

A Solutions Story from Kodak Alaris

FamilySearch Advances the Art and Science of Genealogical Photo Capture

Worldwide Photo Scanning and Preservation Initiative Powered by **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System PS80 from E-Z Photo Scan

Customer

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world, under the aegis of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), often referred to as the Mormon Church. FamilySearch maintains an exhaustive collection of records, resources, and services, aimed at helping people within the Church and the general public around the world learn more about their family history. The organization gathers, preserves, and shares genealogical records worldwide, including photos and stories. It offers free access to its resources and services online at FamilySearch.org, one of the most heavily used genealogy sites on the Web. FamilySearch also offers personal assistance at 4,700+ family history centers in 125 countries, including the Family History Library at their headquarters in Salt Lake City, UT.

FamilySearch cites the beliefs of the LDS, noting that families are meant to be central to people's lives, and that family relationships are intended to continue beyond this life. "On a gravestone you see a birthdate, a dash, then a date of death," says Scott Lloyd, Desktop Engineer for Patron and Partner Services at FamilySearch. "FamilySearch and our genealogical and photo preservation efforts are all about helping people discover, remember, and describe what happened during that 'dash.'"

Challenge

At FamilySearch, photo scanning was previously accomplished on flatbed scanners, creating a very time-intensive and slow process. The organization was familiar with production scanning, but worried that precious, older, fragile documents and pictures could be damaged by a traditional scanning procedure.

In 2010, FamilySearch began to explore new types of photo scanners on the market; scanners that could be operated by patrons visiting the Family History Library. They purchased three **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning Systems PS810. These got the organization started with higher-volume photo scanning.

"One situation we still needed to overcome was that many photos brought to our family history centers and headquarters are in very old albums," says Lloyd. "It would be dangerous to try to take brittle photos that might be 100 years old out of album pages, so we were also looking for a good solution to this issue."

Enter E-Z Photo Scan of Altamonte Springs, FL, document imaging experts that started their business capturing content-sensitive medical documents for healthcare facilities across the U.S. Their E-Z Photo Scan group has scanned millions of personal photographs as an authorized document conversion center and reseller for Kodak Alaris. The company provides expertise to those looking to do their own scanning, have it done for them, or a combination of both – offering a complete line of **Kodak** Scanners and specializing in the Picture Saver Scanning Systems from Kodak Alaris.

Solution

In March 2013, FamilySearch and E-Z Photo Scan both found themselves at the RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City. FamilySearch management visited the E-Z Photo Scan booth and learned how new software advances, and photo scanner models from Kodak Alaris, could benefit FamilySearch's worldwide photo scanning initiative.

After collaborating together at a public photo scanning project operated by FamilySearch – during the Federation of Genealogical Societies convention in Fort Wayne, IN – E-Z Photo Scan worked closely with Kodak Alaris to swap out their PS810 models for three new **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning Systems PS80.



Solution cont.

In terms of enhancements, the Scanning Systems PS80 offer useful, productive new features. First, the legal flatbed accessory permits transport-less scanning of fragile photos and entire pages of photo albums, without having to remove individual pictures, or even take a plastic sheet cover off a page of images. In conjunction, the **Kodak** Photo Selector Accessory automatically extracts individual images from a composite image, like multi-photo album pages. It then saves each photo as a separate digital file.

Productivity was boosted with a real-world scanning rate of up to 85 images per minute, and a specially designed, straight-path, gentle transport that handles each image with extreme care. "We have scanned thousands of photos," Lloyd notes, "and I have never seen a single picture damaged." Lloyd also praises the OCR functionality of the Systems PS80, allowing users and staff to capture text on photos and documents, then save the image as a searchable PDF.

Chris Hart, Client & Project Development Manager at E-Z Photo Scan, echoes Lloyd's assessment of Kodak Alaris' scanning solutions. "We have tested many photo scanning products and know that the **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning Systems are hands-down the best, and an excellent fit for FamilySearch," he says. "Before we recommend anything to a customer, we do extensive independent testing, and we knew that this was the ideal solution for the specific needs of FamilySearch."

Results

Within the 4,700+ FamilySearch global locations, there are 14 large FamilySearch Libraries with three now operating an on-site **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System PS80. "Individuals will bring in 400 to 500 pictures and they will be scanned with outstanding quality in 15 minutes or so," Lloyd says. "We have now ordered 20 more PS80 Systems, through E-Z Photo Scan, to send out to additional centers because the ease of operation is excellent and satisfaction with the captured images very high."

- > Since installing three **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning Systems PS80 in Salt Lake City in September 2013 – and another at a center about 30 miles south in Riverton, UT – Lloyd estimates that FamilySearch patrons have scanned almost 40,000 photos in less than three months.
- > FamilySearch put on a "photopalooza" event in Salt Lake City, hosting a photo preservation workshop that utilized two Picture Saver Scanning Systems PS80. The event was a big success, with thousands of pictures scanned in a single day, and has led to more of these events being planned at various FamilySearch locations.
- > At their Salt Lake City headquarters, FamilySearch is now creating a photo experience area near the main entrance to generate greater awareness of their photo scanning initiative and capabilities. This will allow the organization to better utilize two of the PS80 Systems that were somewhat hidden away on a lower floor, and not being used at the volume of which they are capable.
- > The relationship between FamilySearch and E-Z Photo Scan has continued to grow, with Lloyd praising "they are great to work with, offer knowledgeable support on any scanner questions we have, and do a great job of showing us how to clean and maintain our equipment." In February 2014, E-Z Photo Scan will team with FamilySearch on another large photo scanning project at the RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City.
- > Patrons create family trees of ancestors on FamilySearch.org. Now they have the ability to place photos and stories of ancestors into the family trees, rather than just names and words, creating a rich, interesting, profile for current and future generations to view and enjoy.

To learn more:

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Visit www.kodakalaris.com/go/docimaging

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"We have been very pleased with our PS80 Systems and the great service and cooperation we've received from E-Z Photo Scan and Kodak Alaris. Now we have the resources and capabilities to take our photo scanning and preservation initiatives to the next level in ways that please our patrons because their precious photos are gently and quickly scanned."

— Scott Lloyd, Desktop Engineer for Patron & Partner Services at FamilySearch