



March 12, 2018

## ***Documentation Matters***

**The Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) receives award from the Smithsonian Women's Committee for digital documentation workstation.**

The Smithsonian Women's Committee has awarded funding for the development of a digital documentation workstation in MCI's Photograph and Paper Conservation Studio. This funding will allow MCI's Photograph and Paper Conservator, Shannon Brogdon-Grantham to establish a workstation for documenting objects that come to MCI from across the Smithsonian for conservation treatment and analysis. The new workstation housed in the Conservation Group's studio will complement the imaging techniques available in the Technical Studies and Research Group's Melvin J. Wachowiak, Jr. Imaging Studio. This new resource will provide the conservators at MCI access to a workstation dedicated to conservation documentation as outlined by the American Institute for Conservation Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice.

Documentation is the first and last step in a conservator's workflow. Its purpose is to provide a permanent graphic and written record of an object's condition and technical manufacture. Prior to treatment and analysis, the conservator takes photographic images and writes a detailed report to document an object's condition. The images and report are used to propose subsequent treatment and scientific investigation. After an object has undergone conservation, additional photographs are taken and are incorporated into a final report outlining the work performed, the outcome of treatment, and significant analytical findings.

Thanks to the Smithsonian Women's Committee, MCI's Conservation Group will have a new digital documentation workstation in the coming months. Stay tuned for more!



Robert Scurlock positioning a plant for a photograph at the Capitol School of Photography, black-and-white photonegative. **Scurlock Studio Records, ca. 1905-1994, Archives Center, National Museum of American History**