

FADGI Program: Impacts and Benefits

Activity	Working Group	Description	Calendar	Who Contributes*	Impact at LC	Impact Elsewhere	Next Steps
Performance metrics for digitization devices and production	Still Images	Digital imaging performance: includes conceptual framework; targets, metrics, and measurement tools; and the "star rating" structure provided in the general guideline listed at the bottom of this table. Initial development in consultation with the Metamorfoze project (Nat'l Library and the Nat'l Archives, Netherlands), now moving into ISO standards development.	2007 initiate; 2011 star ratings; 2015-16 ISO work; 2016 Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials, 2016 color profiling target, 2016-17 device level target	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, P&P, G&MNARAFADGI expert consultantFADGI Still Image Working Group	<p>LC has adopted the digital imaging guidelines and has implemented the "star ratings" for internal work, vendor-produced work, and the acquisition of new equipment.</p> <p>The tools are developed to serve LC needs and also shared with the federal (and beyond federal) preservation community.</p>	<p>Many cultural heritage institutions as well as the vendor community have implemented the guidelines including the star ratings. For example, the National Agricultural Library and the Smithsonian Anthropological Archives engaged the FADGI expert consultant at their expense to implement the work at their institutions, and these engagements extend the development of the overall effort.</p> <p>The metrics in the FADGI set are one important input into a new ISO standards activity, intended to produce an international standard on imaging performance for the cultural heritage community.</p>	<p>Next steps include image science research to support revision and improvements of the metrics and tools; expansion to cover transmissive material.</p> <p>FADGI leadership and expert consultants participate in the new ISO standard-development effort in 2016-17.</p>
	Audio-visual: recorded sound	Guideline for audio A-to-D converters and report on interstitial errors (device failure to write audio files correctly); proof-of-concept activity for test measurement to be followed by working-system development.	2010 initiate; 2011-12 initial guideline and reports; 2014-15 device testing; 2016 approved guidelines and specification; 2017 low cost guidelines for WG comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard Campus, AFCNARAVOANLMSmithsonian FolklifeFADGI expert consultant	Initial device testing at the Packard Campus and AFC identified correctable issues with audio workstation capture configuration for High Quality system; follow-up in 2013 with new equipment; additional field testing in 2015 and 2016; Low Cost guidelines released for WG review 2017	Initial device testing at NARA identified correctable issues with audio workstation capture configuration and workflows. Initial testing in 2015 at NARA, Smithsonian, and Voice of America and revised field testing in 2016 at NLM, Smithsonian Folklife and Packard Campus provide useful advice to participants. Work directly impacts performance testing work in Audio Engineering Society (AES).	Continued development on testing the performance of audio reformatting systems will contribute to more stable archival quality audio files. Beta ADCTest software to be field tested 2017.
Embedded metadata	Still Images	Includes the TIFF header specification, followed by explorations of broader embedded metadata applications.	2009 initiate; 2010 and following, background-level activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, P&P, G&MSmithsonian Institution (initial version of broad approach)	The TIFF guideline is tailored to serve LC digitizing projects and has been implemented for Library still image digitization.	The Smithsonian Institution Embedded Metadata Working Group developed a broader embedded metadata guidelines in April 2010; published at the FADGI Web site in 2012. Both the TIFF and the broader guideline are being used as models by other agencies, including NARA.	Continue background effort at LC to develop a broader approach for embedding metadata in still images; some interest in applicability of XMP standard; outcome will be productive for parallel efforts in FADGI.
	Audio-visual: recorded sound	Includes specification for file "headers" and development of an open source tool (BWF MetaEdit - see Tools below) to support metadata capture and management.	2009 initiate; 2012 revised guideline; 2009-12 tool available and revised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard Campus, AFCNARASmithsonian Institution ArchivesFADGI expert consultant	The Packard Campus has implemented the BWF MetaEdit tool. Both the BWF MetaEdit tool and the guideline are in use at AFC.	The metadata guidelines are heavily adopted in the audio preservation community alongside the BWF MetaEdit tool (see Tools below).	The specification is stable. Future work includes possible updates for new versions of the BWF format.
	Audio-visual: motion picture film	Investigation of embedded metadata needs and tool options for the DPX header for scanned motion picture film	2016 initiate; 2017 revised guideline and approved version published	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard Campus, AFC, VHPNARASmithsonian: NMAAHC, OCIO/DAMS repository group, NASA, NOAA	Practices are still emerging for scanning motion picture film so the Packard Campus and AFC have the defined need to develop usable guidelines and tools for essential embedded metadata.	Federal agencies, including NARA and the Smithsonian, requested that FADGI begin this investigation to facilitate their own workflows and products.	Draft embedded metadata guidelines released for public review in December 2016. The approved version published in August 2017 includes revisions such as a justification about the rationale for embedded metadata and explanations of issues with date/time formatting and data overruns
	Audio-visual: video	Development of metadata structure for reformatted video (may or may not be embedded); associated with a tool to support use with AVI files.	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NARALibrary of Congress: DCMSFADGI expert consultant (engaged by NARA)	The NARA-contributed technical metadata structure (reVTMD) will be modeled as an option in the MXF AS-07 specification, described below.	The toolset is adopted at NARA and other international cultural heritage institutions who work with AVI-formatted files. In use at MOMA and Harvard; Harvard shows interest in overseeing next-phase development.	Metadata structure refinement continues in other FADGI projects including MXF AS-07.
Format comparisons and related topics	Still Images	Multiple activities: extensive published comparison formats suitable for reformatting (digitization) including TIFF, JPEG 2000, JPEG (DCT), PNG, and PDF, and several subtypes. Also earlier explorations of JPEG 2000, including the summit conference.	2011 initiate and JPEG 2000 summit conference; 2014 comparison matrix published; 2016 JPEG 2000 recommendations for newspaper digitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, P&P, G&MGPONARAFADGI expert consultant	FADGI information provides guidance for digitization planning; use of TIFF continues with use of JPEG 2000 for access for maps, digital newspapers, and more generally in Project 1 Web pages; 2016 recommendation of JPEG 2000 and PDF/A as master file formats	Published comparison report consulted by many; also evidence of interest in JPEG 2000 reflected in attention paid to the 2011 Summit.	Continued implementation of JPEG 2000 for access and Web; Suitability of JPEG2000 as a master format for some applications being explored.
	Audio-visual: video	Published comparison of target formats for digitization of videotapes; analysis of issues regarding born digital video and DVD acquisition including case histories and high level recommended practices.	2012 initiate; 2014 comparison matrix and reports published	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NARALibrary of Congress: DCMS, Web Archiving, Packard Campus, AFCSmithsonian: Institutional Archives and OCIO/DAMS Repository GroupNOAAVOAContractor support (DVDs)	Several divisions will strongly benefit from the exploration of born digital formats; this can influence the selection of formats early in the lifecycle and contribute to preservation. Early impacts on preservation planning in the Veterans History Project and Web Archiving; supports the LC-wide Recommended Formats process.	Digitization comparison report widely read, special value in FADGI and also at universities with video collections. Digital video exploration and case history reports expected to inform decisions across the cultural heritage and government sector. Workflows at SIA were redesigned to align with the recommendations in the DVD report. Blog and Web traffic suggest high interest in these topics. Some specific follow-up from Senator Leahy's office.	Format comparison matrix will be reviewed and revised as needed.
	Audio-visual: motion picture film	Develop a model SOW (with specification) for motion picture film scanning.	2013 initiate; 2015-16 report and guidelines published	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NARALibrary of Congress: DCMS, Packard Campus, AFCNOAANational Museum of Health and Medicine (NMHM)	Scanning motion picture film is still an evolving practice so the Packard Campus and AFC have the defined need to develop a model SOW for film scanning for both internal scanning project documentation and external vendor scanning projects.	Other federal agencies, including NARA, need to be able to articulate appropriate specifications for film scanning by both in-house labs and external vendors and look to LC to lead the exploration.	The SOW work will continue and will be vetted and published at the FADGI website.
Specification development	Audio-visual: moving image	MXF AS-07: a detailed formal specification for moving image content (first emphasis on video) under the auspices of AMWA, a broadcast industry trade association.	2009 initiate; 2012 approved as AMWA project; 2014-5 review version online; 2016 approved as Proposed Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard CampusNARAFADGI expert consultantsVia AMWA, input from industry, including the BBC, vendors, and commercial system manufacturers	Already MXF users, the Packard Campus will be an influential adopter of the tailored MXF specification and will benefit from the collaborative efforts with industry to create an actionable and achievable standard.	<p>In conjunction with the MXF specification, a set of graded sample files were developed to facilitate testing. The sample files were used to build the infrastructure to evaluate MXF files in various open source tools including MedialInfo (metadata extractor) and MediaConch (format validator).</p> <p>SMPTTE is adopting selected AS-07 work, including work related to timecode structures and descriptors, into SMPTTE specifications.</p> <p>Functionality in AS-07 essential to archiving and preservation is being mapped to other format options including FFv1 and Matroska to benefit the community of open source users.</p>	The MXF specification achieved a milestone as an official AMWA Proposed Specification in July 2016; interest in extensions and improvements will continue.
General guidelines for digitization	Still Images	Revisions and improvements are under way to create a modular, online format. Guideline incorporates detail about performance metrics and testing as stated in first section of this document.	2007 initiate; 2010 first FADGI version; 2016 Second FADGI version.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, P&PNARASmithsonianFADGI expert consultant	Provided a broad explanatory context for all still image scanning using the "star rating" structure for imaging performance. Also introduces the concept of TOM quality management as a part of the Still Digitization Quality Management Program.	The foundation for the FADGI document is a 2004 document drafted and published by NARA, now extended and elaborated upon in FADGI-based work.	The document will be modularized for online presentation in 2017-18.
	Audio-visual	FADGI members participate in external guideline development for digitization of audio-visual material, especially through IASA; intermittent, low-level development as a background activity.	2012 and following, background-level activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMSOthers to be enlisted, low level of activity due to lack of resourcesFADGI expert consultants	Future impact.	Future impact.	To be developed
Tools	Still Images	OpenDICE, open source software, evaluates the image quality in three major categories: tonescale, color accuracy, and resolution analysis. OpenDICE provides the essential functionality needed validate conformance in a FADGI compliant digitization program and conforms to ISO standards for cultural heritage digitization.	2015 initiate, 2017 tool distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, P&P, G&MNARAFADGI expert consultantFADGI Still Image Working Group	The tools are developed to serve LC needs and also shared with the federal (and beyond federal) preservation community.	OpenDICE provides the essential functionality needed for still image digitization process monitoring, expanding FADGI conformance to institutions which previously could not afford the commercial Golden Thread (DICE) analysis program.	Development of additional modules for OpenDICE is underway, expanding the functionality of the program. The software currently supports two commercially available targets, and will support new targets under development.
	Audio-visual	BWF MetaEdit, open source software tool, supports metadata capture and management in audio files	2009-12 tool published and revised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard Campus, AFCNARASmithsonian Institution ArchivesFADGI expert consultant	The Packard Campus and AFC have implemented the BWF MetaEdit tool.	BWF MetaEdit is heavily adopted in the audio preservation community. Federal agencies such as NARA (including the nation-wide Presidential Library system), National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution Archives are active users. Non-federal implementers include such diverse institutions as Stanford University Libraries, Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, Philadelphia Orchestra, WNYC Public Radio, Tate Modern gallery, National Library of Denmark and New Zealand Film Archives. BWF MetaEdit is open source (on SourceForge) and the tool has been downloaded more than 35,000 times.	The tool is stable. Future work includes bug fixes and additional features.
	Audio-visual	MXF Sample Files conforming to the AS-07 application specification available for download on the FADGI website.	2015 initiate; 2016 first version of sample files published for comment; 2017 file review and planning for revisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Library of Congress: DCMS, Packard CampusNARAFADGI expert consultantsVia AMWA, input from industry, including the BBC, vendors, and commercial system manufacturers	Already MXF users, the Packard Campus is contributing to the review and creation of the next generation of the sample files.	In conjunction with the MXF specification, a set of graded sample files were developed to facilitate testing. The sample files were used to build the infrastructure to evaluate MXF files in various open source tools including MedialInfo (metadata extractor) and MediaConch (format validator).	Community members and industry vendors have review the sample files. Updates and research will continue.
Leadership	Still Images and Audio-visual	FADGI acronym is updated from the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative to the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative to reflect increasing work with born digital material.	2017 initiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All FADGI members including Library of Congress	Future impact.	FADGI will expand its projects to cover both digitized and born digital historical, archival and cultural content.	FADGI website and documents updated with revised branding.
	Still Images and Audio-visual	FADGI guidelines and documents carry CC0 1.0 Universal License	2016 initiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All FADGI members including Library of Congress	Future impact.	Unambiguously states that FADGI works are available for worldwide use and reuse, of special concern to international users.	FADGI documents and guidelines will include new label with next updates.

* The contributing agencies are listed according to their estimated level of effort. Most contributions are in-kind, i.e., staff time from the agencies.