

DESCRIPTION

High data quality in cultural goods documentation is defined by image resolution, geometric fidelity, color accuracy, and file integrity. Ensuring high data quality and appropriate file size facilitates efficient storage, and reliable analysis by experts. Providing qualitative data contributes to reducing errors and creating reliable records.

IDEAL SCENARIO

All digital evidence (2D, 3D) should meet a minimum resolution standard (minimum 200 dpi for images) or include a simple text document (.txt) for metadata. The archival master file is saved in a minimally-compressed, lossless format (e.g., TIFF or RAW) to preserve all detail.



Figure: Example of Good data quality images (courtesy of KMKKG, Scarab, E.02368)

TIPS

Do

- Capture all digital evidence and allow for post-processing.
- Establish a clear naming convention and file structure for all assets.
- Compress files but also retain the original raw data.

Don't

- Don't rely on lossy formats (like low-quality JPEG).
- Be critical of object documentation that lacks a scale bar, or adequate resolution.
- Don't rely on large files as they may overload the system without offering extra data quality.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- UNESCO (2006) *Legal and Practical Measures Against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property – UNESCO Handbook* International Standards Section, Division of Cultural Heritage, Paris