

How much data is that?

File Sizes for Common A/V Archival Formats

When preparing to digitize any number of your A/V assets, there are many factors that need to be considered. Priority materials, metadata definitions, timelines, and deliverable file formats are just a few of the details that the modern archivist grapple with when considering digitization of their assets. However, one of the often overlooked aspects of the digitization process is being aware of just how much data you're going to be in possession of once your assets are transferred.

If you don't know how much data you're receiving, it can be difficult to anticipate storage solutions, as well as any involved costs. Knowing the volume of data you're about to receive can be instrumental in being prepared for storage solutions, as well as choosing what file formats are best suited for your purposes. Digitization is not a one-size-fits-all process, and being informed about what exactly you're going to receive from a digitization firm, in terms of format and size, can have a great impact on the decisions you make for your archives.

In an effort to make life a little easier for ourselves and our clients, we at Scene Savers have prepared a simple chart to aid in this aspect. Below, you will find the data size of the most common file formats used today, measured in gigabytes per hour. The chart is broken down into 3 sections: Preservation, Mezzanine/Editing, and Access, with each section pertaining to the commonly used file formats for that specific purpose.

For more information about digitization and legacy A/V materials, visit the Learning Center at <http://www.scenesavers.com>.





File Formats			
Full High Definition Assets (1920x1080)		Standard Definition Assets (720x486)	
Preservation			
File Type	Size	File type	Size
10-bit Uncompressed (MOV/AVI)	478 GB/hr	8-bit Uncompressed (MOV/AVI)	77 GB/hr
10-bit JPEG2000 (MXF)	264 GB/hr	8-bit JPEG2000 (MXF)	33 GB/hr
10-bit FFV1 (AVI or MKV)	102 GB/hr	8-bit FFV1 (AVI/MKV)	31 GB/hr
Mezzanine/Editing			
File Type	Size	File type	Size
HD ProRes HQ 422 (MOV)	91 GB/hr	SD ProRes HQ 422 (MOV)	30 GB/hr
DNxHD 175X (MOV/MXF)	80 GB/hr	DV-25 (MOV)	13 GB/hr
		DV-50 (MOV)	27 GB/hr
Access			
File Type	Size	File type	Size
h.264 (MP4 - 20mbps)	10 GB/hr	h.264 (MP4 - 8mbps)	4 GB/hr
h.264 (MP4 - 5mbps)	2.6 GB/hr	h.264 (MP4 - 2mbps)	1 GB/hr

