



Accessibility via Technology

The Evolution of Imaging Services

by Patrick Williams, Imaging Services Manager



The Washington State Archives Imaging Services department has been working with local and state government agencies for over 40 years to help protect their Archival records from the scourge of time. During those years, our equipment has evolved with the ever-changing technology. Microfilm has given way to high-speed scanners and, as computer storage becomes cheaper, the past 10 years has revealed a major upgrade in equipment and detailed images.

Gone are the days of these clunky, hulking

pieces of microfilm equipment taking up valuable real estate and staff resources.

Today, we use a variety of Kodak and Mekel high-speed scanners to produce beautiful high-quality images that can be posted online and transferred to microfilm electronically, providing more detail and more consistency in the images we yield. Microfilm is one of the most stable forms of preservation and is created by imprinting images onto film and processing the film to storage in our environmentally controlled vault.

Here are some links to records we have been able to digitize and post online at the Digital Archives:

[Tacoma 2nd Ward Voter Registration, 1885-1889](#) (This collection includes names of women from Tacoma that were allowed to vote up until 1887)

Register of Voters of the Second Ward, City of Tacoma, for the Year 1885							
NUMBER.	NAME.	AGE.	PLACE OF NATIVITY.	OCCUPATION.	Local Residence.	FILED INTENTIONS—DATE, PLACE AND COURT.	DATE OF REGISTRATION.
1.	Am. J. Meade	27	New York	Lawyer	2nd		July 9 th
2.	B. Stanley Banks	23	Pennsylvania	Lawyer	2nd		July 9 th

[Wenatchee City Minutes, 1893-2011](#) (This collection includes the town’s interesting history with going “Dry” in 1909)

