

Federal Agencies Audio-Visual Working Group

Video Digitization Activities, Guidelines, and Format Specifications

Version of August 12, 2008

I. From Federal Agencies

A. Library of Congress and Library-related

1. National Film Preservation Board: <http://www.loc.gov/film/>
See this organization's own resource list: <http://www.loc.gov/film/filmpres.html>. This extensive listing is weighted toward film rather than video. It provides a high-level overview and information about conventional preservation methods. As of January 2008, it contained no links to resources pertaining to digital reformatting.
2. Technical paper pertaining to the use of lossless JPEG 2000-based compression for video frames, <http://www.sammasystems.com/docs/WPMJ2k.pdf>.
The Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Packard Campus, is implementing the SAMMA system for video reformatting. This is a technical document from the vendor's Web site.
3. NDIIPP partner project: Preserving Digital Public Television, <http://www.ptvdigitalarchive.org>.
This project is investigating the full range of issues pertaining to the preservation of today's television broadcasts. One paper on the Web site that is particularly relevant to the federal agency working group is "Survey of Digital Formatting Practices in Public Television Program Production" (<http://www.ptvdigitalarchive.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/09/report-on-file-formats-and-packages-fin.pdf>). Additional project documents are linked from this page: <http://www.ptvdigitalarchive.org/our-work/>.

- #### B. Motion Imagery Standards Board (MISB), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense: <http://www.gwg.nga.mil/misb/>.
- Several standards have been published by this organization, generally for born-digital content produced by the military services in support of their missions. Menu of standards documents at <http://www.gwg.nga.mil/misb/stdpubs.html>. See also the following background documents that pertain to several media, including still imagery: <http://www.nga.mil/NGASiteContent/StaticFiles/OCR/GeoIntelligence.pdf> and http://www.nga.mil/NGASiteContent/StaticFiles/P/gwg_focus_groups.ppt.

II. From Other Organizations, Documents that Feature Digital Elements

- #### A. PrestoSpace, <http://prestospace.org/>.
- Valuable, comprehensive project by European broadcasters. The Web page offers access to several reports and other information. See also documents from PrestoSpace's predecessor, the Presto project: <http://presto.joanneum.ac.at/>.
- #### B. Rutgers University. Menu of documents pertaining to recorded sound, video, and other formats from RUcore (RUtgers COmmunity REpository), <http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/collab/reference.php?submit=Search&auth=ALL&orderby=date&group=ALL&type=dos>.

A set of very forward-looking documents pertaining to reformatting audio-visual and other content into digital form, and to managing born-digital content.

- C. Stanford University video preservation activities, <http://videopreservation.stanford.edu/>. The document titled “Digital migration tools and techniques” mixes instructions with guidelines: http://videopreservation.stanford.edu/dig_mig/index.html.
- D. Library and Archives Canada, “Guidelines for Computer File Types, Interchange Formats and Information Standards”: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/information-management/002/007002-3017-e.html>. Suggested formats for creating and transferring electronic records (born digital) to the Canadian national archives; section 3.1 pertains to digital audio; 3.3 to digital video.
- E. Arts and Humanities Data Service (UK): <http://ahds.ac.uk/> Studies including “Moving Pictures and Sound Archiving Study,” available from <http://ahds.ac.uk/about/projects/archiving-studies/index.htm>.
- F. NINCH Guide to Good Practice in the Digital Representation of Cultural Heritage Materials (2003): <http://www.ninch.org/guide.pdf>. See “Audio/Video Capture and Management” (chapter VII, pp. 120ff), for background information and some guidelines.
- G. ViDe // Vide Development Initiative, *Dublin Core Application Profile for Digital Video*: http://www.vide.net/workgroups/videoaccess/resources/vide_dc_userguide_20010909.pdf. From users of video in higher education, information on a Dublin Core implementation. This group does not have a preservation focus.
- H. Dance Heritage Coalition. *Digital Video Reformatting Project: Report*. <http://www.danceheritage.org/preservation/DigitalVideoPreservation1.pdf>

III. From Other Organizations, Documents that Feature Non-digital Elements

- A. Association of Moving Image Archivists, <http://www.amianet.org/>. The Web site section titled “Guidelines, Manuals, Q&As, and Fact Sheets” is extensive but offers little on reformatting into digital-file form, <http://www.amianet.org/resources/guidelinesnlogin.php?accesscheck=%2Fresources%2Fguidelines.php>. The AMIA listserv sees considerable traffic on relevant, digital topics; see the listserv archive: <http://lsv.uky.edu/archives/amia-l.html>
- B. American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), article pertaining to standards for the conservation of new media technologies. In *National Parks Service, Setting Historic Standards*, Issue 46, NCPTT Notes. <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/NCPTT-Notes/Issue-46/Setting-Historic-Standards.aspx>.
- C. Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC). *PLAYBACK*, an interactive DVD that invites users to view the technical practices of video preservation, 2003. May no longer be in print; see the Preservation heading at the BAVC Web site: <http://www.bavc.org>.
- D. Wheeler, Jim. *Videotape Preservation Handbook*. 2002. (<http://www.media-matters.net/docs/resources/Traditional%20Audiovisual%20Preservation/WheelerVideo.pdf>). Or see: *AMIA Video Preservation Fact Sheets*. By Jim Wheeler; Edited by Hannah Frost, 2004-5; 42-page PDF (update of Wheeler’s 2002 publication). (http://www.amianet.org/resources/guides/fact_sheets.pdf)

- E. "Video Q&A: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Video Formats and Preservation (Lindner and Wheeler) assembled from AMIA newsletter issues, 1994-1999.
(http://www.amianet.org/resources/guides/video_q&a.pdf)
- F. *Magnetic Tape Storage and Handling: A Guide for Libraries and Archives*. By Dr. John W.C. Van Bogart, National Media Laboratory; Published by Commission on Preservation and Access; (<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub54/>)
- G. Boyle, Deirdre. *Video Preservation: Securing the Future of the Past*. NY: Media Alliance. 1993.
- H. Jimenez, Mona and Liss Platt (eds.). *Magnetic Media Preservation Sourcebook*. NY: Media Alliance, 1998.
- I. Texas Commission on the Arts, 2004. Videotape Identification and Assessment Guide. Project Coordination by Laura M. Wiegand, Director for Programs & Technology, Texas Commission on the Arts; Written by Mona Jimenez and Liss Platt, Materia Media. HTML: <http://www.arts.state.tx.us/video/> PDF: <http://www.arts.state.tx.us/video/pdf/video.pdf>
- J. Steven Davidson & Gregory Lukow (eds). *The Administration of Television Newsfilm & Videotape Collections: A Curatorial Manual*. AFI 1997.
- K. Stauderman, Sarah. "Research on Magnetic Media Deterioration." Cybercast of a talk at the Library of Congress on August 23, 2005. Running Time: 47 minutes.
http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4280

IV. Format Specifications

- A. Menu of description documents for digital moving image formats:
http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/fdd/video_fdd.shtml