

Library Friends

Mix-tapes, VHS Recordings, and iPhone Photos: Preserving what Matters

Jennifer Hain Teper
Velde Professor and Head, Preservation Services
University Library

Webinar Overview

Audio Recordings

preservation and threats

Moving Image Recordings

preservation and threats

Digitization

Digital Preservation

digitized and born digital content

Q&A

Audio Recordings



1870s-1880s: Early sound recording and playback technologies are developed.



1900-1910s:
Discs begin to supplant cylinders and become an increasingly popular format for years to come.



1940s-1950s:
Steel wire recordings are a popular format. Magnetic tape is introduced in the US and becomes popular because of its flexibility.



1980s-1990s: The Compact Disc (CD) is introduced. Digital Audio Tapes (DAT) enjoy a brief popularity through the mid-2000s. Analog audio cassettes still popular.



1880s-1890s:
Cylinder recordings become commercially available.



1920s-1930s:
Magnetic recording technology is developed in Germany. Discs continue to be a popular commercial format.



1960s-1970s:
Cassettes are introduced as an alternative to open-reel tape. Originally designed for voice dictation, cassettes become one of the more widely used formats for pre-recorded music.



2000s-present:
Digital audio files prevail as a means of listening to and recording audio.

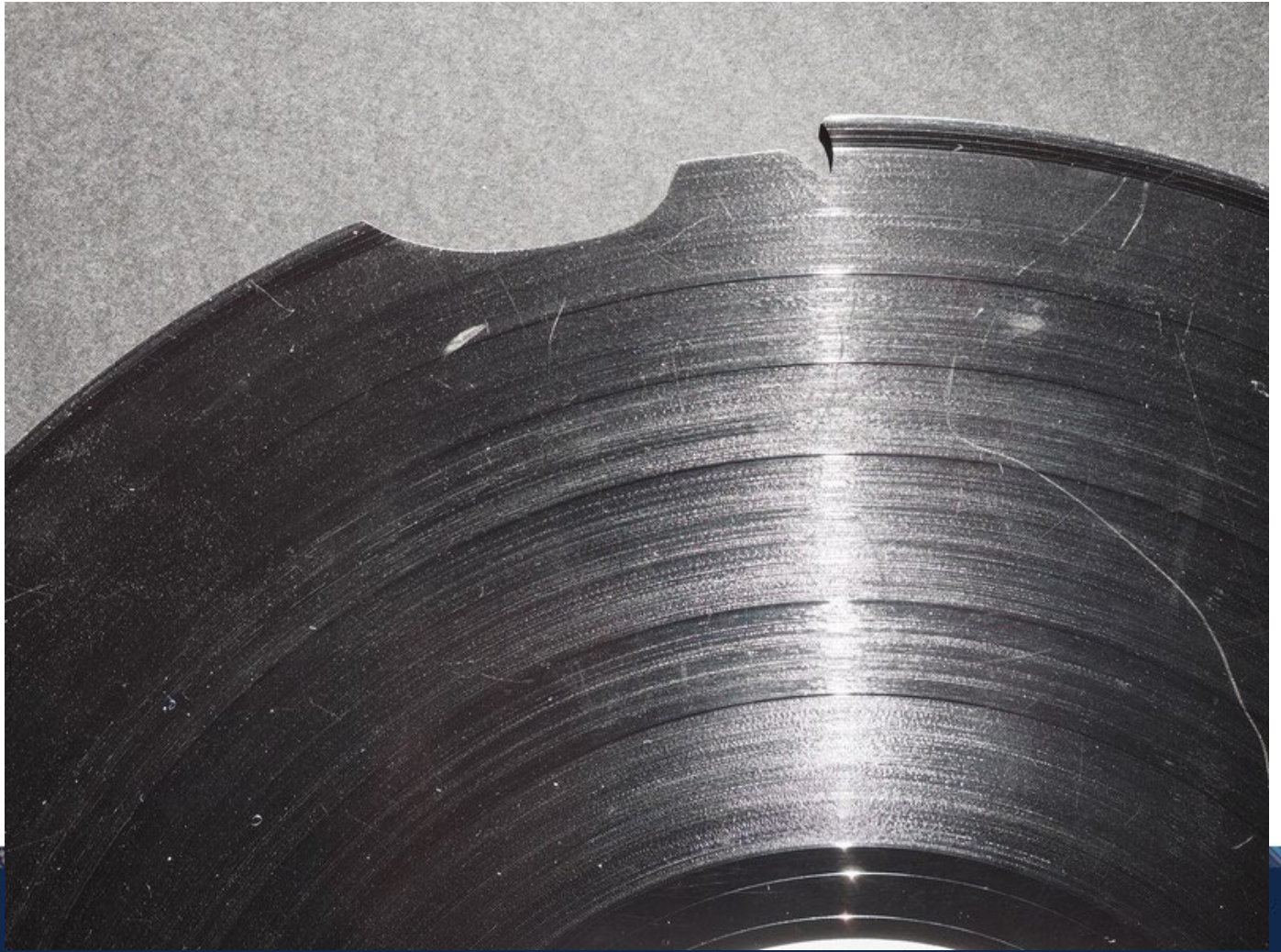


<https://www.archives.gov/preservation/formats/audio-toc.html>

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Disks



Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Disks



<https://www.iasa-web.org/tc05/2112-coarse-groove-discs-gramophone-discs>

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Disks



<https://www.nedcc.org/audio-preservation/irene-blog/2014/08/12/delaminating/>

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Magnetic Tape



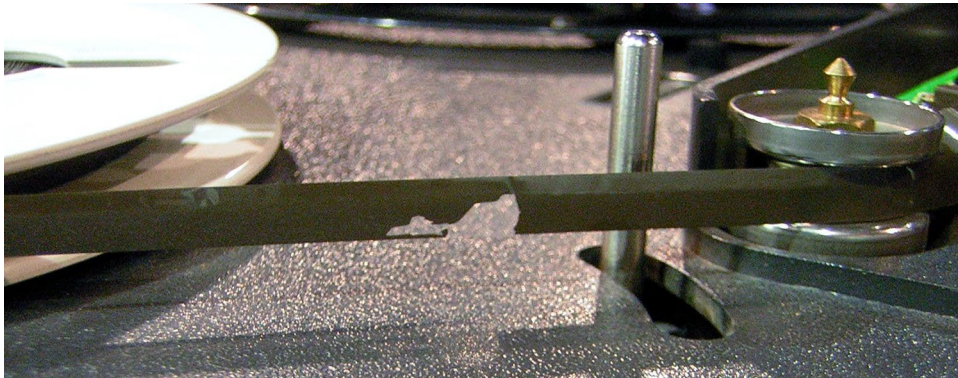
<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-fix-a-cassette-tape/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/cassetteculture/comments/a8j1ss/just_bought_a_tape_but_the_deck_kind_a_chewed_it/

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Magnetic Tape



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/collection-id-guide/softbindersyn>

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Compact Discs



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/advanced-help/av-opticalmedia>

Audio Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Compact Discs



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/advanced-help/av-opticalmedia>

Moving Image Recordings



1950s-1970s: 2-inch Quad tape was used for broadcasting.

1970-1980s: 1-inch tape is a popular mastering format. Umatic, the first video cassette, is introduced.

1980s: Betacam and BetacamSP are introduced and used widely. Video8 and Hi8 are used in the consumer market.

2000s: HD formats were introduced and widely adopted. File-based workflows become popular as well.



1960s-1970s: 1/2-inch tape was introduced and helps make video recording portable.

Late 1970s-1980s: VHS and Betamax compete for prevalence in the consumer market. Laser discs were also introduced.

1990s: Digital Betacam is introduced and used widely in the professional market. DVDs are introduced and become popular in the consumer market.



<https://www.archives.gov/preservation/formats/video-toc.html>

Moving Image Recordings

Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Motion Picture Films



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/advanced-help/slide-film-bw>

Moving Image Recordings

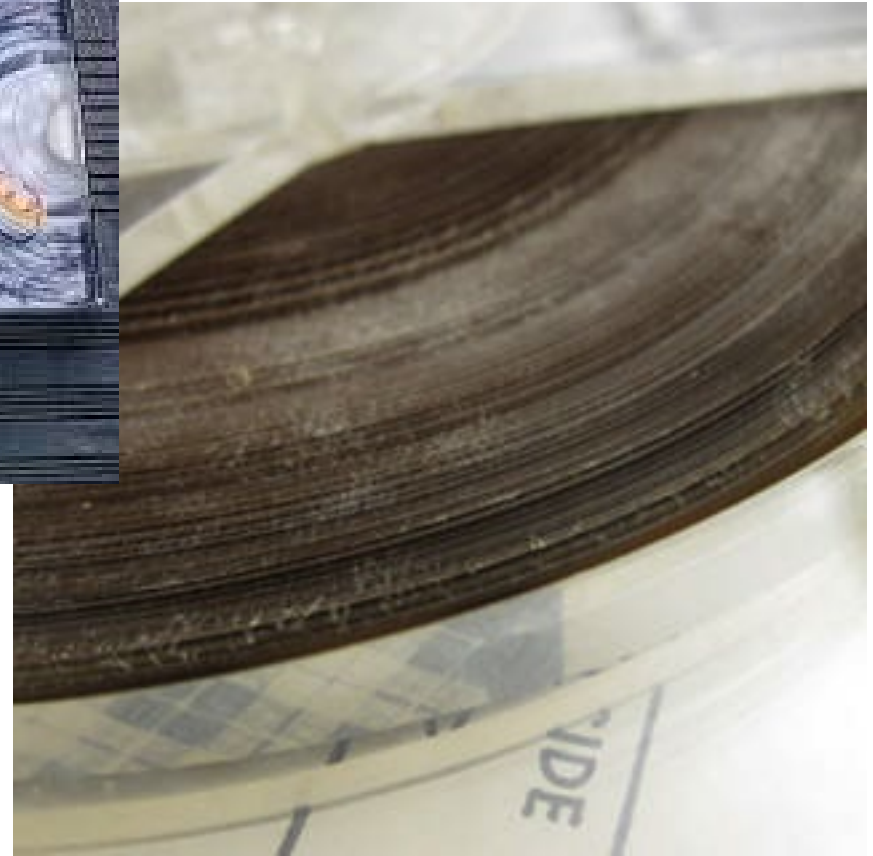
Preservation Risks and Challenges

- Videotape



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/advanced-help/av-videopenreel>

Media & MOLD!



<https://psap.library.illinois.edu/advanced-help/av-videopenreel>

<https://www.pacificvideorepair.com/mold-or-mildew-damaged-videotape-repairs>

Media Playback Equipment Obsolescence



Digitization

So when do you digitize these things?

- Prioritize what is valuable long-term
- Digitize before they are unplayable
- Don't go for the cheapest option
- Look for good privacy and security policies
- Read customer reviews
- Consider cloud-hosting options, not just DVD/CD/USB drive delivery

But now you need to think about **DIGITAL PRESERVATION**

Caring for digital files

- Stuff you just digitized
- Born digital materials - i.e. all that stuff on your computer and phone
 - Tax forms and other important documents
 - Important emails
 - Photos and videos

But now you need to think about **DIGITAL PRESERVATION**

- Prioritize what you preserve
- Regularly back up your files (icloud, external hard drive, commercial cloud service)
- Name your files meaningfully and, ideally, consistently so you can tell what files are
- Actively manage your digital preservation footprint – delete when appropriate

Helpful Links

Preservation Self-Assessment Program, Format ID Guide <https://psap.library.illinois.edu/collection-id-guide>

Library of Congress, Preservation FAQ: Audio/Visual materials
<https://www.loc.gov/preservation/about/faqs/audio.html>

National Film Preservation Foundation <https://www.filmpreservation.org/preservation-basics>

Library of Congress, Personal Archiving (digital, including guidance on digital photos, digital audio and video, email, personal records and website preservation)
<https://digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/>

Digital Preservation Coalition fact sheet on personal digital archiving:
<https://www.dpconline.org/docs/dpc-technology-watch-publications/topical-notes-series/1867-dp-note-6-personal-digital-archiving/file>

Penn State University Libraries, Personal Digital Archiving – best practices for file naming
<https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/c.php?g=1190817&p=8709882>

Digital Preservation Coalition fact sheet on file naming and file formats
<https://www.dpconline.org/docs/dpc-technology-watch-publications/topical-notes-series/1865-dp-note-4-file-naming-and-formats/file>

Let's Talk!



Questions?



Thank you!

Stay tuned for details about our next
webinar!

