



File formats...

...and (some) considerations  
about their use in UBC Library  
digitization activities

# [ Overview ]

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- Choosing the “right” file format
- Open/closed & Proprietary/non-proprietary
- Longevity
- Storage
- Preservation

# [ Introduction ]

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- Files are “translators”
- Files are the “currency” we work in
- 3000+ distinct file formats in use
- Software/Hardware requirements
- Business vs. best practices

# [ The “right” file ]

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- What is the purpose
- Creation
- Use
- Metadata
- Documentation

# [ Open/Closed & Proprietary/Non-proprietary ]

- Traditional models
- The user vs. the company
- The push for standards
- Open vs. closed
- Proprietary vs. non-proprietary

# [ Longevity ]

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- Economics
- Usage
- Existing base
- Interoperability
- New kids on the block

# [ Storage ]

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- Size
- Use profile
- Dynamic vs. non-dynamic
- Backup strategy
- Network considerations

# [ Preservation ]

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- Preservation ≠ Storage
- Management
- How long?
- Retrieval
- Interpretation



# Our Storage & Preservation Needs

- Files, files, files...
- Storage plans
- Preservation activities
- Need vs. cost vs. staff time
- Organizing architecture

# [ The Future ]

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- Expectations
- What do we *want* to be?
- Collaborations
- Growth
- Keeping up...

[ Thank You! & Questions ]



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