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## SI 678 Preserving Sound and Motion

Class 6 – Motion: Processes and Digital Cinema



## Themes

**Themes** 

- Film preservation
- Media Transfer
- Artifact and product

"Colorization modifies and shifts what is presumed to be the permanent arrangement of the film as historical artifact in cultural history: it tampers with the inventory." Acland, 1990.

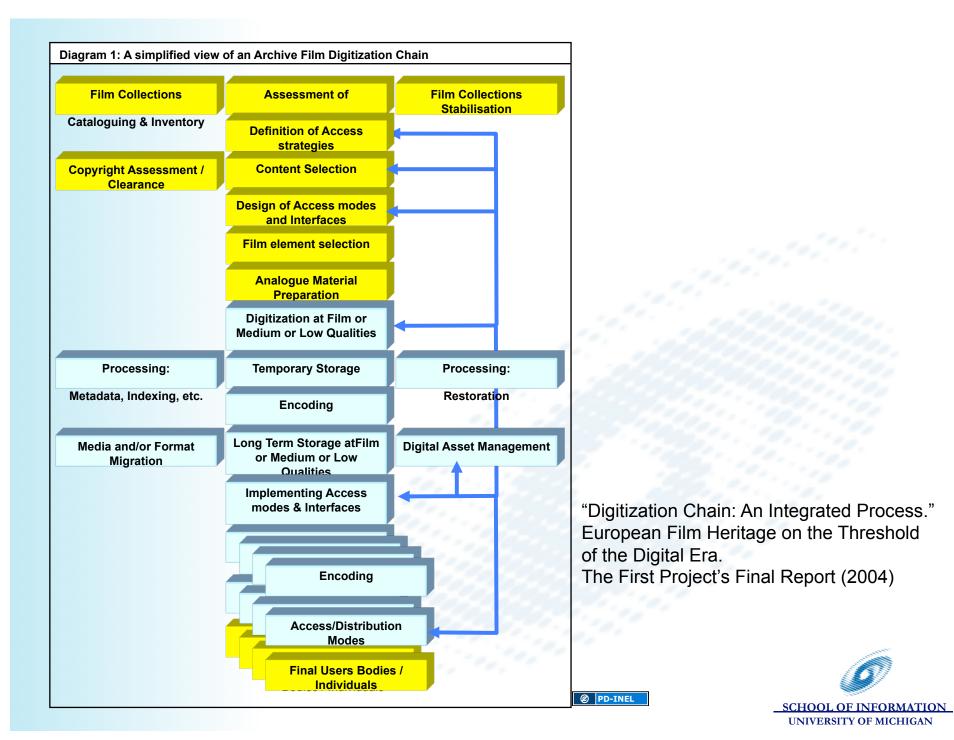


## Film-based Artifacts

			Media Transfo	rmations	Over Time		
	Production of Artifact						<b>→</b>
				"Original	As Is	As Was	
Time	Source	Prod. Intermediate	Record	Pres. Intermediate	Restored		
	1970	Film	Film	Film	Film	Film	
	1990	Film	Mix	Film	Mix	Film	
	2010	Mix	Digital	Mix	Digital	Mix	
<b>V</b>	2020	Digital	Digital	Digital	Digital	FILM	
•							

**PD-INEL** Source Undetermined





# Digital Data Storage

**EXAMPLE OF DIGITAL STORAGE:** a lot of data......a lot of tapes

Capacity for 10,000hrs of digitised film

Output  format	HDTV	2K	4K	Nb Tapes at 4K
Native Capacity	3.74 PB	10 PB	41.3 PB	82,600
LLC 2.6	1.4 PB	3.85 PB	15.9 PB	31,800
Lossy Compression of 5	0.75 PB	2 TB	8.26 PB	16,520
	Native Capacity  LLC 2.6  Lossy Compression	Native Capacity 3.74 PB  LLC 2.6 1.4 PB  Lossy Compression 0.75 PB	Native Capacity 3.74 PB 10 PB  LLC 2.6 1.4 PB 3.85 PB  Lossy Compression 0.75 PB 2 7 B	format         HDIV         2K         4K           Native Capacity         3.74 PB         10 PB         41.3 PB           LLC 2.6         1.4 PB         3.85 PB         15.9 PB           Lossy Compression         0.75 PB         2 TB         8.26 PB

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Source Undetermined

1 PB = 1,000 TB = 1,000,000 GB

1 Tape = 0.5 TB

Maximum Throughput 30 Mbytes/sec

Time to UP/Download 0.5 TB: 278 minutes = 4hr 38 minutes



## Film preservation process

Color and culture

Film preservation

Colorization

Artifact and product

- Proper storage as foundation
- Duplication of film stock
  - Pre-inspection
  - Detailed preparation
  - Printing
  - Inspection and QC
- Restoration
  - Color correction (intent)
  - Assembly from multiple sources



### Color and culture

#### Color and culture

Film preservation
Colorization
Artifact and product

- Reproduction of Caucasian skin color as dominant force in color film technology
- Color films are cultural creations
- Laboratory control
- Production and film processes controlled for "white"



### Color restoration

Color and culture
Film preservation
Colorization
Artifact and product

- Documentation on film production and manufacture is an important part of the film's context.
- Modern science in the service of authenticity
- Tension between authenticity and modern



## Artifacts and archives

Color and culture
Film preservation
Colorization
Artifact and product

### Is authenticity relative?

"There is a lot at stake in the establishment of stable reference points – the reproduction of the authentic."

"In the end, the question of colorization is emblematic of the impossibility of stable histories."

Popular culture's "resistance to the kind of cultural stability signified by museums, archives, catalogs, artists and originals."



## Themes

#### **Themes**

- What is digital cinema?
- Digital intermediates
- Managing a film restoration project

"For media of the Internet age, the only alternative to storing fragments that point to a foregone experience is to accept the necessity of remaking that experience even if the work changes in the process."

(Jon Ippolito, 2007)



## Digital intermediates

Digital cinema

**Intermediates** 

**Project management** 

- Quality of digital conversion tools
- Data transfer versus digitization
- Sampling
  - Resolution
  - Color spaces and gamma correction
  - Dynamic range issues
  - Data tradeoffs
- Film to video and digital
  - Keys, time, bar coding



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# What is digital cinema?

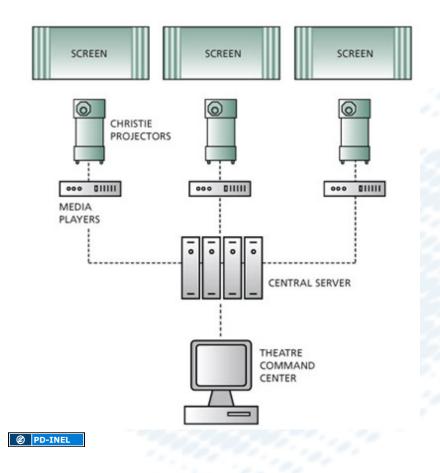
#### **Digital cinema**

Intermediates
Project management

- Capture, production, mastering
  - Distribution, projection, re-use
- Lucas, Star Wars II (2001)
- Advantages
  - Copying, some simplicity, control, delivery
- Disadvantages
  - Immaturity, cost, some complexity, impermanent (formats, media)

McKernan, Digital Cinema (2005)
Schwartz, Understanding Digital Cinema (2005)

# DLP Cinema Projection



http://www.dlp.com/default.aspx



## Hard lessons learned so far

#### **Digital cinema**

Intermediates
Project management

### Early lessons learned on preservation

- No technological quick fix (video)
- Don't compromise quality (nitrate)
- Preservation isn't one shot
- Look to multiple re-uses

**Usai**: "There is something depressingly safe, condom-like, in the digital image, and as much as I respect it and realise its creative potential, I cannot really feel anything when I experience it." [Film Is Dangerous, p. 137]



# Why is this important?

#### **Digital cinema**

Intermediates
Project management

- Bleeding edge with deep pockets
- Consumer market drives affordable technology
- Partnership between government (R&D) and business
  - IS&T (www.imaging.org)
- Potential to adapts technologies for quality and cost effectiveness



# Thank you!

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