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Article: Preservation of Historic Glass Plate Negatives in Low Budget Conditions  
(Abstract)

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## **Abstract: Preservation of Historic Glass Plate Negatives in Low Budget Conditions**

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*Presented at the poster session of the 2013 AIC & ICOM-CC Photographs Conservation  
Joint Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand.*

### **Purpose:**

To find solutions to the consolidation and recovery of images on damaged glass plate negatives. These solutions could then be applied in regional museums with low budgets throughout New South Wales Australia

### **Principal findings:**

Tests were conducted on large 19<sup>th</sup> century glass plate negatives from the Freeman Brothers' studio in the Powerhouse Museum. The principal findings were:

1. Practicality of use of diluted gelatine solutions in re-adhering fragmented and detached silver gelatine emulsion layer to glass plates
2. Practicality of use of Klucel J solution in reducing the desiccation of emulsion caused by storage in very dry environment.
3. Importance of the combination of digitization methods with hands on approach with regards to achieving optimum preservation results
4. Calculation of time and resources required for the suggested conservation approach for optimum use of available resources

### **Conclusions:**

The project concludes that while digitization is a useful method for preservation of glass plates, the process would be incomplete without proper hands on preservation measures as well as proper storage plans. A proper preservation of the actual photographic material –here glass plates - would add to value, reliability and of course the authenticity of the collection to be digitized. In this regard what is required is to have reliable metrics for proper estimation of the time and resources required for the project. As well it is important to use available and also compatible materials with regards to the object and the project itself.

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