

Singapore half a Century ago



Lighter transporting cargo past the Merlion into the Singapore River



Raffle's Landing Site and the Construction of the OCBC-Building



A sampan in Singapore Harbor

Why **YOU** should think about digitizing your almost forgotten Image Collection

Personal Reasons

- your children and grandchildren will throw them in the bin
- they are after all a great personal memory

as a Wikimedian

- you have an intrinsic sense of sharing
- you are aware of how fast things change
- you know how hard it is to illustrate the last century

Works - in this case photographs - are still protected for 70 years after the author's death. Since I am planning on still enjoying a long life, these images I now digitized would still not be in the public domain 150 years after they were taken.



My sorting table

The standard procedure for digitization is scanning.

A flatbed scanner is the usual choice.

I decided to use a camera with a macro lens. Why?

It is faster! It is still tedious!?

But so is scanning!

Each slide needs to be cleaned and dusted and put into place .

With the camera you scan one slide at a time.



The digitization set-up: Camera with macro lens mounted on tripod. Slideholder over a flat lightbox. Smartphone as remote-control for shockproof exposure

With a scanner, perhaps 3 - 4. But each scan process can be measured in minutes, not seconds.

The resolution is also much lower. Doesn't make much difference for thumbnails, but does make a difference for prints.

There are professional scanning services who might give you higher resolutions, but that comes at a cost.

The net time for photographing a box of 30 slides is about 10 minutes.

There is also less distraction.

Many times does one scan a batch double, or forgots a scan, because one does something else while waiting for the scan to finish?

All images still need processing post scan, no matter how the scan was done.

Even a professional scanning service won't check each slide individually.

What **YOU** could do!

Dig in your or your family's image archives.

Start digitizing and upload to Commons

If you invested in a set-up like me, take it along to hack-a-thons and help others digitize their images.



You can find my digitized slides at:
(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Photo-digitized_Images_by_User:Rainer_Halama)