Digitizing archives for health sciences education and research:

Records of the Oregon Child Study Clinic

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Records of the Oregon Child Study Clinic

- Circa 400 linear feet of patient charts, radiographs, dental casts, and more!
- Stored at OHSU’s School of Dentistry since the end of the study.
- Due to current standards for research on human subjects, the study cannot be replicated
- A unique, irreplaceable resource, actively used for orthodontics research and teaching.
Records of the Oregon Child Study Clinic
www.aaoflegacycollection.org

- Funded by the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation, directed by Sheldon Baumrind, DDS
- Draws on 9 growth study collections across the country, including OCGS records.
- Participants scan selected images, create metadata, and upload to a public database

- **Problem:** How can the dental school continue the project now the collection is in the archives?

A collaborative solution

- Two library school students were hired using grant funds
- Students are library employees reporting to an archivist, but were trained by an orthodontics resident who QC’s their work
- Library borrowed specialized equipment and software from the dental school
A collaborative solution

- Priority cases were twins – most unique and valuable part of collection
- Students digitized over 3500 radiographs and 500 dental casts from 80 patients
- Project runs through June 30, 2014, with possible extension
Collaborating with Health Scientists: Lessons Learned

• “Quantity over quality”
• Archives access models are foreign
• Very different technical standards
• Digitization is great for mitigating HIPAA issues!
• Science research also depends on preservation and access to unique primary sources.