

"Many Visual Resource Centers, Archives, and Libraries find themselves holding large collections of 35mm slides that are full of amazing and important imagery, but lack the resources with which to fully digitize and describe each individual item. These are often donated collections of research photographs, or other undigitized accumulations of slides. Collection level description and cataloging may hint at the contents of such a collection, but rarely does justice to these information-dense groups of photographs. At the same time, storage and access to these collections can be problematic due to the size and shape of the items, as well as the large quantity in which they tend to gather (usually in multiples of 36).

By standardizing the storage of the slides, the entire collection can be photographed in the form of "contact sheets," which can be disseminated as a surrogate to the physical collection. The order of the slides, the information written on slide mounts, etc. are all preserved while the digital contact sheet allows reference sized imagery that is of sufficient detail to be useful to researchers while not requiring large-scale high-resolution digitization. These contact sheet "Visual Indexes" can become the primary interface with a large collection that effectively provide access while minimizing time and expense on the institution's part."

Also, here is a link to my lightning talk on this topic. The "script" is in the notes fields below the images. Please feel free to use what you need.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1fHRpi9Irv92ihHnJr6Hasx6ZNOWBjQYYQwUIBLggFa0/edit?usp=sharing>