Preserving Collections On Tape At The National Library of Scotland

From Business Case to Bytes

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**The National Library of Scotland collects, preserves and promotes access to films capturing Scotland and her people from the early days of film-making to the present day. Around 12 thousand items in the collection are video tapes that will soon become inaccessible as playback devices become increasingly obsolete. The Library started the Collections On Tape project in 2022 to preserve access to this rich culture through an ambitious digitization project due to finish in 2025. Around 700 terabytes of data will be created that takes advantage of the ffv1 video codec. The Library will provide unprecedented access to our visitors and video specialists and is honored to share key aspects of this project with the preservation and moving image community.**

**Keywords – Digital Preservation, Business Case, Audio Visual, Legacy Media, National Collections**

**Conference Topics – Resilience; Community**

# Introduction

The National Library of Scotland collects, preserves and promotes access to films capturing Scotland and her people, from the early days of film-making to the present day. We hold over 46,000 moving items and share details of a project to preserve access to all of our video tapes for the benefit of the nation and the world beyond.

To date over 2000 video tapes have been digitized but to protect the entirety of the Library’s video tape collection we will need to digitize an additional 10,000 over the next 3 years. If we don’t act quickly, it will become too expensive to do so, and the content – - a large part of Scotland's moving image heritage from the mid-1950s to late 2000s will be lost because it will be trapped in formats which are effectively obsolete, unsupported, and will be unplayable in the near future.

# collections on tape project

The goal of this project is to prevent these collections from becoming inaccessible. The Collections on Tape project is making all video (and audio tapes) available to watch and listen at the National Library through a process of digitization for long-term preservation that creates a combination of ffv1/mkv and web friendly files. The project started in early 2022 and will run until 2025 with a cost of around 350 thousand GBP plus an ongoing commitment to store and serve around 700 terabytes of digital video assets created by the project.

# the poster

The poster is divided into the following sections:

## Introduction To The National Library of Scotland’s Moving Image Collections

## Business Case For Access And Preservation

Highlights from the business case for digitization for preservation and the research that supported it.

## Collections On Tape Project.

An overview of the project including size, duration, cost, progress to date, the project team.

## Workflows From Capture To Preservation

Including content description, rights clearance, capture, file processing, storage, preservation, delivery, automation, throughput volumes, hardware and software used.

## Providing Access To The Video

A depiction of the different methods of providing access to the general public and video specialists.

## Troubleshooting and Future Plans

List of some of the issues we have or haven’t resolved and more good plans for the future.