

## 2016 File Formats Master List

This is the preferred list of file formats for the preservation of digital content at the UW-Milwaukee Library. The list was created by the Digital Preservation Community of Practice group and should be reviewed and updated annually.

\* denotes a preferred format for user access

### Text Documents

#### *Preferred*

Open Document Format .odt or .ods

#### *Acceptable*

\*Portable Document Format .pdf  
XML with standard DTD or link to Schema .xml  
HTML .htm or .html  
Plain Text (Encoding: UTF-8 or ASCII) .txt  
PDF (other subtypes) .pdf  
Open Office XML .docx or .xlsx  
Rich Text Format .rtf  
EPUB .epub

### Vector Images

#### *Preferred*

Scalable Vector Graphics .svg

#### *Acceptable*

\*Standard CAD Drawing .dwg  
AutoCAD Drawing Interchange format .dxf  
Computer Graphics Metafile .cgm  
Adobe Illustrator .ai

### Raster Images

#### *Preferred*

TIFF (uncompressed) .tif or .tiff

#### *Acceptable*

\*JPEG .jpeg or .jpg  
\*JPEG2000 (uncompressed or lossless compressed) .jp2 or .j2k  
PDF/A or PDF/X (Graphic exchange format) .pdf  
PNG .png  
TIFF (Lossless Compressed) .tif

## Audio Files

### *Preferred*

Broadcast Wave	.wav
Audio Interchange File Format	.aif, .aiff

### *Acceptable*

*MP3	.mp3
Advanced Audio Coding	.aac, .m4p, .m4a
MIDI	.mid, .midi
Ogg Vorbis	.ogg
Free Lossless Audio Coding (FLAC)	

## Video

### *Preferred*

AVI (Uncompressed, motion JPEG)	.avi
Quicktime Movie (Uncompressed)	.mov

### *Acceptable*

*AVI (MPEG-4 Codec)	.avi
AVI (Lossless compressed)	.avi
Quicktime Movie (Lossless compressed)	.mov
Windows Media Video	.wmv
MPEG-2	.mpg, .mpeg
*MPEG-4 (preferred H.264 Codec)	.mp4, m4v

## Vector Geospatial Data

### *Preferred*

ESRI Shapefile	.shp, .shx, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .prj, .xml
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### *Acceptable*

ESRI File Geodatabase	.gdb, .spx, .gdftablx, .gdbindexes, .gdftable
PostGIS database	

## Raster Geospatial Data

### *Preferred*

GeoTIFF	.tif, .tiff
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### *Acceptable*

Digital Raster Graphic as TIFF	.tif, fgd, .tiff
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ESRI ArcInfo Grid .adf, .dat, .nit

## Email

### *Preferred*

MBOX

### *Acceptable*

*EML	.eml
Plain Text (UTF-8 or ASCII encoding)	.txt
Outlook individual email formats	.msg and .ost
PDF Portfolio	.pdf
HTML	.htm or .html

## Presentation Files

### *Preferred*

Open Office .odp

### *Acceptable*

*PDF	.pdf
Office Open XML	.pptx

## Data Sets

### *Preferred*

Comma Separated Variables .csv

### *Acceptable*

Tab Delimited	.txt
Open Office Spreadsheet	.ods
SQL DDS	
Office Open XML	.xlsx
dBASE	.dbf