Let’s Get Digital:
Preserving Analog Memories
at the Public Library

Leasa Sieve, New Ulm Public Library
Kris Wiley, Roseburg (OR) Public Library
Brian Lind, Rochester Public Library
What We’ll Cover

New Ulm Public Library’s Memory Lab
● Grant program
● Digital archiving classes
● Development and installation

Rochester Public Library’s Convert-O-Lab
● Development and installation
● Stories from patrons
● Lessons learned
The Memory Lab Network Project
Bootcamp
Ongoing Support

Monthly one-on-one video check-ins
Monthly group video sessions
Ongoing Support - Slack

**Wednesday, July 25th**

**Siobhan 8:22 AM**

Hello all! I wanted to share that I finally added the Video8, Hi8, and Digital8 identifier fliers I made up on our libguide:

[http://libguides.dclibrary.org/memorylab/resources/identify-formats](http://libguides.dclibrary.org/memorylab/resources/identify-formats)

LibGuides: Memory Lab: Identify your stuff

Start your personal archiving project today.

**Thursday, August 23rd**

**Blake Hatton 11:20 AM**

I was browsing the web, and found this handy little document on digitizing magnetic tape with several useful links. [http://www.tape-online.net/Short_Guidelines_Video_Digitisation.pdf](http://www.tape-online.net/Short_Guidelines_Video_Digitisation.pdf)

Message #moving-image
Digital Archiving Classes

Sorting Your Stuff

Preserving Your Digital Memories: Some Basics

Preserving Your Digital Memories: Tips on Smartphones
Memory Lab Development and Installation

New Ulm Public Library
# Memory Lab Development and Installation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formats Accepted</th>
<th>Formats Saved On (Customer Provided)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• VHS</td>
<td>• External hard drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• VHS-C</td>
<td>• USB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• MiniDV</td>
<td>• Cloud Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Audio cassette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3.5&quot; Floppy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Photos/slides/negatives</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Memory Lab Development and Installation

Memory Lab Survey

Q1 Which video formats do you have that you would like to digitize? Check all that apply.

Answered: 49    Skipped: 2

Bar chart showing the preferences for video formats:
- VHS: 90%
- VHS-C (smaller version of VHS): 10%
- Super VHS: 10%
- Betamax: 0%
- Hi8, Digital 8, Video 8...: 20%
- MiniDV (used in Sony MiniDV...): 5%
- Other (please specify): 5%
Q2 Which audio formats do you have that you would like to digitize? Check all that apply.

- Vinyl (records)
- Audio cassette (music, ...)
- Microcassette tapes (used ...)
- Reel-to-reel audio tape...
- DAT (Digital Audio Tape)
- Other (please specify)

Answered: 45  Skipped: 6
Memory Lab Development and Installation

Memory Lab Survey

Q3 Which image formats do you have that you would like to digitize? Check all that apply.

Answered: 49    Skipped: 2

- Printed (paper)...
- Slide film (individual)...
- Film negatives (often in...)
- Other (please specify)

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Memory Lab Development and Installation
Memory Lab Development and Installation
Great Resources

Memory Lab
DC public library

https://www.dclibrary.org/labs/memorylab

Library of Congress

http://digitalpreservation.gov
The Continuing Story of the Convert LAB
Conversion Philosophy

- **Access** to analog media is priority
- Rely largely on “guerilla techniques” for digitizing
- Patrons are the ones doing the work, not library staff
Of Course, We Did a Format Survey

Q1
Which AUDIO format(s) would you like to be able to digitize at the library? (check all that apply)
Answered: 88  Skipped: 22

- Reel-To-Reel audio tape (large tapes on reels) 13.64% 12
- DAT (Digital Audio Tape) 5.06% 5
- Audio Cassette Tapes 70.90% 66
- Mini-cassette tapes (used in hand-held recorders for recording interviews or for dictation) 22.73% 20
- Vinyl Records 63.41% 47
- Other (please specify) 13.64% 12

Total Respondents: 88

Q2
Which VIDEO format(s) would you like to be able to digitize at the library? (check all that apply)
Answered: 88  Skipped: 11

- VHS tapes 65.06% 55
- VHS-C (a smaller version of VHS tapes used in camcorders) 38.30% 33
- Betamax tapes 10.30% 10
- S-VHS (Super VHS) 14.15% 14
- MiniDV (such as used in Sony MiniDV camcorders) 23.33% 23
- Hi8, Digital8, Video 8 (used in camcorders) 31.31% 31
- Other (please specify) 6.06% 6

Total Respondents: 88
Equipping the Convert-O-Lab

- eBay for old formats
- Staff donations
- New equipment online
- Local record store
Accessing the Convert-O-Lab

- Mandatory training for users
- Liability waiver
- Can book Convert-O-Lab
- Must bring own storage device or media
Audio Cassette / Vinyl / Reel-To-Reel Tape

- Have players for these formats
- Use Audacity software on PC to record
- All connected to tuner with manual switch
Microcassette

- Connect to PC via 3.5mm jack
- Use Audacity software on PC to record
Not So True DAT

- First player ordered was wrong DAT format
- 2nd and 3rd players did not work, sent back
- Not doing DAT at this time
Audacity and Sound Editing

- Freeware on multiple platforms
- Lots of export options (.mp3, .wav, .flac, )
- Not idea for breaking audion into individual tracks
- Working in Audacity’s native format (.aup) not ideal
- Might look at direct to .mp3 or .wav program in future
VHS / SVHS / Betamax

- Use stand alone players
- Use tuner to switch between players
- VHS has been very popular
- Elgato and PC to convert to MP4
Digital 8 / Video 8 / Hi 8 / MiniDV

- Popular 1990s camcorder formats
- Purchased video cameras for playback
- Digital 8 very popular format so far
- Can be tricky to operate playback
- Use Elgato and PC to convert to MP4
Elgato Video Capture Device

- Connects to computer via USB
- Has composite video and S-Video outputs
- Very simple to use
8mm / Super 8 Film

- Hammacher Schlemmer 8mm to Digital converter
- Digitizes one frame at a time and saves to SD card
- Have had issues with machine
- Slower than real time
16mm Film

- 16mm projector
- Hama Video Transfer screen
- DSLR camera - adjust ISO, aperture, and shutter speed
- Converts to .mov or .mp4
- Work in progress
Photo Slide Film

- Use Braun Multimag SlideScan 6000
- Good images, still slow 30 - 60 seconds/slide
- Different widths of slide casings
- Software not great
- Connected to PC with included software
- Eats thin slide casings for breakfast
Printed Photos

- EPSON FF-640 FastFoto
- Wanted fast and easy
- Good for most non-mounted photos
Photo Negatives

- Epson Expression 11000XL
- Has special mounts for strips of negatives, slides
- Very slow scanning, but good quality
Convert-O-Lab Soft Launch: August/September

- Teaser in library newsletter
- Many patrons found by accident
- Word is getting out - Senior Center presentation
Not In Original Budget

- Film splicer / splicer tape for film repair
- DSLR camera
- HDMI to camera adapter
- Screw-apart audio cassette cases
- Extra slide holder for thinner slides
- SD cards / SD to USB adapter for our PC
- Sample tapes for various media
- Extra take-up reel for 16mm film
Oh, The Things We Learned!

- Software not intuitive for newbies
- Errors cost a lot of time
- Old materials can be fragile
- More formats = more complex workflow
- One trainer is not enough
- Our space was too small for 16mm film
You’re All Invited to a Chipmunk Wedding!
Long Live the Hipster Vinyl-Only Podcast?
So Much For Auto-Pilot
The Man With the Invisible Voice
You Can’t Have Syncing Issues With New Age Dolphin Music
Really? That’s a DVD Format?
Flip Phone Message Immortality
The Splice Of Life Doesn’t Need to Be Forever
Seriously, You Don’t Have a LaserDisc Player?
Not Quite the Watergate Tapes
Suggestions For Your Lab

- Start with a few formats
- Check with your library and non-library peers before you start buying equipment
- Plan for setbacks - everything takes longer
- Look for the old school technology people on staff
- Make sure you have a waiver
Thank you!

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