

Digital Primary Source Formats Quick Reference Guide

AUDIO	File Size	Quality	Intended Use
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	File Size	Quality	Intended Use
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	File Size	Quality	Intended Use
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	File Size	Quality	Intended Use
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