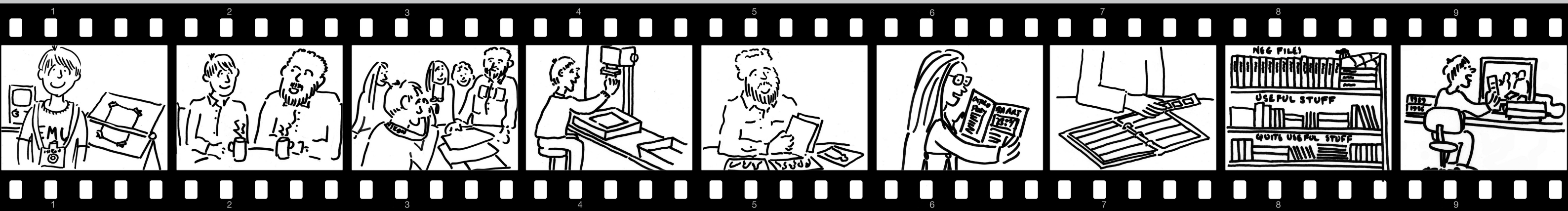


The Album: Photos of Brookes and Before | Bob Pomfret

Last year we began to digitise a selection of the thousands of 35mm film negatives we have kept since I began work at Oxford Poly in 1986. This poster depicts the ‘life’ of one of those negs from ‘birth’ in 1989 to ‘rebirth’ as part of Brookes online Repository, RADAR. I look back on those days of working in the dark room with fondness but digital technology has made the process so much quicker and easier, and also more reliable. I wouldn’t swop back.



Starting at the beginning. This is me in 1989. We are in EMU at Oxford Poly and I’ve got a photographic assignment using my Nikon F3 35mm SLR Camera.

My client is Tony Evora, Head of Art. He is looking a new image for the Prospectus.

I take a roll of film of Tony working with a group of students.

There follows at least half a days work in the darkroom, processing the film and printing pictures.

Eventually Tony gets to see the photographs and selects one for the prospectus.

And in the end the prospectus is printed and the job is done.

Afterwards all of the negatives from the photo shoot get filed away, just in case they are needed again and...

...for the next twenty years they sit, gathering dust, on the top shelf.... with thousands of other negs.

Until in 2010 the decision is taken to create a digital archive of some of those thousands of negatives and we embark on a project to scan the most interesting ones.

The photo from that shoot in 1989 is one of more than 400 images that we have archived in the Radar Collection ‘The Album - photos of Brookes and before’

The collection is searchable by: photographer, location, date and key words and the pictures are free to use under a Creative Commons Licence

If you want higher res versions they are available from the Media Workshop

www.brookes.ac.uk/go/radar

