ContactSheetMaker

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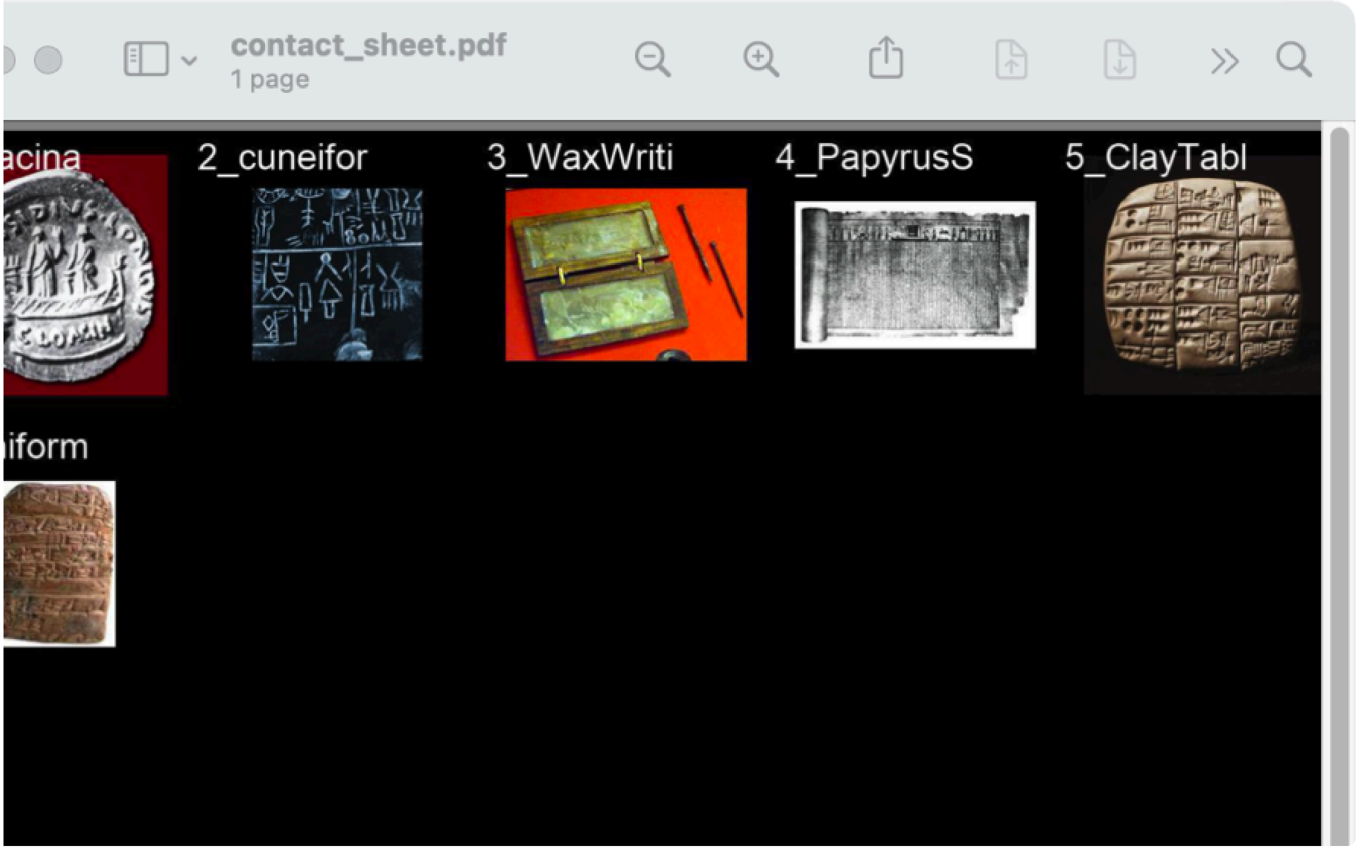


PDF output created by ContactSheetMaker script

ContactSheetMaker is a command-line Python script developed by Kelsey Poloney. It takes a folder of images (typically digital photographs) and creates a set of thumbnail images (one for each file) as a multi-page pdf document. It then structures the parent folder so that it is ready for ingest to Archivematica.

The resulting pdf mimics the traditional analog contact sheet – a positive print of all negatives from a roll of film to facilitate scanning and selection of images. SFU Archives uses ContactSheetMaker when it receives transfers of folders that contain large numbers of photographs. Rather than uploading each photograph to SFU Atom as individual items, the processing archivist uses the script to create a digital contact sheet and uploads that as a representation of the archival "file". Researchers can easily browse the pdf sheet and identify any images for which they would like copies. An archivist can then deliver the copies of the originals offline.

The script can be used in many circumstances, but was originally designed with a particular use case in mind: transfers of photos from campus units that employed staff photographers (e.g. University Communications). These typically organized their files into folders representing photo shoots or projects. The folders often contain a very large number of very similar shots, only one or two of which may have been selected for publication / use. Typically the creators did not exercise any further appraisal (i.e. they do not destroy the non-selected images), they often did not document which files were selected, and it is not usually possible to determine this years later. The Archives generally does not consider it feasible or desirable to do item-level appraisal and selection, but neither do we wish to flood SFU AtoM with a plethora of similar files. By uploading the contact sheet only, we provide simple access to all images, while allowing researchers to identify those for which they wish to get full copies.

Download

Download the Python script from Kelsey Poloney's GitHub site.

- Click the green **Code** button to download a zip file.
- Unzip and move the **contact_sheet.py** file to wherever you wish to store it.

The script can be stored and run from any location on your computer.

Configuration

The script looks for certain file extensions and ignores the rest. You can expand the list of extensions by editing **line 17** on the script.

Default extensions are:

```
png, jpg, jpeg, tiff, gif, jp2, jpm, jpx, bmd, pct, psd, tga
```

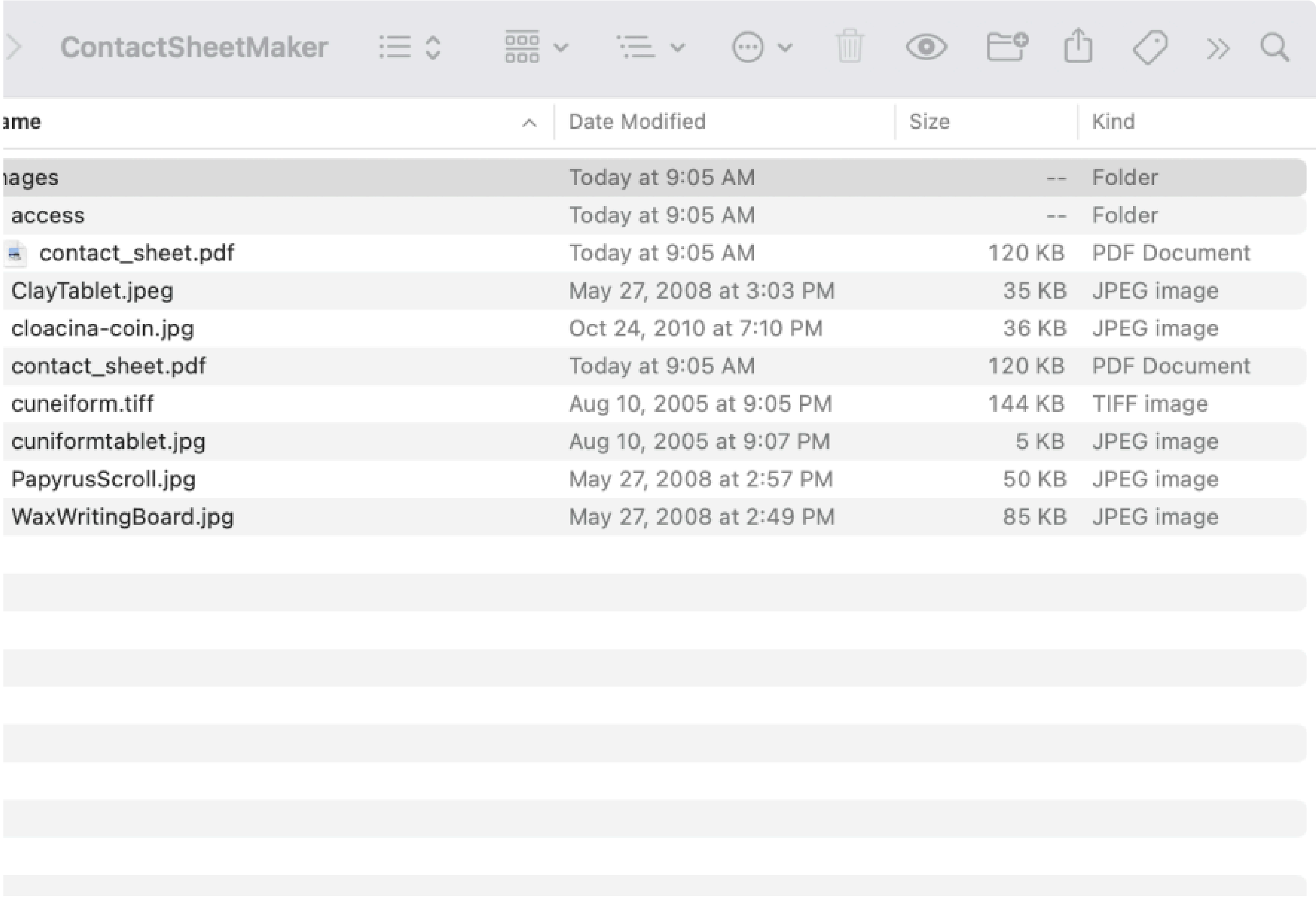
Usage

Run the script by command line. You'll need to know the full file paths for the location of the script and the target folder containing the photos to be processed.

```
python3 /path/to/contact_sheet.py
```

You will be prompted to enter the target folder path.

```
/path/to/target/folder/
```



ame	Date Modified	Size	Kind
ages	Today at 9:05 AM	--	Folder
access	Today at 9:05 AM	--	Folder
contact_sheet.pdf	Today at 9:05 AM	120 KB	PDF Document
ClayTablet.jpeg	May 27, 2008 at 3:03 PM	35 KB	JPEG image
cloacina-coin.jpg	Oct 24, 2010 at 7:10 PM	36 KB	JPEG image
contact_sheet.pdf	Today at 9:05 AM	120 KB	PDF Document
cuneiform.tiff	Aug 10, 2005 at 9:05 PM	144 KB	TIFF image
cuniformtablet.jpg	Aug 10, 2005 at 9:07 PM	5 KB	JPEG image
PapyrusScroll.jpg	May 27, 2008 at 2:57 PM	50 KB	JPEG image
WaxWritingBoard.jpg	May 27, 2008 at 2:49 PM	85 KB	JPEG image

The script:

- Creates a new sub-folder called **access**.
- Generates two copies of a pdf file called **contact-sheet.pdf**.
- Places one copy of the pdf file in the **access** folder and one in the top-level directory.

Notes

You can get the file paths of the script and the target folder by dragging them into the Terminal window.

Make sure to include the closing forward slash / on the target folder location.

The folder structure is ready for ingest to Archivematica: the existence of the **access** sub-folder tells Archivematica not to make access copies of the original images and to use the pdf file as the DIP sent to AtoM.

The script can be run on heterogeneous folders that contains files that are not images; non-image file extensions will be ignored.

The script is not recursive: the target folder cannot contain sub-folders.

Links

Developer's GitHub site: https://github.com/kpoloney/contact_sheet.