

Problem: What do we do with all our family “articles of history?”

Jim Hadley has been at genealogy for over 30 years and has become the “keeper” of Hadley *stuff* of every description. Actually, once this title was bestowed, he became the “repositor” as well for all things Hadley related. He has gladly accepted this position in the family and has reaped the benefits of gaining a first-hand look at artifacts of every description. I have watched him pore over documents, letters, diaries, bibles, and so on with pure delight. He has recorded much of the details contained within these. But as you may expect, there is much more to this collection than any one person can manage. There is a filing system Jim has organized, and then there are the things that he plans to one day get to.

Realizing the realities and practicalities of life, the question becomes – what will happen to these precious family treasures once Jim is gone? Let’s face it. Most if not all will be discarded. Wishing to avoid this fate, we are proposing an attempt to “save the whales,” so to speak.

How?

A Hadley Family Virtual Museum.¹ The items in the collection of family *stuff* would be scanned and then made available online. Originals would be safely stored away somewhere yet to be determined, but accessible to interested parties.

It is our objective to find funding sources that would support the development of a prototype of such a family virtual museum. Once a template was created, it could then be made available to other families out there who might also wish to have one of their own. We would need to hire capable individuals to do the scanning and cataloging under the careful supervision of family members. There would be countless hours of work involved, as we could all imagine.

We are floating this idea now, crazy as it may seem, in hopes that those of you with any interest in such a project could join us in our exploration and investigation.

¹ A virtual museum is a museum that exists only online. A virtual museum is also known as an online museum, electronic museum, hypermuseum, digital museum, cybermuseum or Web museum. The term used depends upon the backgrounds of the practitioners and researchers working in this field.

The virtualization of physical museums can increase interest by students learning about their collections: “Virtual visitors to museum websites already out-number physical (on-site) visitors, and many of these are engaged in dedicated learning.”

Virtual museums include museums that hold art originally created digitally, such as [Net art](#), [Virtual Reality](#) and [Digital art](#). The term is often used to refer to a museum that takes advantages of the Internet to display digital representations of its collections.