

Digital Primary Source Formats

Quick Reference Guide

AUDIO	<i>File Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Intended Use</i>
RealMedia (.rm)	N/A - Stream	Good	Streaming format for one time use only – Real Player required
Mpeg (.mp3)	Small	Good	Music and personal use
Wave (.wav)	Large	Excellent	PowerPoint and other media Presentations

VIDEO	<i>File Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Intended Use</i>
RealMedia (.rm)	N/A - Stream	Good	Streaming format for one time use only – Real Player required
Quicktime (.mov)	Small	Good	Personal Video – Quicktime Player required
Mpeg (.mpg)	Large	Excellent	PowerPoint and other media Presentations

IMAGES	<i>File Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Intended Use</i>
GIF (.gif)	Small	Fair	Thumbnail image or smaller icon – Bibliographic images
JPEG(.jpg)	Medium	Good	PowerPoint and basic media Presentations – Basic printing
TIFF (.tiff)	Large	Excellent	Large-format printing and detailed viewing

MAPS	<i>File Size</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Intended Use</i>
All Image Formats (.gif, .jpg, .tiff)	Varies	Varies	Refer to Image table for best uses with each file type
Mr SID (.sid)	Very Large	Excellent	Zoomable viewing within LOC.gov – Special Plugin required to view file
JPEG2000 (.jp2)	Very Large	Excellent	Zoomable viewing within LOC.gov – Special Plugin required to view file

For a detailed listing of file types and necessary downloads please visit:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/view.html>