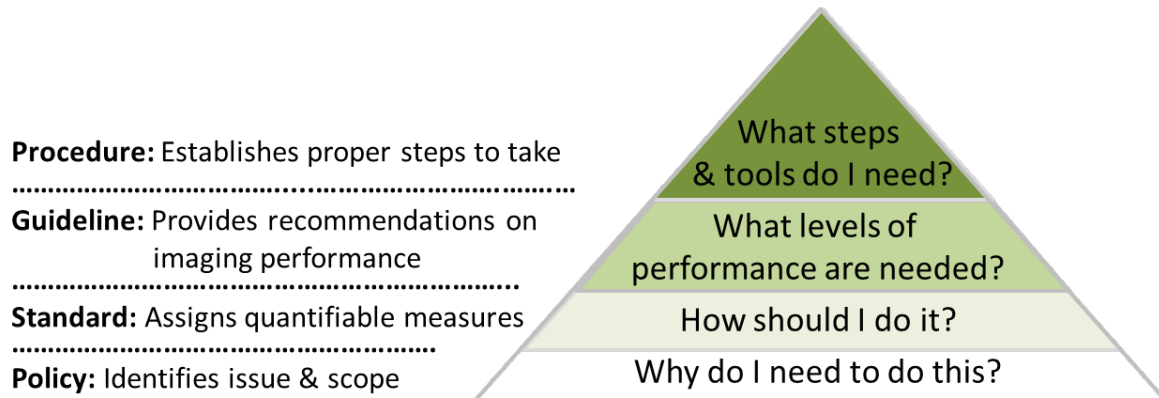


Cultural Heritage Imaging: Policies, Standards, Procedures, and Guidelines

Don Williams, [Image Science Associates](#)

(Adapted from frsecure.com)



Cultural heritage imaging performance evaluation and guidelines

Policies: Consistent, common, and good digital imaging practices across cultural heritage institutions adopted for lower costs (less rework), effective communication, and ease of management. These are currently applied to 2D imaging of flat works.

Standards: Agreed upon methods for objectively quantifying how to accurately measure digital imaging performance. These are usually defined at the national (e.g. ANSI, DIN, AFNOR) or international (ISO, IEC, ASTM, IEEE) levels by recognized experts in their fields. Examples for digital imaging include methods for measuring resolution, exposure, color, noise, or distortion.

It is important to understand that standards do not establish the numerical levels by which ‘good’ imaging is defined. They only establish ‘how’ to objectively measure performance. They do not define what performance levels define excellent, good, or bad for a particular purpose or collection. The latter is established through guidelines based on use case and importance.

Procedures: These most often include the use of imaging targets (test charts), software tools, quality assurance and workflow practices, and training, to effectively execute policies using standards. Examples for cultural heritage imaging include targets (e.g., [DICE](#) or [UTT](#) targets), software ([Imatest](#), [GoldenThread](#), [Delt.ae](#), [ImCheck](#), [OpenDICE](#), and [IQ-Analyzer](#)), and training ([Lyrasis](#), conference tutorials, imaging interest groups).

Guidelines: For cultural heritage imaging these include the [Federal Agency Digital Guideline Initiative](#) (FADGI) and [Metamorfoze](#). These sets of guidelines offer suggestions on what levels of imaging performance, as evaluated through standards, are needed for different use cases and collection materials. These guidelines have common aim points but vary in goodness levels, based on the amount of allowable tolerance or variability around the aim. In this way they largely establish consistent levels as articulated in the policy statement.