Photographic Unit Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Introduction - A very productive year
In many ways 2014/15 has proved to be one of the busiest and most productive years ever for the Photographic Unit. There has been a 15% increase in photographic jobs throughout the entire client base. Images taken by PU photographers continue to be instrumental to the successful outcome of key University publications such as the Undergraduate and Postgraduate prospectus, Inspiring People, Changing the World University Strategy 2015-2020, Avenue and the online magazine, Campus News.

Photographic Unit clients can expect the highest quality service from all areas of our department. We have set a high bar for all our output and constantly strive to produce outstanding work both aesthetically and technically. Larger file sizes and quick turnaround times have become the norm in the digital age and this seems set only to increase in line with the trends of the external market place. The Photographic Unit’s service must therefore be as good, if not better, than could be achieved by the University outsourcing to external service providers.

To facilitate this requirement, the Photographic Unit has access to some of the very latest equipment, software and training, ensuring professional industry standards for photography are incorporated within all work carried out by the department. Clients such as Communications, Publications, the Press Team, Marketing, Recruitment and the International Office, and Development and Alumni often work with external design companies who have pressing deadlines. The Photographic Unit has often proved to be an efficient link in the chain between our customers and their third party suppliers. To meet this demand we have increased access to our photographic database to these customers, allowing them to access their photographs once processing has been completed. In turn, these image files can be passed along the chain to external suppliers to meet the expectations of the private sector.

Our team is committed to the work of the Photographic Unit and the University’s strategic plan. We have been proactive in our relationships with other departments within the University and have built long standing links with our clients.

Photographic Unit Services
- A fully professional photographic service to the University and its wider partners
- Film Scanning including negative and transparency
- Professional photographic prints and reprints from passport size to A0 poster size
- Staff portrait service
- Image manipulation and reconstruction
- Supply of information, recommendations & advice
- Teaching for Hatti and Textile Conservation students

Our main clients are
- Adam Smith Business School
- Careers Service
- Conference & Visitors Service Office (CVSO)
- Corporate Communications
- Development & Alumni Office
- Hunterian Art Gallery & Museum
- University Library, including Archive Services and Special Collections
• Marketing, Recruitment & International Office (MARIO)
• Vet School
• Senate Office

External Clients
• The Beatson Oncology Centre
• GU Heritage Ltd – Visitor Center
• Glasgow School of Art

Out Reach
• Textile conservation Student teaching of Photography
• Hatti Student instruction on Digitisation as a modular part of Degree course
• Visits to other universities
• Founding members of the Scottish Digitisation Forum with Edinburgh University
• Membership of the Association of Fine Art and Historical Photographers (AFHAP)
• Working with Dumfries Crichton Campus
• NHS Partners in the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Royal Infirmary etc

Facts & Figures

Since ‘going completely digital’ in 2006
• 2006 – 95Gb of Data - Incorporating 25,000 Images – 284 Separate Jobs
• 2007 – 200Gb of Data - Incorporating 40,000 Images – 331 Separate Jobs
• 2008 – 280Gb of Data - Incorporating 57,000 Images – 373 Separate Jobs
• 2009 – 400Gb of Data - Incorporating 66,000 Images – 379 Separate Jobs
• 2010 – 570Gb of Data - Incorporating 104,000 Images – 310 Separate Jobs
• 2011 – 849Gb of Data - Incorporating 125,000 Images – 289 Separate Jobs
• 2012 – 702Gb of Data Incorporating 116,000 Images – 383 Separate Jobs
• 2013 – 1.1Tb of Data - Incorporating 148,000 Images – 441 Separate Jobs
• 2014 – 1.3Tb of Data – Incorporating 158,000 Images – 430 Separate Jobs
• 2015 – 2.3Tb of Data – Incorporating 192,000 Images - 486 Separate Jobs so far

Examples of Work

GU Heritage Ltd
Digitisation Unit

The Photographic Unit’s Digitisation Unit has continued to compete successfully for large scale digitisation projects. The experience, knowledge and reputation gained from the following projects has proved invaluable:

- The Welcome-funded Modern Genetics project included some 60,683 photographs being shot over a 1 year period using 1.95Tb of data storage and 2 full time digitisers and a Project Manager completed 2013.
- David Livingstone’s collection of Notebooks, Diaries, Journals and Maps for an online resource working in collaboration with the University of Nebraska.
- The Full University of Glasgow REF Submission in 2014
- Wellcome trust project digitising the mental healthcare archives of Gartnavel Royal and Crichton Royal hospitals generating a total of 352,000 images. Completion 2016
- Early Cinema Scotland Project
- Anchor line Restaurant Project
- Erskine Hospital Records
- Scottish Opera News for upload to the Theatre Royal Heritage Website
- The long running Incunabula project was successfully completed in 2015.
Hasselblad and Studio Camera Data

- 2011 – Digitisation Jobs created 350Gb of Data
- 2012 – Digitisation Jobs creating 510Gb of Data
- 2013 – Digitisation Jobs creating 700Gb of Data
- 2014 – Digitisation Jobs creating 825Gb of Data
- 2015 - Digitisation Jobs creating 1Tb of Data and 114 separate jobs so far

Digitisation Clients

- Glasgow University Archives
- Glasgow University Library Special Collections Department within the Library
- Hunterian Art Gallery & Museum
- Wellcome Trust
- New Lanark Heritage Centre
- Scottish Opera

The work of the Photographic Unit’s Digitisation Service will continue to grow and specialized equipment such as an ATIZ book scanner, Nikon D800 DSLR cameras and new software have been purchased to cope with the increasing capacity and need for effective workflow.

Examples of Digitisation Material
Photographic Unit – Digitisation of Mental Healthcare Archives Project

In August 2014 the Unit began work on the Digitisation Mental Healthcare Records project, funded by the Wellcome Trust and due to be completed by November 2016. Selected material from the archives of two psychiatric institutions, Gartnavel Royal and Crichton Royal, will generate 350,000 digital images and 13TB of data. These digitised records will be accessible via the Wellcome Digital Library, supporting the University’s vision of enhancing research strengths. The project also incorporates interdisciplinary work with an archivist acting as project officer, overseeing a team of three project digitisers based in the University’s Digitisation Centre. This year the project delivered over 100,000 images to the Wellcome Trust and these already accessible to researchers.
35mm DSLR Camera technology

- Nikon D3s 12.1 Mega pixel Sensor
  Raw file (Nikon NEF) size of 11Mb 4000X3000 Pixels
  When converted to a full size Tiff file of 35Mb A3 size @ 300dpi

- Nikon D800 36.3 Mega pixel Sensor
  Raw file (Nikon NEF) size of 40Mb 8000X5000 Pixels
  When converted to a full size Tiff file of 103Mb A2 size @ 300dpi

- Nikon D4 50 Mega pixel Sensor
  Raw file (Nikon NEF) size of 75Mb 10000X8000 Pixels
  When converted to a full size Tiff file of 200Mb A1 size @ 300dpi

Hasselblad Camera technology

Hasselblad H4D 50 Multishot (MS) Mega pixel Sensor

Raw file Single shot (Hasselblad FFF file) size of 80Mb 9000X6000 Pixels
When converted to a full size Tiff file of 145Mb A1 size @ 300dpi

Raw File Multi shot (Hasselblad FFF file) size of 290Mb 9000X6000 Pixels
When converted to a full size Tiff file of 145Mb A1 size @ 300dpi

(Multishot exposes each of the Red, Green & Blue channels individually before registering them together precisely to avoid moiré or colour noise, which increases quality and sharpness of images.)

Photographic Unit – Staff

- Stephen McCann – Head of Department
- Stuart Campbell - Photographer
- Neil Miller - Photographer
- India Fullarton – Photographer/Digitiser - Maternity Leave
- Sam Dyer – Photographer /Digitiser Maternity cover
Wellcome Project Digitisation of Mental Healthcare Archives Staff

- Laura Stevens – Project Officer
- Jamie Dunn – Digitiser
- Steven Ramage – Digitiser
- Jamie Forbes - Digitiser