Outline for Digital Photography

Introduction

* Crimes refer to actions that are committed and are against the law. Crimes are committed by criminals who have no regard for the law. The laws of a nation are meant to protect it by according people safety ensuring that there is no crime in the country. Because of the criminal activities existing in the environment, there are organizations formed to handle crimes so that the level can go down.
* Due to criminals using sophisticated technologies in their crimes, the people concerned with catching criminals have also adopted using technology to catch the criminals. One of the ways invented by technology is the use of digital photography in investigating crimes and catching offenders.

Advantages of Digital Photography in Investigations

* There are many advantages that digital photography brings to the field of investigation, helping to catch criminals. One of the advantages of digital photography in crime investigation is that digital cameras used in digital photography are built with a high resolution enabling them to capture quality images of people and evidence (Bennet & Bourassa, 2020). High resolution also means that the captured images are more precise, creating a good distinction between the photographs taken. Compared to film cameras or cameras that are not digital, the digital cameras used in crime scene investigation offer superior quality images. Quality images can easily be distinguished in a photograph, and this is an essential investigation because clearer images can be easily interpreted and bring no confusion to people involved in the investigation. Also, digital cameras can capture images at a further distance (Cai et al., 2019). This quality enables them to be helpful in getting images of offenders and suspects before they escape. The images of criminals captured from a distance can be used to trace them.
* Secondly, digital photography entails the use of digital cameras that have little weight. Weight is a critical subject when it comes to cameras. While some cameras have more weight and are bulky, digital cameras have low weight and are less bulky, enabling the people who use them in forensics and investigations to carry them around wherever they may need. Portability is essential for cameras since it makes them easier to carry. Because sometimes forensic investigations happen at places that make it difficult to access heavy cameras, digital cameras would be easier to carry. When a crime, for instance, happens at a seven-story building with no elevators and people have to use stairs to access the buildings, it would be difficult to carry heavy cameras. Digital cameras, on the other hand, have lightweight and can be carried even to rooftops whenever they are needed.
* Another advantage of digital photography in crime-solving is that digital cameras produce images instantly; therefore, there are no long waits involved. Speed is an essential quality that cameras offer. The cameras with faster speeds are essential for forensics and investigations because they enable the investigators to access the images immediately. This is important because in an investigation, the more time people waste, the likelier it is for the criminals involved to escape.
* When criminals escape and avoid capture because a camera took a long time loading before producing images, they are liabilities rather than assets. Digital photography involves producing sharp images that can be viewed the moment they are produced. This is different from old film cameras that take more extended loading time to produce images. Because of their slow speed, criminals can easily evade capture because investigators have to wait more extended periods before viewing the images. The new technological advancements provided for digital photography allow investigators to use cameras with fast speed and produce images quickly.
* Digital photography enables the people involved in forensics and other investigation to edit the images while still on the cameras (Kaur et al., 2020). The quality of editing the images while still on the cameras allows the people involved in forensic investigation to edit the images to suit their needs.
* Editing is a crucial part of photography because it makes images more evident. It also improves the lighting of the images that are not seen well. In crime scene investigations and forensics, generally clear images are needed because they enable people to avoid errors. When people who conduct investigations make mistakes, other people can suffer. This is because it can capture a person who is not the offender but has a close resemblance. Digital photography thus helps avoid the errors associated with film photography.
* Another advantage of digital photography in crime investigation is that it encourages memory cards and flash disks to store the photographs' information. Memory cards are microcards that can be used to store extensive data, including photographs (Butler, n.d.). The essence of memory cards is that they enable people to store large quantities of data on a small card.
* The memory cards and flash disks are portable and can be carried to any place. Memory cards also encourage easy sharing of the photos on social media and to other concerned agencies. Sometimes, agencies might need photos of a criminal or a crime scene, and because of fear of the photo getting leaked, they can store them in encrypted memory cards to provide extra security to the documents and images kept on memory cards.
* When compared to the old film photographs that did not use memory cards, they emerge superior because memory cards can be easily stored and do not occupy large space occupied by the films. Also, memory cards used by digital photography can be inserted on computers by the investigators to view the photos taken on a larger screen so that images appear more evident.

Shortcomings of Digital Photography in Crime Investigation

* Despite digital photography having many advantages, there are some shortcomings associated with it. One of the disadvantages of digital photography in crime investigation is that it is expensive to purchase digital cameras. The cost of buying digital cameras is too high compared to other cameras like the old-fashioned film cameras. Since the initial cost of buying digital cameras is too high, they are not affordable to all organizations that deal with the investigation. As a result, some police organizations cannot afford to use the digital cameras at all their investigation departments meaning that they will not be able to work optimally to investigate crime and catch criminals. Some criminals can evade capture by the police; hence, they continue with the life of crime, making other people suffer.
* Another disadvantage of using digital photography in crime investigation is requiring the operator to be computer literate. Computer literacy refers to the skills of an individual to operate and manage a computer (Makhumudov, 2020). Computer literacy is an essential skill in operating digital cameras. They are needed in editing photographs to suit the need of the users. Without computer skills, it would be difficult for people using digital cameras to operate them well. On the other hand, film cameras do not require one to possess computer skills to edit the photos to suit the needs of the investigators. Computer literacy requires training from people in that people have to be taught the skills required to manage and operate a computer to edit photos and save them. The training needed to manage computers is an extra cost that can be avoided.
* Because of the constant technological advancements going on in the environment, other digital cameras are consistently manufactured, meaning that people's use in investigation becomes out of date quicker than expected (Bughin et al., 2018). When cameras become obsolete, they cannot serve their purpose. Cameras failing to serve their purpose implies that they have to be replaced, which would add to the cost
* Digital photography in crimes investigation also involved digital cameras that consume batteries more than other types of cameras. The digital cameras are manufactured in a way that they do not last long with their batteries. Them not being able to keep batteries for more extended periods causes an inconvenience to people who use them in an investigation. Since investigations can take people to remote areas that do not have access to electricity, the digital camera batteries do not last long, and without backup batteries, they may fail to perform their tasks.

Conclusion

* The advancements in technology have impacted investigations of criminal activities in different ways. The technologies used in the world today are used in various instances, some of which help in catching criminals. Digital photography is one piece of technology that has affected crime-solving positively.
* Despite the benefits that digital photography brings to crime-solving, there are some shortcomings associated with it. The shortcomings bring about problems in the investigation. It is, therefore, necessary to appreciate the positives that digital photography has helped achieve and correct the wrongs.