

Developing IMF specifications for movie preservation

Report on the
workshop on preserving movies with IMF
(Amsterdam, 2019)

Background



[Workshop on preserving movies with IMF \(Amsterdam\)](#)

Making movies is costly and time-consuming. Preserving them is critical.

September 13, 2019 in Amsterdam

90+ attendees from archive, post-production, preservation and studio communities

Conclusions

The Interoperable Master Format (IMF) is technically suitable for movie preservation

Timing is right to apply IMF to movie preservation

- Migration to digital preservation is in its early stages
- Standards activity to apply IMF to D-Cinema preservation has started

The IMF User Group (<https://www.imfug.com>) has offered to coordinate the gathering of requirements across movie preservation organizations worldwide

Why use IMF for movie preservation?

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Existing equipment and software▪ Thriving community▪ International standard▪ Flexible framework▪ Proven technology▪ Incremental effort needed to support preservation-specific requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Engineering effort needed▪ 1-year away from initial specification▪ Intrinsic complexity
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lower education costs▪ Lower barriers to exploitation▪ Lower rejection rates▪ Lower acquisition costs▪ Long-term solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional or organization-specific ad-hoc solutions

Objective

Develop IMF specifications for the exchange of motion picture content in preservation applications

Scope

Motion picture content

Current and historical content

Audio-visual essence

Preservation with the intent of enabling frequent exploitation

Proposed next steps

December 2019	Identify participants, and organizations with whom to coordinate
January 2020 – September 2020	Capture technical requirements within the IMF UG
October 2020 – September 2021	Develop specifications, e.g. within SMPTE
June 2021 – ...	Organize plugfests to gather implementation experience and identify issues

Get involved, join us today! Contact info@imfug.com

Further information

What is the IMF User Group?

Worldwide community for the IMF family of standards

- Promote the use of IMF
- Connect end-users and implementers
- Coordinate work across organizations
- Develop best practices

90+ [members](#) large and small

Quarterly in-person meetings with remote participation

Conference panels, tutorials, white papers, interop demos, etc...

Join us today at www.imfug.com

What is the Interoperable Master Format?

Worldwide standard (SMPTE ST 2067-2) initially published in 2013

Component-based interchange format for efficient content versioning

Designed for finished and high-quality audio-visual masters

- High-dynamic range and wide-color gamut images
- Immersive sound
- International subtitles and captions

Based on established technologies (XML, MXF...)

In active use today