

J-Baker-Diana-20050319093002

To: Julie L. Sigall
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From: Diana J. Baker

Comment:

I am doing a digitization project. The project started for the Library I work for, but I am doing all of our small Museum's pictures. The problem is that the person that donated the pictures to the Museum is not necessarily the person who took the pictures. Now the person who donated the pictures is dead and there is no way to find out if they took the pictures or if someone gave them to him. One person who donated a lot was a newspaper editor. Until I mentioned it, the Museum did not know they should get the rights transferred in writing. As I said they are a small Museum in a small town. Now they have pictures they would like to reproduce and sell but since the donor is dead, etc. there is no way of tracking down the original picture owner to transfer rights. They also have many school class group pictures taken from the 1910's to the 1960's that do not have the stamp of who the professional photographer was. It would be much easier if there was a stamp with the copyright owner's name and a contact phone number or address or a clearing house the owner would report their change of addresses to and beneficiary of the copyright to. It takes many man hours trying to chase down each individual picture and then times that by 1000's of pictures and the project is daunting if not impossible.