Fred Fehl (1906-1995) was a stage photographer who worked primarily in New York City. Between 1940 and 1985, Fehl documented more than fifty dance companies and choreographers, among them the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet, for whom he became the official photographer. The Harry Ransom Center holds more than 30,000 of Fehl’s dance photographs, most of which are black and white 5 x 7” prints. Fehl was among the first stage photographers to take candid photographs exclusively using available light. He revolutionized dance photography by using high-speed film that revealed the emotional expression of actors at key moments and captured dancers in midflight. Fehl photographed performances from the perspective of an audience member in the first row, bringing a new urgency and sensitivity to American stage photography. The Ransom Center has recently begun a project of digitizing the photographs in the Fred Fehl Dance Collection. The Ransom Center owns the copyright to the Fehl photos, making them an ideal candidate for digitization.

**Creation.**
A worker views each photograph individually and enters metadata on the item into a spreadsheet according to pre-determined metadata standards for CONTENTdm.

**Metadata.**

**Images.**

**Scanning.**
A worker scans each photograph as a 600 dpi TIFF and saves the scan in the Ransom Center’s digital images server.

**Quality Control.**
After the initial spreadsheet is created, other workers perform quality control on the metadata. Once quality control has been performed, the information from the spreadsheet is used for ingestion into CONTENTdm.

**Processing.**
Using LIMB Image Processing software, a worker converts the raw TIFFs into uniformly cropped 300 dpi JPEGs. This prepares the images for ingestion into CONTENTdm.

*Metadata for each photograph includes production name, item creator (Fred Fehl), year and season of production, a short description of the photograph (including the names of dancers pictured, if known), a subject description of the company using Library of Congress authority headings, the format and dimensions of the item (most are 5 x 7” landscape photographs), information on the collection and copyright (The Harry Ransom Center holds the rights to this collection), and the location of the photograph within the collection.*