[DSI] Audio and Video Digitization Standards for the Tulane Digital Repository

TU LIBRARIES
INTRODUCTION

Digital Scholarship & Initiatives (DSI) manages audiovisual (AV) content for the Tulane University Digital Repository. This includes content for the Digital Library and the Tulane University Libraries YouTube channel.

This document will provide recommended formats for AV content.

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YOUTUBE

VIDEOS

- Includes original content created by Tulane Libraries
- MPEG-4 (MP4) wrapper
- H.264 codec
- 8mbps bit rate for 1080p video

CLOSED CAPTIONS FORMAT

- SubRip (.srt) file format is used for YouTube video captions
- One of the most common file formats used in the process of subtitling and/or captioning.
DIGITAL LIBRARY - AUDIO

Broadcast WAVE File (BWF) format is viewed as the standard format for audio preservation.

ANALOG AUDIO - PRESERVATION COPY

- Broadcast WAVE (BWF) wrapper
- PCM uncompressed
- 96kHz
- 24bit

DIGITAL AUDIO - PRESERVATION COPY

- Broadcast WAVE (BWF) wrapper
- PCM uncompressed
- Native sample rate and bit depth

AUDIO ACCESS COPIES

- MPEG Layer 3 (MP3)
- 256kb/s for stereo
- 128kb/s acceptable for mono
DIGITAL LIBRARY - VIDEO

There is not one consensus preservation file format for video. It is recommended to use uncompressed or lossless formats but this will depend on resources and file storage space available.

ANALOG VIDEO - PRESERVATION COPY

Options include:
- Uncompressed formats such as v210 codec with Quicktime wrapper
- Lossless formats such as JPEG2000 with MXF wrapper
- DSI will continue to evaluate these options due to storage space.

DIGITAL VIDEO - PRESERVATION COPY

- Lossless format is preferred or using native codec rewrapped in new container such as Quicktime.
- File storage space is also a factor and will continue to be evaluated.
- DSI produces original born digital video content. Original source files are retained for this content.

VIDEO ACCESS COPIES

- MPEG-4 (MP4) wrapper
- H.264 codec
- This format is widely adopted, stable, and used by many online distribution platforms
CLOSED CAPTIONS FORMAT

- WebVTT (.vtt) file format is used for video captions in the Digital Library.
- Widely used caption format which is compatible with HTML5 video players. Tulane University Digital Library uses Video JS video player.
Some of the Resources Consulted

One Format Does Not Fit All: FADGI Audio-Visual Working Group’s Diverse Approaches to Format Guidance

IASA-TC 06 Guidelines for the Preservation of Video Recordings

FADGI: Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative

Library of Congress Recommended Formats Statement