



# Archiving Large Format Drawings for a Large Software Company



## Preserving Drawings Through Digitization

A large software company was looking for conversion and indexing of hundreds of thousands of old large format drawings, blueprints, and drawing sheets. The drawings were different sizes, paper types, and visibly showed signs of aging. In addition to the drawings, there were other documents such as maps and photographs included. As a result, the company was looking to outsource this task to a business that would understand the need for quality and precision when handling the drawings.

### Handling Historical Drawings with Care

Attention to detail was necessary to maintain the integrity of each drawing in order to ensure the highest quality of scans. Some of the drawings were on onion skin, mylar, or even vellum paper. In some cases, based on the condition of the drawing paper, repair or other mending may be required before scan conversion.

A clear laminate sleeve would be used to protect the drawing as it passed through the scanner. Specific scan image optimization and image enhancements enhanced the quality of the different types of drawings due to aging. ARDEM recommended scanning at 300 dpi resolution to prevent the possible loss of data at lower resolutions.

#### Key Benefits

- Attention to Detail
- Extensive Quality Assurance
- Tools to ensure each drawing is preserved in the condition they were received.

#### Get the Most Accurate Document Conversion

- ⇒ Each large drawing or Print may be of a different age and originally constructed on different media- mylar, onion skin, blue line, or even on linen.
- ⇒ Our scan operators optimize the color, contrast, resolution, color drop-out settings to give you the best quality large format scan image.

Once scanned, data such as the drawing title, number, revision number, drawing date, revision date, vendor name, and purchase date was extracted from the legend or title block. In addition to these fields, ARDEM included an eight-field image name in the index to allow for easily retrieval.

Drawings that had an illegible title block or no title block would be noted. All indexing was double-keyed where two data sets would be compared and discrepancies were flagged and a 3<sup>rd</sup> operator would correct it by comparing it against the source image.

## Outsourcing to Maintain Accuracy

This company has been continuously working with ARDEM to digitize and index thousands of large format drawings for the past couple of years. All drawings are handled with care and returned to the same packaging as received and the images were sent using a secure FTP.

OCR technology is not recommended due to the nature of handwritten scripts and special characters as they are not recognized with sufficient accuracy especially since the location of the legend blocks would vary between each drawing. Using an intersection of technology and manual intervention, ARDEM developed a solution that incorporated both efficiency and the best accuracy of data.



**Large Format Drawings require acute attention to detail skills. Paper dating back through the decades slowly deteriorates which is why ARDEM takes great care in preserving valuable data.**

### About ARDEM Incorporated

ARDEM Incorporated delivers success companies looking to efficiently streamline their processes and improve ROI. We implement the world's most sophisticated Technology platform combining human interaction with advance technologies to automate business processes and lower operational costs.

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