



# Digital Strategies for Heritage (DISH) 2013

2 & 3 December 2013, De Doelen Rotterdam

## Chefs' Table session

**Table Number: 05**

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**Table Host: Suzanne de Jong-Kole & Onno Zaman**

**Title: How to digitize 40.000 objects per day?**

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### Introduction

Standardization of digitization as done in the Herbarium 'Digistreet' can serve as an example for various future digitization projects.

### The new way of digitizing

The storage of heritage is of great importance in its preservation for the future, in which the digitization of collections plays a major role. It is of great importance that no valuable information is lost, so it is essential that the digital copy is of high quality. Heritage institutions have huge collections and can often not digitize everything for budgetary reasons. The digitization of heritage collections is indeed both time-consuming and costly, involving multiple processes, including barcoding, digitization itself, image editing and creating derivatives.

In projects that involve the digitization of large amounts of similar objects, this often comes at the expense of either quality or quantity. Naturalis has, together with Picturae, succeeded in developing a solution in which operations are automatically performed at high speed, so maintaining the quality whilst the object is in no danger of being damaged. This marks a revolution in digitization; in just four seconds a digitized object can be automatically rotated, cropped, controlled (for color, sharpness and depth) and derivatives made! Naturalis and Picturae wish to show how the Herbarium 'Digistreet' can serve as an example for various future digitization projects.

### Discussion

Naturalis received a big fund in 2010 to digitize a large amount of objects.

Each digistreet is a different 'theme' to digitize.

We are now talking about a herbarium (dried plants)

For the herbarium digistreet they contacted Picturae.

Picturae scans 40.000 scans per day at the moment. To scan the herbarium, they had to take care not to break the precious leaves.

There was not enough space in the museum to do it there. The Picturaes materials (scanners etc.) are moveable. They scanned the herbarium in a place near the museum.

The personnel were instructed by Naturalis how to exactly take care of the herbarium while scanning.

Picturae automatised the digitalisation. A person puts it on the conveyor belt. The scanner scans and someone else gets it off the belt. The scanner sees if something isn't done correctly.

The paper has to be exactly straight and has to contain a barcode. If something isn't right, the conveyor belt stops and they have to do it again. The scanner scans 1000 images an hour.

### **The reason for the scanning/digitizing?**

"We want to share the information with the world. Mostly botanists. But if they really want to study the plant, they have to come to Naturalis."

The people who digitize correct each other, this way they hardly make any mistakes.

Also in a database, they can see how many times someone forgot to put on a barcode.

"We think is the way to do it, the future of digitizing."

They outsource the storage for the large sized pictures. They upload every night to 'beeld en geluid'(Sound & Vision) because there's so much data.