

T-120
VHS

XFR Collective's

Basics of Video Preservation

XFR Collective is a New York-based media preservation membership organization with a mission to preserve at-risk and obsolete audiovisual artwork by providing low-cost migration services to independent content creators for education, research, and cultural engagement. Membership with XFR Collective offers the opportunity to have a certain number of videos transferred by trained archivists and made publicly accessible online via the Internet Archive.

Working with moving image preservation experts, such as XFR Collective, is one way to get your video material under control. However, there are things that you can do yourself as an individual or an organization to help your video material survive.

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Resources

Formats: Texas Commission on the Arts

www.arts.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/video.pdf

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/preservation/care/record.html

Bay Area Video Coalition

www.bavc.org/preservation

Independent Media Arts Preservation

www.imappreserve.org/pres_101/index.html

Identify

Identification and Intellectual Control

- > Know your formats --U-Matic, VHS, Betamax, etc.
- > Create a unique identification for each item and label items with paper tape and archival pens
- > Have a basic inventory (content of material, date of creation, running time, quality, uniqueness to collection, etc.)

Store

Storage and Handling

- > Store tapes on their narrow edge.
- > Keep them cool, dry, and clean (attics and basements are not usually ideal).
- > Check tapes for white powder, mold, or waxy smells -- these are all risk signs for tape decay, and decaying tapes should be kept separate.

Migrate

Migrating Your Analog Videos

- > Do your research -- are there grants or local organizations that can help you do professional-quality transfers?
- > Minimum requirements to DIY it: deck that can play your material (VHS, U-matic), analog-to-digital converter (Aja, Blackmagic), and video capture software (Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere).
- > Capture analog video as 8 or 10-bit uncompressed video and make lower-quality duplicate files for access needs.
- > Don't throw away those originals! You may want to go back to them later.

Manage

Managing Your Digital Videos

- > Duplicate your files and keep copies of your files in different geographic locations.
- > Check your drives and files frequently to make sure nothing's been corrupted.
- > Watch out for obsolete file formats -- if your current software can't play your old files, you have a problem!