Point and Shoot!

Photographing Collections with a Digital Camera

Sarah Stephens
PHOTOGRAPHY

SHARE Museums East
a network of know how

Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Reasons and implications for photographing objects
- ❖ Key settings to make use of on your camera
- ❖ Setting up a shooting area
- ❖ Using available light

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Why Photograph Objects?

- ❖ A record
- ❖ Databases
- ❖ Digitising projects
- ❖ Educational
- ❖ Promotional

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What do we need to capture?

* What it is
* Condition/Damage
* Interesting details
* Accurate both in terms of size and colour

Many and varied!

Implications

* What is the photo for?
    * Quality/resolution
* Storage capacity
* What equipment will we need?
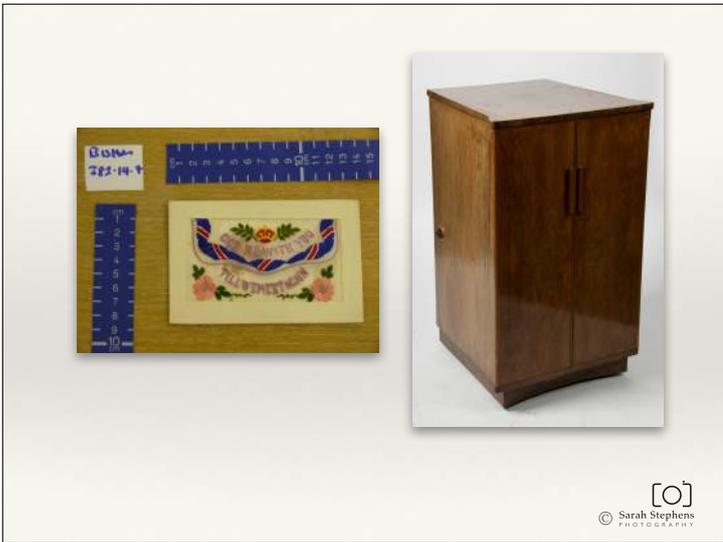
File Formats and Quality

❖ Pixels and megapixels

❖ JPEG vs RAW
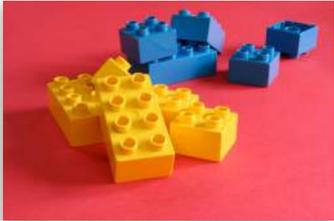
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Some assumptions

❖ All cameras have their limits

❖ The camera 'sees' the world differently

❖ The camera doesn't know what you are taking a photo of!

❖ Auto is not necessarily bad!

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Key Settings

- White Balance
- Metering
- Exposure Compensation
- ISO
- Zoom
- Flash

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White Balance

- Light is not white

Cool   AWB   Warm

Blue skies
Cloudy
Daylight
Shade
Indoor light
Sunrise/sunset

- Auto can be good!
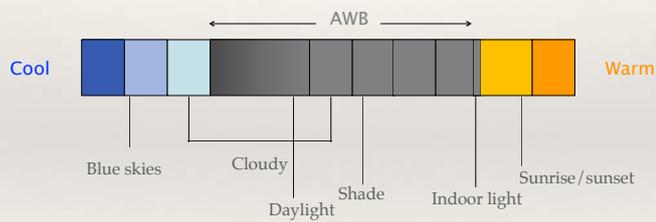
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White Balance Presets

- ☀ Daylight
- ☁🏠 Cloudy/Shade
- 💡 Tungsten/Incandescent
- Fluorescent
- Flash
- Custom

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AWB   Daylight   Shade

Cloudy   Tungsten   Custom

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Metering Modes

Evaluative, multi, matrix….

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Centre Weighted / Average
or Partial Weighted
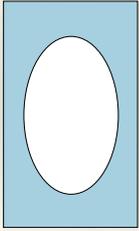
Spot Metering
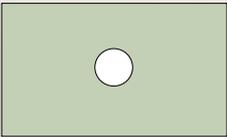
Exposure Compensation

-1   0   +1

ISO

100   200   400   800   1600

- The cameras sensitivity to light
- Higher numbers help us eliminate camera shake
- Ask - how much light is there?

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ISO Settings

- Sunny and bright = low ISO: 100 or 200

- Dull/overcast = higher ISO: 400

- Indoors,/low light levels = higher ISO: 800+

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Digital Noise

100 ISO   3200 ISO

Zoom Functions

- ❖ Compact and bridge cameras
  - ❖ optical vs digital zoom
- ❖ Review images function

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Flash

- ❖ Limitations of on camera flash

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Flash Settings

- Setting your flash options
- ❖ Using fill in flash
- ❖ Flash compensation
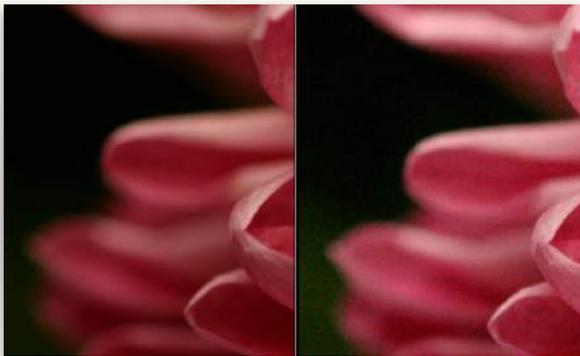
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Where to Photograph

- ❖ Ask why and what?
- ❖ Evaluate first
  - ❖ Space required
  - ❖ Object care considerations
  - ❖ Available light
  - ❖ 'Clean'

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Cropping

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Using Light

- ❖ How light behaves
- ❖ Determine your light source(s)
- ❖ Control the light
- ❖ Remember objects are usually 3D!

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Resources

http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk/digitisation/
simple-guide-to-digitisation

Kit Supplies:

A1 card   http://www.fredaldous.co.uk
Tapes and folders http://www.hope-education.co.uk

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