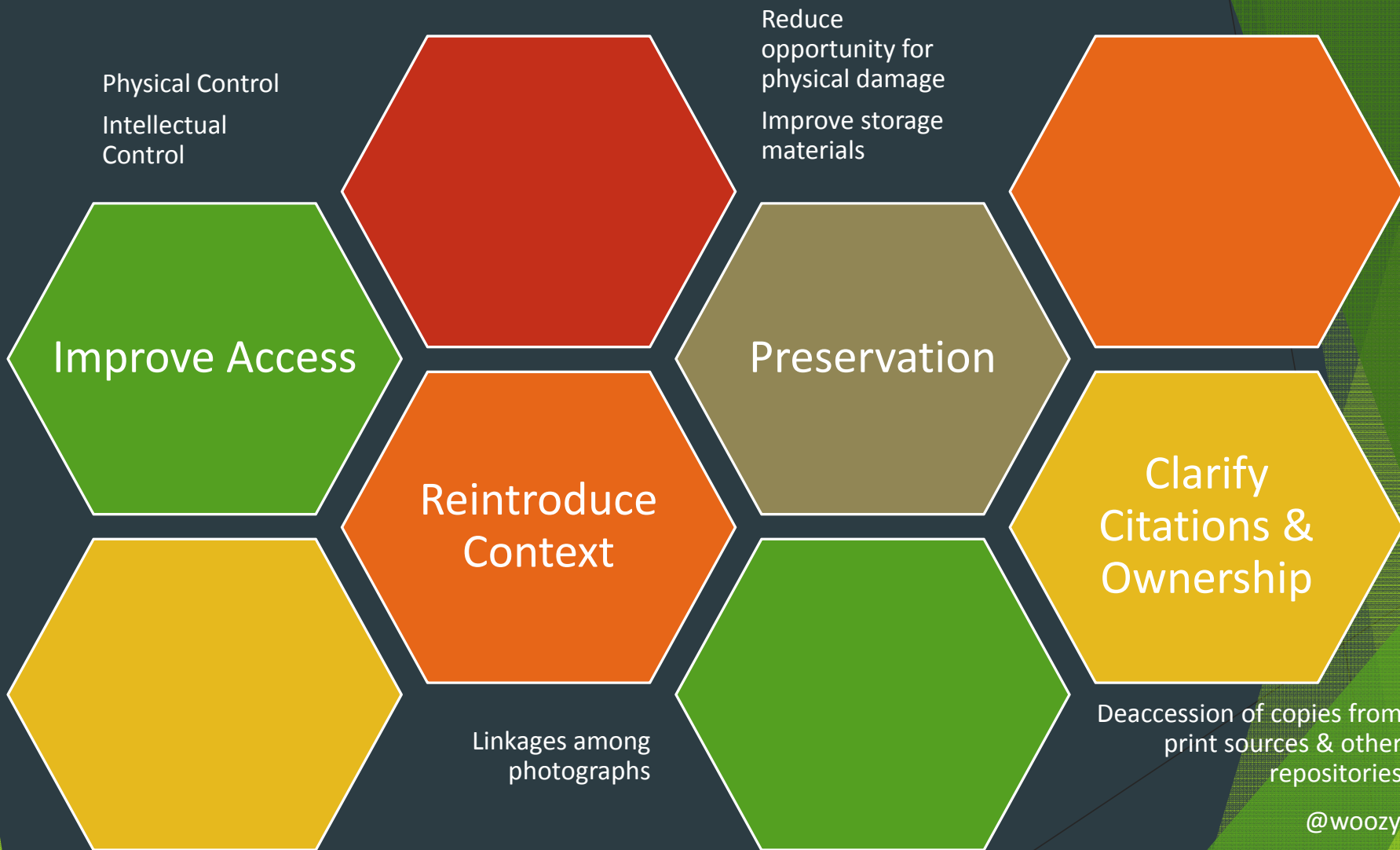
Project History



Project Goals

Recognize and restore the provenance of collections previously dispersed in a subject-based arrangement.

Reappraisal of collections materials.



Physical Control
Intellectual
Control

Reduce
opportunity for
physical damage
Improve storage
materials

Improve Access

Preservation

Reintroduce
Context

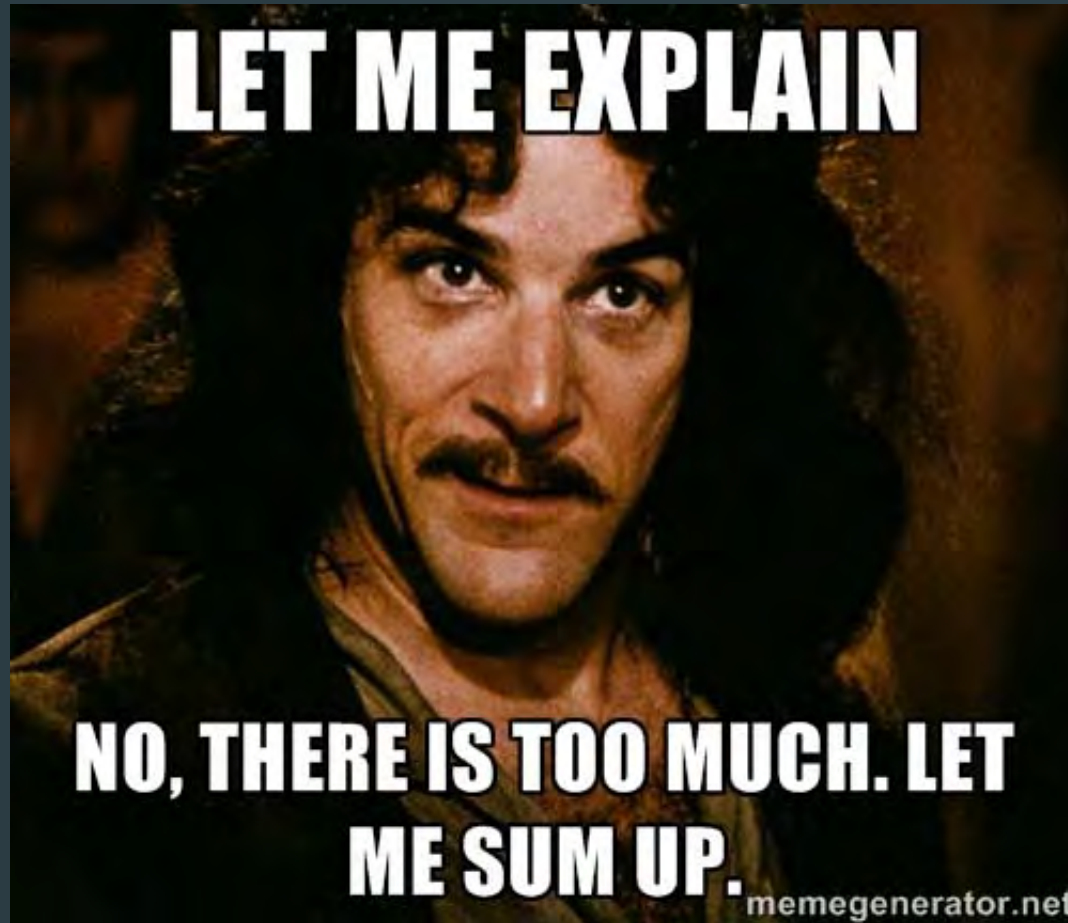
Clarify
Citations &
Ownership

Linkages among
photographs

Deaccession of copies from
print sources & other
repositories

@woozymoose #MAC15

Project Process & Challenges



@woozymoose #MAC15

Personnel & Project Management

- ▶ Documentation is critical
- ▶ Find balance between surveying & diving in
 - ▶ Iterative approach
- ▶ Personnel of 1
 - ▶ Prioritization & time management
 - ▶ Perceptions
- ▶ Coordination with non-project staff



Mazie Krebs on the SS Admiral, St. Louis, 34-1902-1, Charles Trefts Photographs, SHSMO

@woozymoose #MAC15

Implementing New Policies & Procedures

► Reproductions

- Challenge: create consensus among 5 research centers
- Provided evidence
- Consensus on core, compromise on details



Jefferson City Bridge, 2-140, Kroeger Photographs, SHSMO

@woozymoose #MAC15

Implementing New Policies & Procedures



John Burroughs School, Library, St. Louis, 34-1313, Charles Trefts Photographs, SHSMO

▶ Reference

- ▶ Incorporation into existing, successful procedures
- ▶ Brief training; provide resources & create clear expectations
- ▶ Ongoing availability for questions/reinforcement

@woozymoose #MAC15

Overcoming Resistance to Change

- ▶ Identify reasons for resistance
- ▶ Anticipate when possible
- ▶ Lay groundwork
- ▶ Build case & respond to concerns



@woozymoose #MAC15

Lessons Learned

- ▶ Change-focus of project was beneficial
- ▶ Importance of communication
- ▶ Timing
- ▶ Staff changes have major impact



John Burroughs School, Classroom. 34-1301, Charles Trefts Photographs, SHSMO

@woozymoose #MAC15