

Preserving and digitizing astronomy's 100-year heritage of photographic
observations

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Astronomy has a rich resource of photographic observations, some dating back over 100 years. Between them they have recorded innumerable rapid, slow, periodic or secular changes in a vast range of celestial objects. Many events will not repeat, so past evidence can be a crucial complement to more recent data. But data rescue is not advanced; while the locations are mostly known, and just a few of the necessary digitizers still remains (or have recently been purpose-built), the funding for wholesale scanning is proving elusive.