



Region : USA
Industry : Library

Plustek OpticBook A300 Plus Helps Historical Society Preserve History

Mifflin County Pennsylvania Historical Society's Digital Transformation

Organization

Mifflin County Historical Society

Challenge

To improve research efficiency and effectiveness, Mifflin County Historical Society required high quality digital images of books, scrapbooks, newspapers, documents, military and civil records.

Solution

Plustek OpticBook A300 Plus A3 size book scanner.

Results

Historical materials scanned on the OpticBook A300 Plus are now digitized and fully searchable. Research is more efficient and digital copies of the materials will be stored off site as part of their disaster recovery plan.

Mifflin County Historical Society is the official county historical society designated by the County of Mifflin and recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The society will mark its 100th anniversary in 2021. With the mission of "Preserving the Past for the Future", the society started a project to digitize their collections of books, newspapers, historical documents, photos, military, and civil records. Mifflin County Historical Society chose the Plustek OpticBook A300 Plus book scanner for their digitizing tasks.

The digitization of these materials has three major benefits:

- All text is changed to searchable data by the OpticBook A300 Plus's Book Pavilion Optical

Character Recognition (OCR) software. This enables researchers to find materials by typing words and phrases into their computer rather than visually searching through file cabinets and stacks of materials. Staff members are now able to provide research information much more efficiently.

- Difficult to read handwriting is easier to read because of the scanner resolution and the ability to zoom in to a very highly magnified image.
- All digitized information will be stored off-site as part of the historical society's disaster recovery plan.

Betty Coldren, society volunteer, said: "The Research Library has scanned 12 scrapbooks containing local newspaper clippings collected during World War II. The brittle pages were enclosed in archival protectors for ease of handling. **The Plustek OpticBook A300 Plus scanner has made this project possible. These digitized, searchable scrapbooks have already been useful for several of our patrons.** Even as the books were scanned, a library researcher was able to answer an email request from the Netherlands! This would have been impossible before the scrapbooks were scanned and made searchable."

To date, the historical society has scanned over 7000 pages with "...many more that need to be scanned."

The Plustek OpticBook A300 Plus is an A3/Tabloid size scanner that is designed for scanning books, documents, photos, and artwork up to 12" x 17" in size. It includes Book Pavilion software that

creates searchable PDF files from books and other printed materials. The scanner is designed with a unique book edge and illumination system collectively known as SEE™ Technology. This improves Optical Character Recognition (OCR) accuracy while eliminating distortions and shadows that are frequently found on scanned book images.

Key features include:

- Patent pending Shadow Elimination Element (SEE™) that improves OCR accuracy, eliminates distortions and spine shadows.
- Scans a 12" x 17" page in about 2 seconds.
- Includes Book Pavilion book scanning software with OCR.
- Instant-on, no warm-up time.
- Save to PDF, Searchable PDF, EPUB, BMP, JPG, and TIF file formats.
- CCD sensor with 600 dpi resolution provides sharp images and accurate color.

"This is a great example of how Plustek solutions are helping to preserve history. And we are honored to be working with a customer like the Mifflin County Historical Society," said Johnson Yang VP of Plustek's Americas region.



Plustek has a broad portfolio of book, photo, and graphic scanners that help museums, libraries and historical societies to digitize historical materials. Plustek also provides pre-sale consultation and post-sale telephone support at no charge. For more information visit Plustek.com or contact us at infoUSA@PlustekUS.com.

The OpticBook A300 Plus has an MSRP of \$1699 and is available from all major resellers including Adorama, B&H Photo, CDW, PC Mall, PC Nation, SHI, Vantage Point and others.

About Plustek

Plustek is a leading manufacturer of imaging solutions based in Southern California. In business since 1986, Plustek manufactures over 30 scanner models including document, ID card, passport, mobile, book, film, and photo scanners. Imaging solutions include ID card and

passport reading, document capture, indexing and data extraction, and imaging tool kits for ISVs and Systems Integrators. Contact infoUSA@PlustekUS.com for more information.

About Mifflin County Historical Society

The Mifflin County Historical Society, founded in 1921, had become known as "Frysinger's Dream". The founder George R. Frysinger had served as a Civil War editor of the Lewistown Gazette and ended his years of affiliation with the Society as the President Emeritus.

The Constitution of the Society states: "exists to record and preserve our history and to relate to present day events and places, that coming generations will cherish and protect this heritage from the past and its people". Contact office@mifflincountyhistory.org for more information.

