

Bite-size Digital History

Methods and Ideas for Creating Local
Digital History Documentaries

Presented by Katherine Artzner
Online Librarian, The Foundation Center

What is bite-size digital history?

Short 5 -7 minute presentations with people from the community talking about history.



What makes a good digital history project?

**...Has equal parts
information &
entertainment**

**...Talks about
something viewers
might not know
about**

**...Is about personal
stories and
experiences, like
storytelling**

...Is short

What are some examples of local history projects?

Businesses

Neighborhoods

Events

Authors

Personalities



Photos courtesy City of Cleveland Heights

What are some examples of local history projects?

Businesses

Interview older businesses on site
Get materials from them (pictures, artifacts, newspaper clippings, etc.)
about when they started, what the neighborhood was like then
This is another way to bring the community in on a personal level with your library



Neighborhoods

Different neighborhoods have different feels to them
Find people who live there and are willing to talk about growing up there
Look for stories you can build on with materials from your (or their) collections



Photos courtesy City of Cleveland Heights

What are some examples of local history projects?

Events

Could be local or national events
Capture the reaction of community members to events happening

For example:

National ...

moon landing, war effort,
civil rights movement

Local ...

important sports victories,
infamous fires, crimes,
factory closings

Authors/personalities

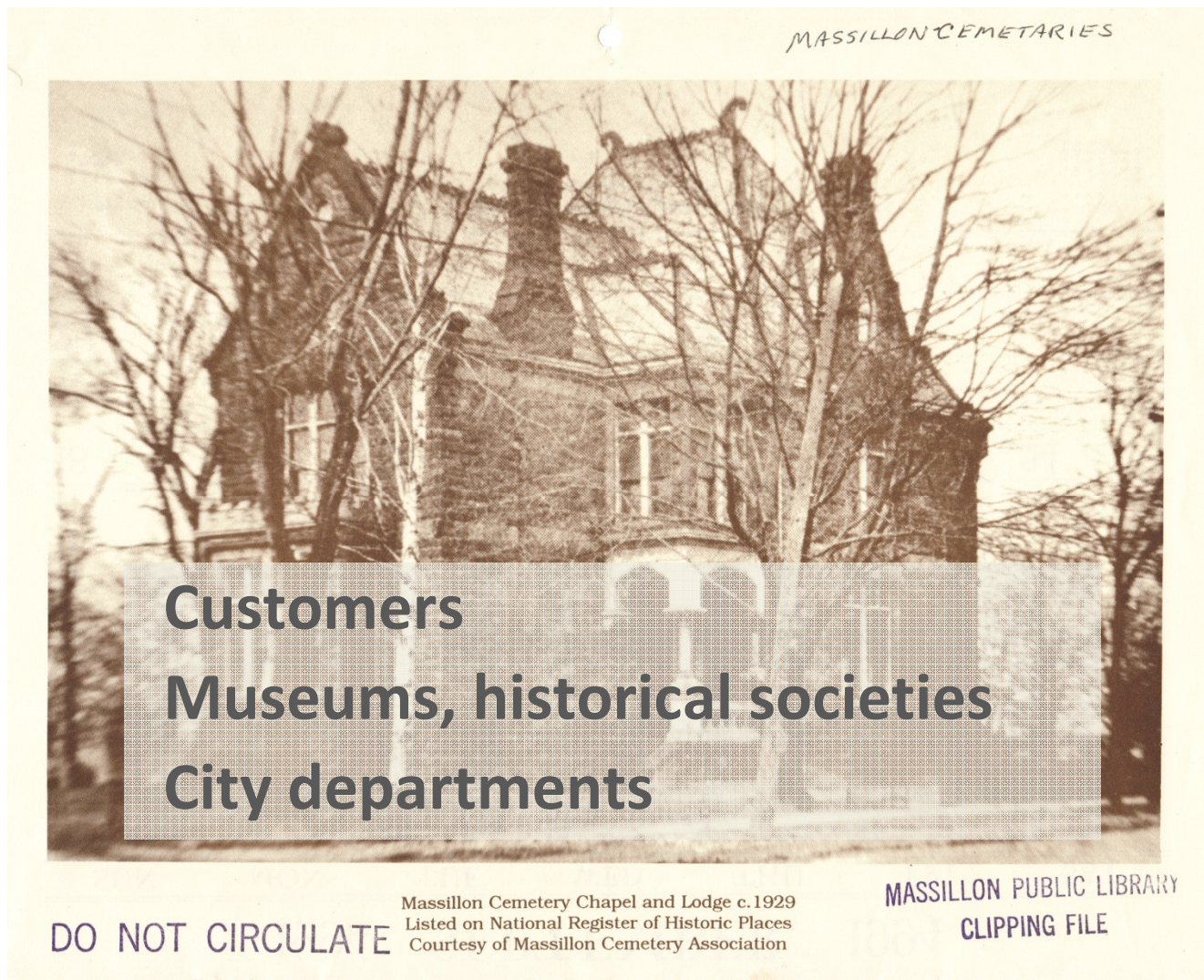
Have them talk about their local inspiration

Get them to talk about their accomplishments and their experiences growing up here



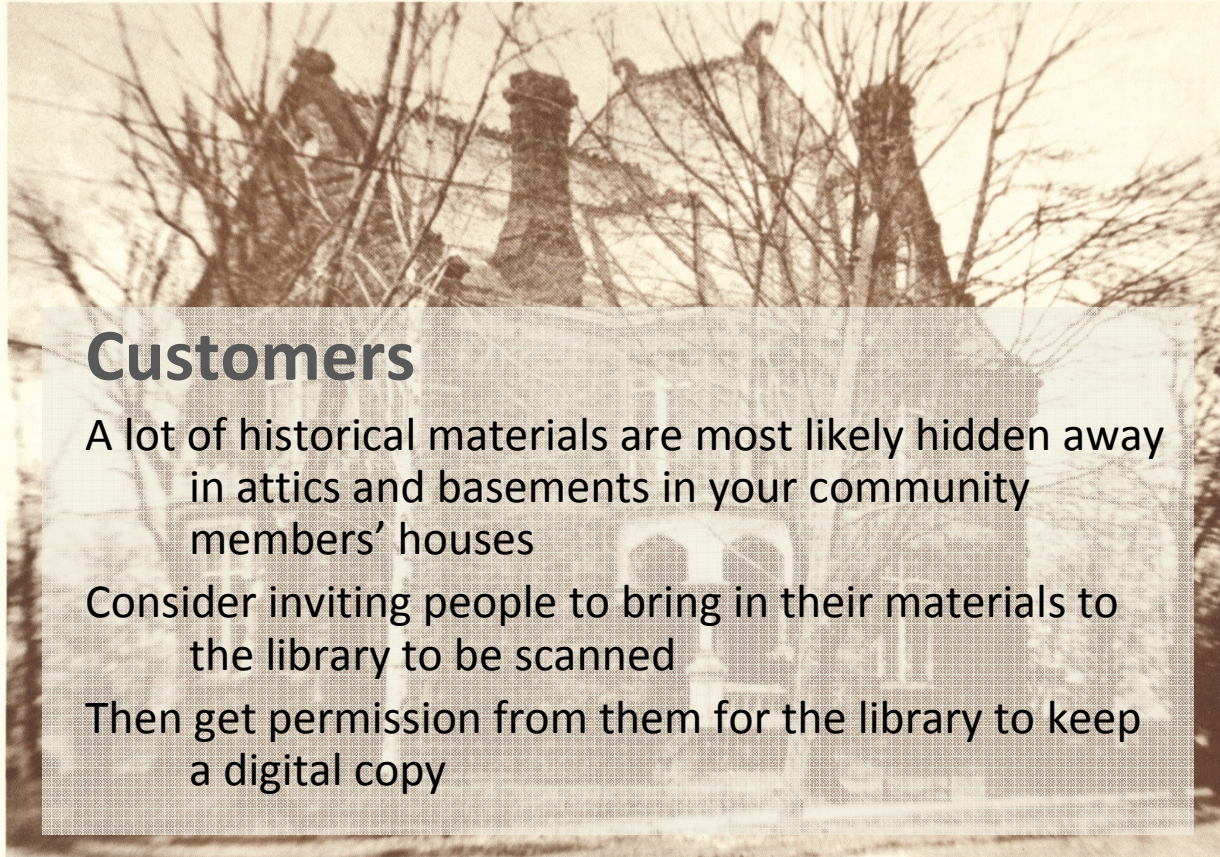
Photos courtesy City of Cleveland Heights

Where do I find materials to digitize?



Where do I find materials to digitize?

MASSILLON CEMETARIES



Customers

A lot of historical materials are most likely hidden away in attics and basements in your community members' houses

Consider inviting people to bring in their materials to the library to be scanned

Then get permission from them for the library to keep a digital copy

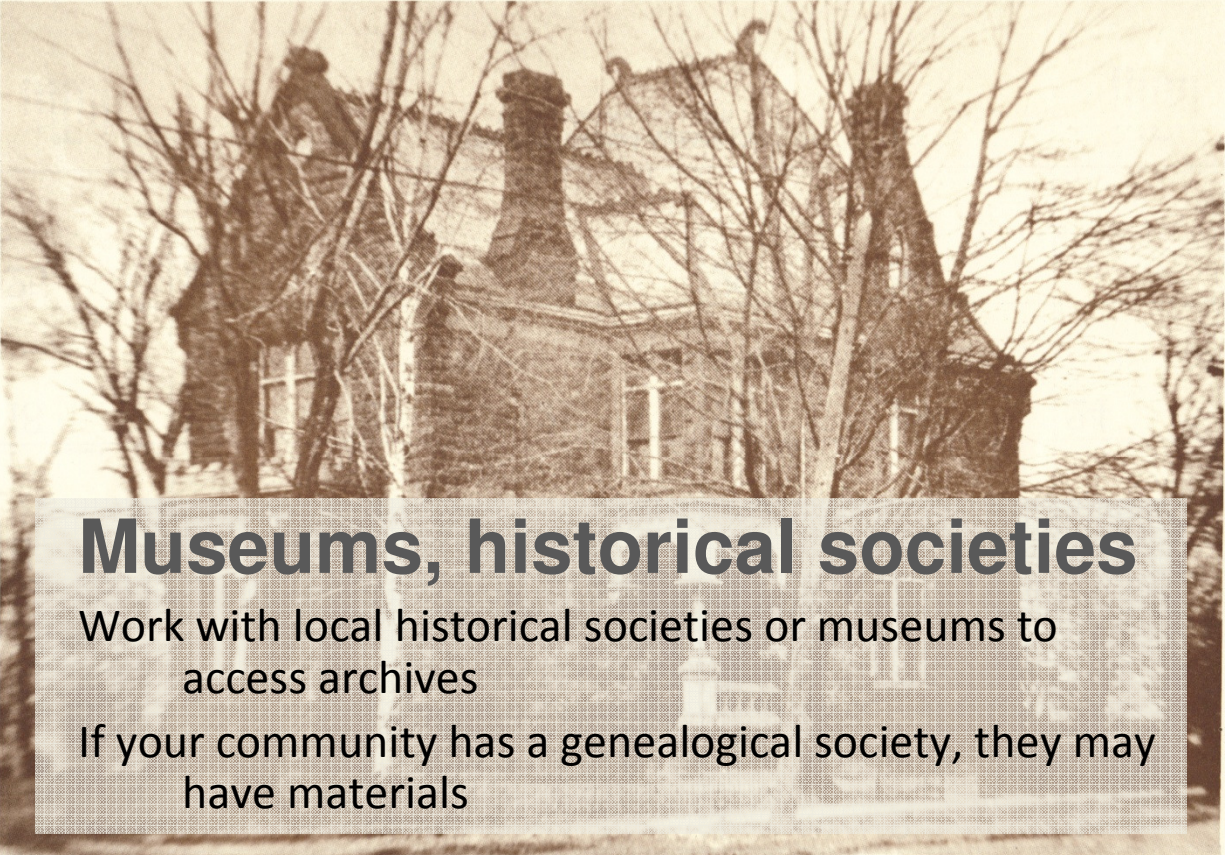
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Massillon Cemetery Chapel and Lodge c.1929
Listed on National Register of Historic Places
Courtesy of Massillon Cemetery Association

MASSILLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLIPPING FILE

Where do I find materials to digitize?

MASSILLON CEMETARIES



Museums, historical societies
Work with local historical societies or museums to access archives
If your community has a genealogical society, they may have materials

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Massillon Cemetery Chapel and Lodge c.1929
Listed on National Register of Historic Places
Courtesy of Massillon Cemetery Association

MASSILLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLIPPING FILE

Where do I find materials to digitize?

MASSILLON CEMETARIES



City departments

City departments often have archived pictures of street signs, houses and other community features

Planning and development departments, for instance, public safety ... even fire departments often have archives

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Massillon Cemetery Chapel and Lodge c.1929
Listed on National Register of Historic Places
Courtesy of Massillon Cemetery Association

MASSILLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLIPPING FILE

What is Microsoft Photostory 3?

Photostory is free slide-show software that can combine image & audio files into a nicely formatted documentary-style mp3 file that you can post online



What is Microsoft Photostory 3?

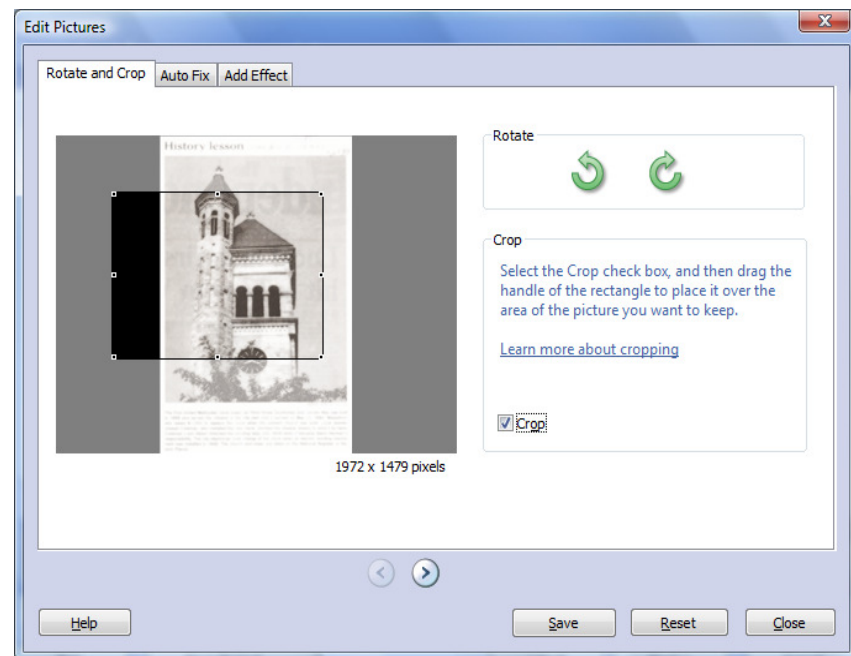
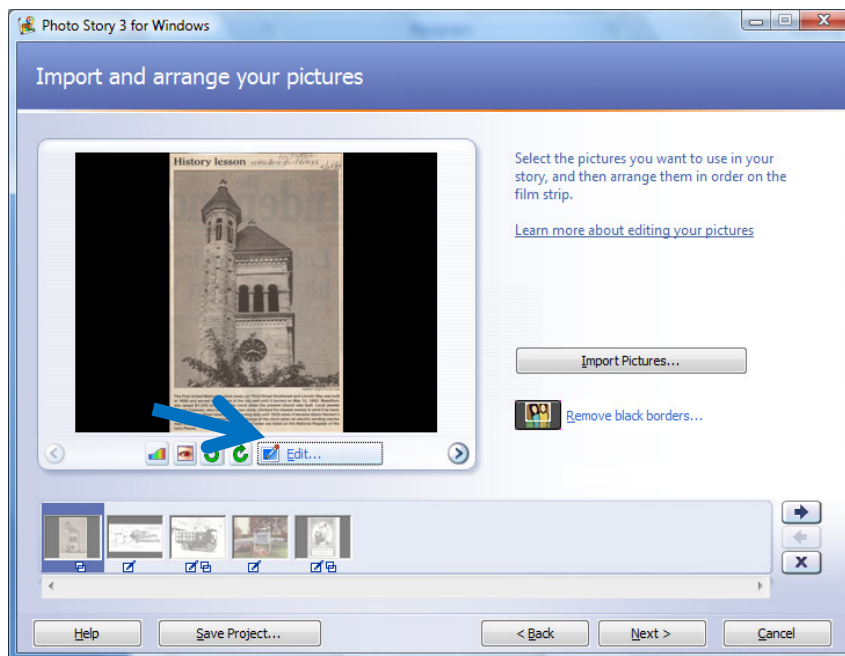


Images can be uploaded and then edited in 3 ways:

Cropping (changing the size of the image)

Image effects (enhancing color, changing to grayscale, etc.)

Motion (adjusting the way the image moves in the slideshow)



What is Microsoft Photostory 3?

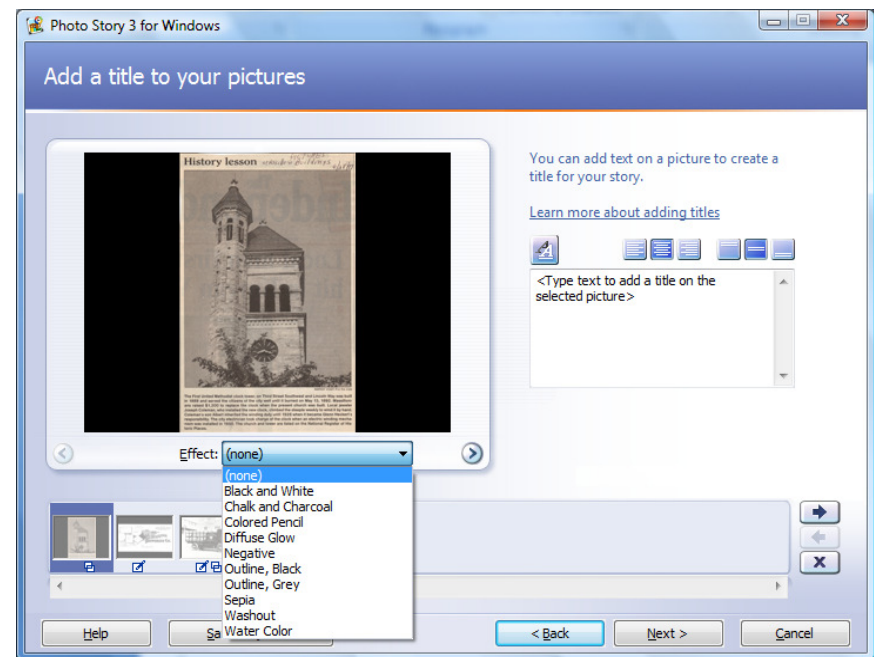
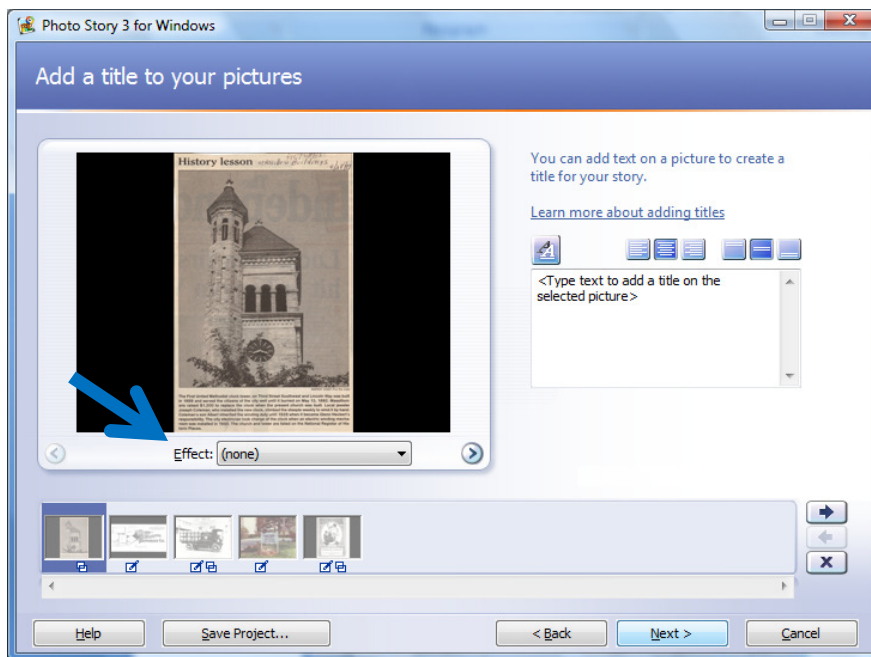


Images can be uploaded and then edited in 3 ways:

Cropping (changing the size of the image)

Image effects (enhancing color, changing to grayscale, etc.)

Motion (adjusting the way the image moves in the slideshow)



What is Microsoft Photostory 3?

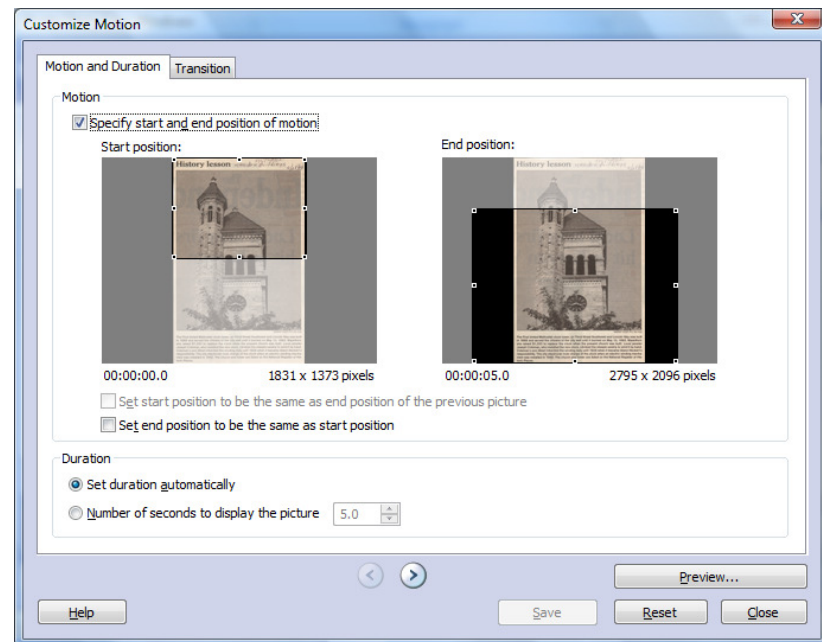
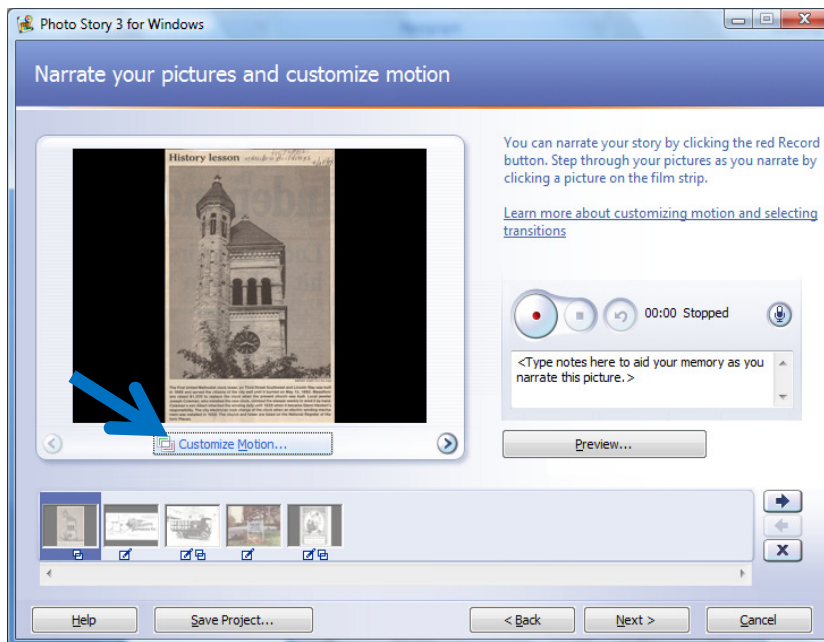


Images can be uploaded and then edited in 3 ways:

Cropping (changing the size of the image)

Image effects (enhancing color, changing to grayscale, etc.)

Motion (adjusting the way the image moves in the slideshow)

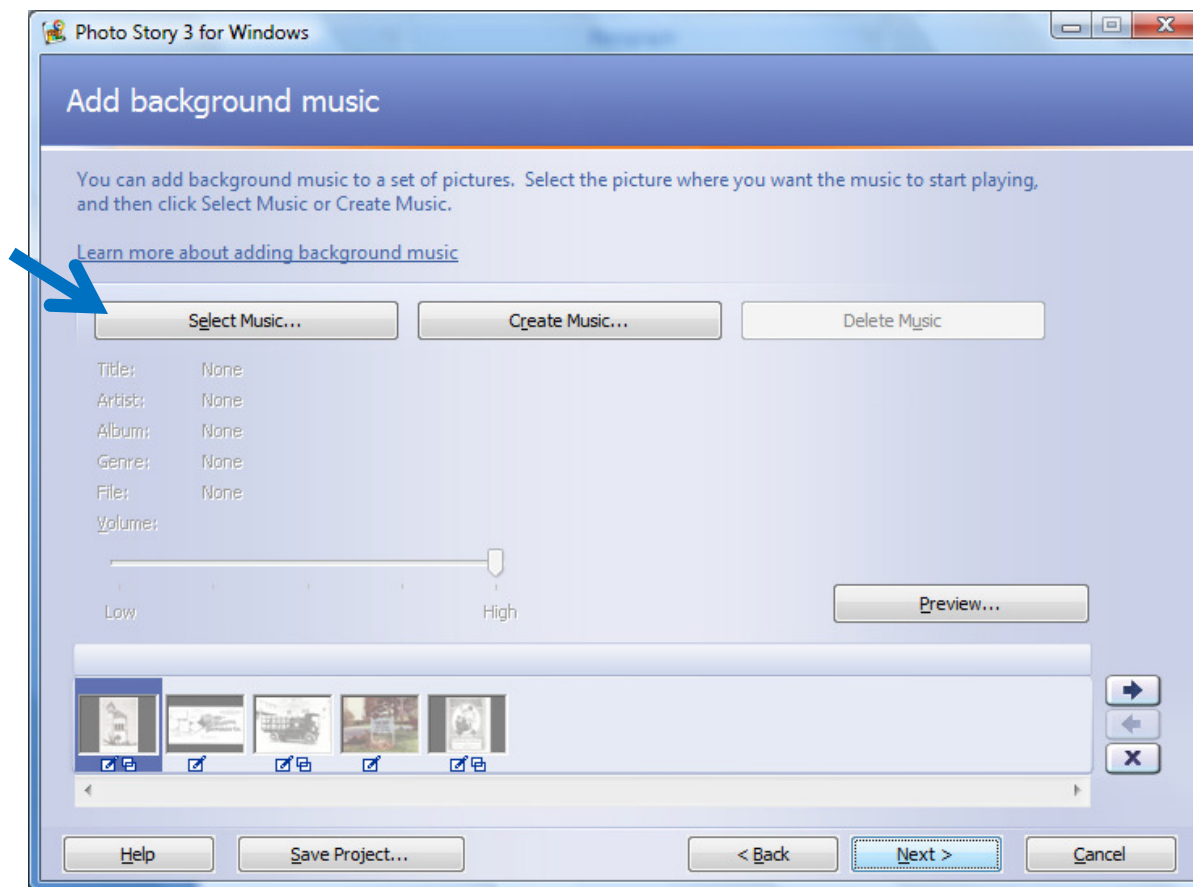


What is Microsoft Photostory 3?



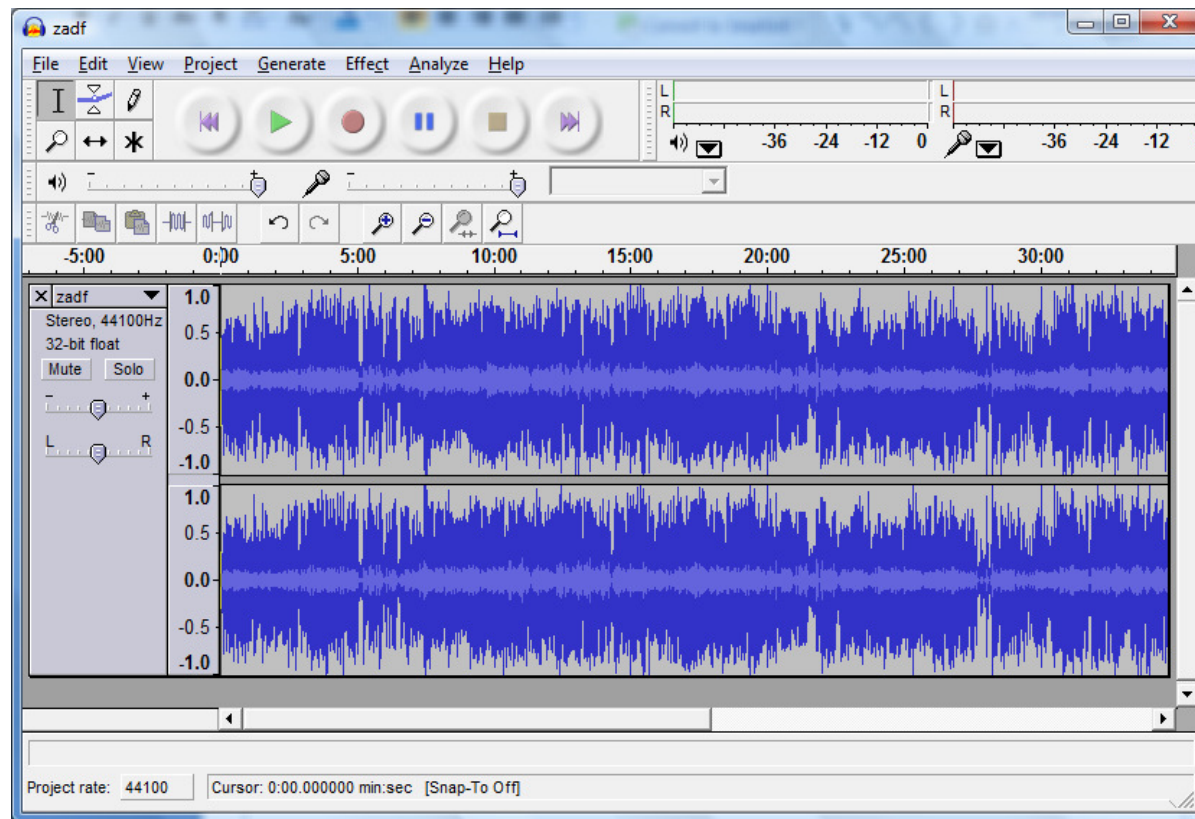
“Audio files” can be music or audio interviews:

Audio files will play for the length of time set for the images in the tray



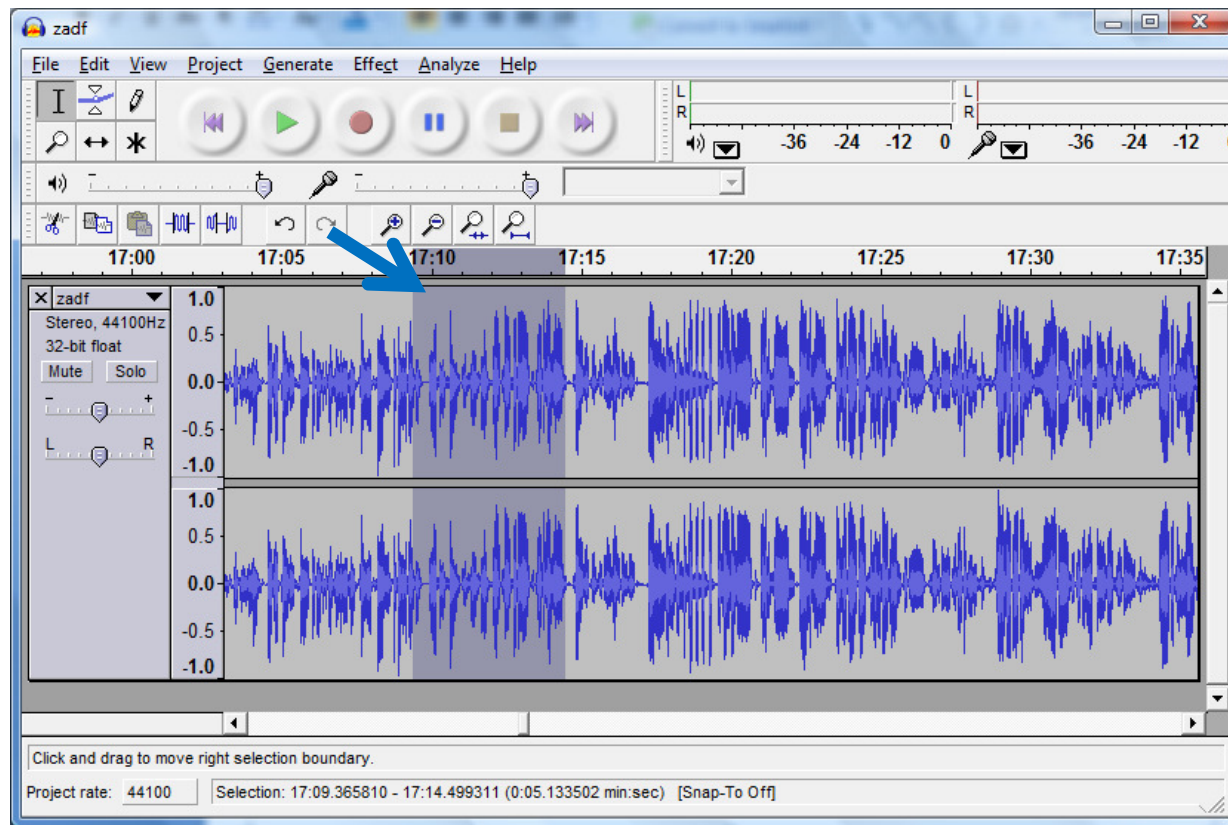
Audacity

Audacity is free audio editing software
It converts audio into mp3 files



Audacity

You can zoom in to the audio file to cut/paste sections



...Free software for editing

Microsoft Photostory 3 

Audacity 

GIMP – graphic editing 

...Free server space for displaying

YouTube 

Omnisio (for mashups) 

What are the benefits of local history stories?

Community feels invested in the library

People really want to hear stories about their community, about places they can recognize

Libraries become cool content creators

Put your collection to work for you; reshape and repackage your collection to keep the dust off

You can share it with the world!

Harvey Pekar Talks About Coventry on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJot2mLy40Y>

