

Okaloosa County finds the digital quality from microfilm conversion that they need, thanks to Kodak

SITUATION

Okaloosa County Clerk of Courts needs to transfer analog microfilm records to digital files for Internet access.

OBJECTIVE

Find a dependable supplier of conversion services that can create digital images that match the quality and definition found on the County's microfilm archives.

SOLUTION

Film-to-Digital Conversion Services from **Kodak** Service & Support.

COMMENT

"The files from Kodak came back beautifully detailed, and then we made the decision to work with them."

~ D.T. Smith,
Computer Technician,
Okaloosa County Clerk of Courts

For D.T. Smith, it's all about definition. "If I can see it on the microfilm, I expect to see it digitally," says the Computer Technician at the Okaloosa County Clerk of Courts. "Two companies came close, but no one really got the definition I was looking for until we worked with Kodak." Smith is referring to the Film-to-Digital Conversion Services from **Kodak** Service & Support.

Smith has been dealing with microfilm since 1988, and now spends much of his time with it, as Okaloosa County has rolls dating back to 1950. The county, now the fastest-growing in Florida, is on the state's panhandle and famed for its white sugar-sand beaches along the "Emerald Coast."

The County Clerk's office began its conversion efforts by requesting sample digital images from five vendors but was disappointed in the results. After submitting a sample roll to Kodak's Conversion Services group, Smith finally found the quality he was seeking. "I knew we should be able to get what I was looking for, because I believe the quality of our microfilm is very good," Smith recalls. "The files from Kodak came back beautifully detailed, and then we made the decision to work with them."

Digital needs call and Okaloosa answers

With the increasing dependence on the Internet for access to records, the County believed it was time to digitize all records formerly kept only on film. "We have upgraded our film over the years," says Smith. "We have a gentleman here who is highly skilled in working with microfilm. He's now 83 years old and he meticulously converted all of our older 35 mm to 16 mm film."

Thus far, the County has created a digital archive of the Clerk File and Registry, as well as all Marriage Licenses in their system. Next, they're embarking on the Clerk Filing Registry, Probate Records and Marriage Licenses (before 1970). And the County plans to continue to rely on microfilm as a true form of backup and safekeeping for official records.

Today, the office has six public-access computer terminals in each of their two offices: Crestview and Shalimar. "Part of it is an educational process," says Smith. "We can now show them how to pull up an image, walk them through it and then the next time they're able to do it themselves." The Clerk's office stores digital records on their SAN (Storage Area Network) for fast access. They receive the images from Kodak's Conversion Services on DVDs and then safeguard the DVDs, as well as the original microfilm, as a secure backup means. Single-page TIFF images are the preferred format, with the office completing their own indexing.

Advancements, progress and satisfaction

"We're making progress," Smith says. "We moved up from magnetic optical disks a couple years ago to our new 10 terabyte SAN unit, and now we're continuing with our digitization of microfilm records project. And Kodak has been a big part of this success." Smith cites not just the quality of work, but the customer service and speed as well. "We sent them 96 rolls and had them back in a couple of weeks. We're simply very happy with the definition and images, the turnaround, and how they pay attention to the details."

While Kodak's Conversion Services has converted 16 mm microfilm for Okaloosa, they also offer microfiche and aperture card conversion services. And when film is older or not in ideal condition, a number of value-added software enhancements

help to deliver exceptional, cleaner images and reduced file sizes. These enhancements include:

- Despeckle
- Cropping
- Density adjustment
- Image rotation
- Automatic skew correction
- Edge enhancement

Digital files are provided in TIFF, JPEG and PDF file formats, along with text-delimited indexes, on a choice of standardized formats ranging from CD-ROM to DVD to encrypted USB disk drives.

For more information on conversion services available through **Kodak** Service & Support, please phone 1-704-226-5601.

Kodak
Service & Support



To learn more:

www.kodak.com/go/docimaging

Keep it Simple. Keep it Kodak.

Printed using **Kodak** Technologies.

Eastman Kodak Company

343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650
1-800-944-6171

Kodak Canada, Inc.

Toronto, Ontario M6M 1V3
1-800-465-6325