



# Open Media @ UGA

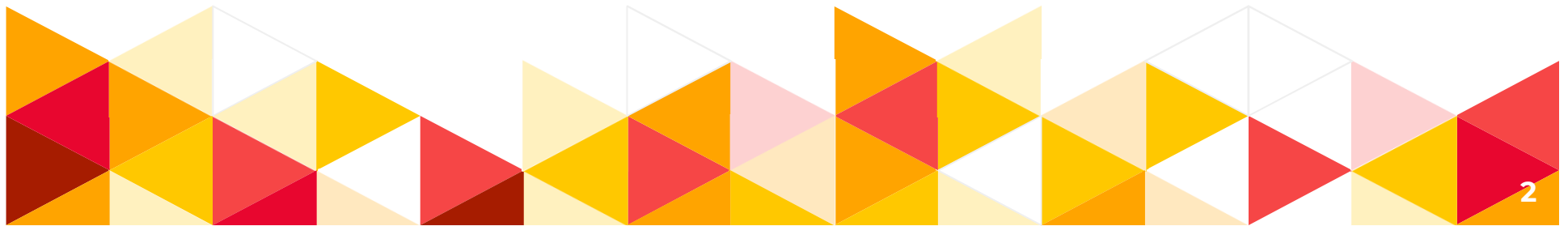
**Callie Holmes**

**Digital Archivist, Walter J. Brown Media Archives**

**October 26, 2018**

# Overview

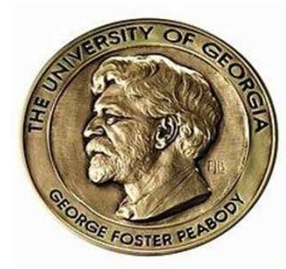
- ◀ Introduction to BMA
- ◀ AV Digitization at the Brown Media Archives
- ◀ Strategies for Implementing Change
- ◀ Future of Open Source at BMA





## About BMA Collections

- ▶ University of Georgia
- ▶ Collections divided into 3 categories:
  - ▶ Newsfilm (6 Georgia stations)
  - ▶ Peabody Awards Collection
  - ▶ "Other" (home movies, UGA athletics, interview collections, folklore, town films, etc.)
- ▶ 250,000+ physical items (mostly video), over a petabyte of digital content





## UGA Special Collections Library

- ▶ Moved into new building in 2012
- ▶ One of three departments in SCL
- ▶ 30,000 sq ft, high density storage vault



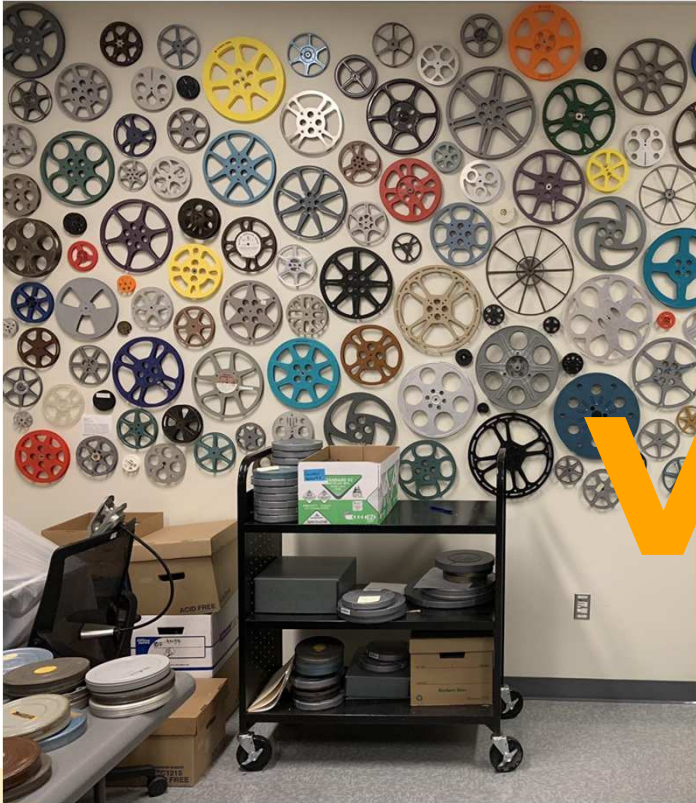
# What's missing from this list?

**The new Special Collections Libraries Building contains:**

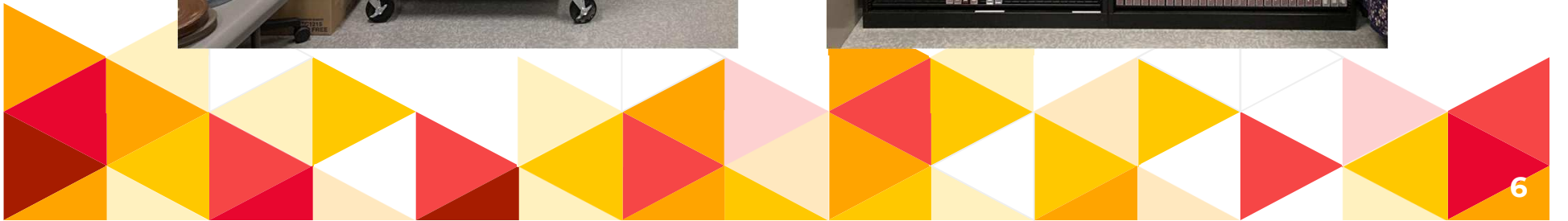
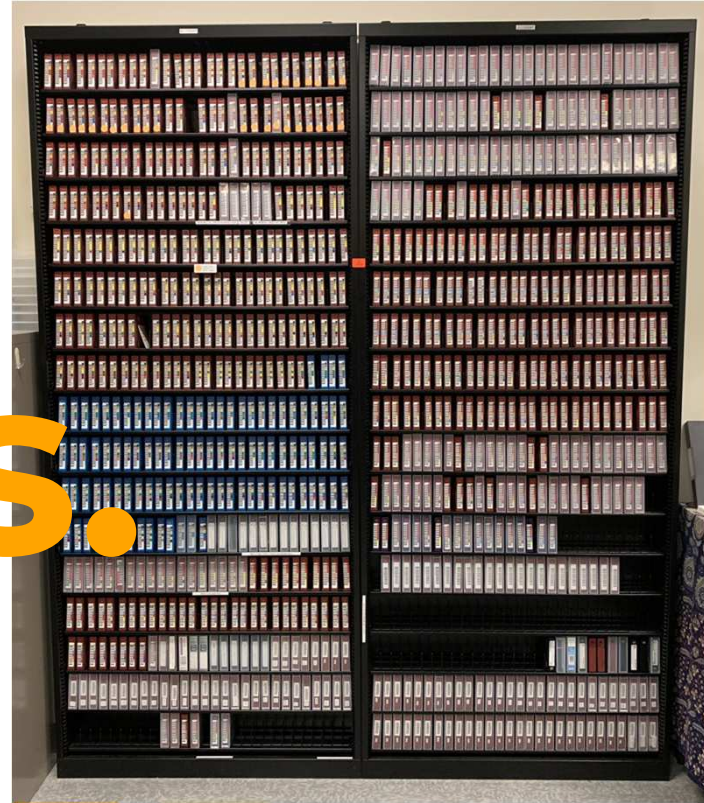
- Integrated security
- Customized climate control
- Galleries for exhibits
- Classrooms to integrate archival materials into instruction
- Space for colloquia and other events
- Growth for 40 years

*(from a description of SCL building written around the time the building was opened in 2012)*





vs.



# History of AV Digitization at Brown Media Archives





## 3 Eras

- ▶ The James Era (2007-2012)
  - ▶ Digitization begins, "industry" trends
- ▶ The Alex Era (2012-2016)
  - ▶ Move towards open source
- ▶ And Now (2016-present)







## Pre-historic (1995-2007)

- ▶ Not much digitization for first ~10 years





## The James Era (2007-2012)

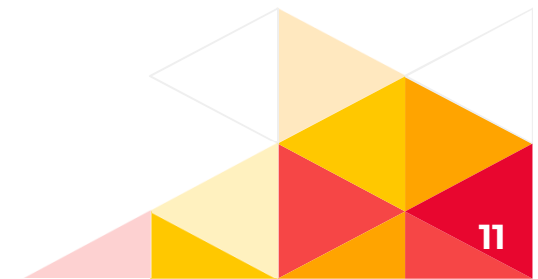
- ◀ Mid-2000s: two grants kick-started AV digitization
  - ◀ Civil Rights Digital Library (film)
  - ◀ Local TV in Peabody Awards Collection (3/4-inch U-matic)
    - ◀ SAMMA machines: produced MXF-wrapped J2K files





## The James Era (2007-2012) [cont.]

- ◀ Only person "doing" digitization / digital preservation at BMA
- ◀ Kept the in-house digitization going after grants
- ◀ Video production background = v. aware of "industry trends"
- ◀ Lot of MOV wrapped files
  - ◀ DV, shifted to ProRes
- ◀ Mac computers (uncommon)
  - ◀ Final Cut Pro





## The Alex Era (2012-2016)

- ◀ Shift to more open source solutions begins
- ◀ Demand for collections increases
- ◀ Still only one full time staff member
- ◀ 2015: First "Digital Archivist" hired
  - ◀ "Professional" vs. "Paraprofessional" in academic libraries in US
- ◀ Scaling up infrastructure, automating processes
  - ◀ ffmpeg, mediainfo
  - ◀ automated scripting (bash and Python) for transcoding, checksums





## The Alex Era (2012-2016) [cont.]

- ▶ Purchased a film scanner
  - ▶ DPX files galore
  - ▶ Storage needs increase
- ▶ Introduction of CollectiveAccess to manage analog and digital media
  - ▶ "open source" baggage





# A Fast Moving Train

## **Increasing Demand & Output**

Requests for our collections have increased exponentially since 2012. Produce about 2 TB / week

## **Folders with Files**

Is X digitized? Do we have an HD version of that? Was this supposed to have audio?

## **Digital/LTO backlog**

About a dozen LTO3 tapes, about 1000 LTO5 tapes (currently using LTO7)

## **Access**

At least 5 *totally different* ways of providing access to digital content to end users

## **Spotty Documentation**

Undocumented (or minimally documented) workflows, policies, and procedures.

## **Other Duties as Assigned...**

CollectiveAccess, supporting teaching mission of university, coordinating with Peabody Office, University committees, etc. etc.





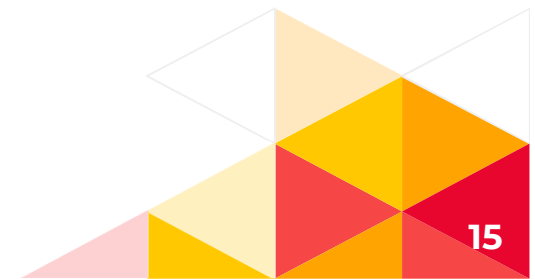
## Two Conflicting Realities

### Truth #1

We need better workflows, better tools, better infrastructure: a more manageable system.

### Truth #2

It is hard to find the time to make these changes when feeling overwhelmed by the existing flow of work.



# Strategies for

[Attempting to Maybe Try and Figure Out  
How To Go About]

# Implementing Change







## Strategy #1: Find a community

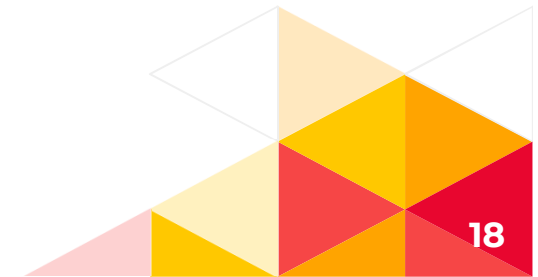
- ◀ Digital Curation Working Group: charged with developing policies for ARCHive digital preservation system
- ◀ Evolved into lib-learn-tech group at UGA Libraries
  - ◀ "Community of Practice"
  - ◀ XSLT, bash scripting, Python
  - ◀ Getting UGA Libs IT/Systems involved
- ◀ Unifying workflows across departments





## Strategy #2: Internal Outsourcing

- ▶ Asking coworkers who aren't necessarily even in your department to help you with things
- ▶ Difficult to let go of sweet lil' nugget problems
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ XSL style sheets, Python-izing AIP-prep scripts, renaming PDFs, batch ffmpeg conversions





## Strategy #3: Challenge = Opportunity

- ▶ DPX files (does anyone like these?)
  - ▶ Difficulties getting files on/off of LTO
  - ▶ False positive with virus-scanning software
  - ▶ Malformed bags
- ▶ J2K files from SAMMA
- ▶ All the more reason to shift to MKV/FFV1

*"It is broken. We should definitely fix it."*





## Strategy #4: Seize the Moment

- ▶ NHPRC grant to preserve 4000 hours of public broadcasting content from Peabody Awards Collection to become part of AAPB (American Archive of Public Broadcasting)
- ▶ Benefits of Bureaucracy
  - ▶ Putting the grant out for open bidding = opportunity to redo technical specifications for deliverables





## Strategy #5: Lean on Yall

- ▶ Ruthlessly steal other people's workflows/specs
- ▶ AMIA Open Source
- ▶ ffmpeg: Thank you ffmprovisr!

*Everyone in this room who writes blog posts, puts their workflow online, pushes scripts to github, responds to my Twitter Qs: **Thank you!***



# Moments yet to be Seized

Open Source plans for the  
future





## Become the Tipping Point

- ▶ FFV1 / MKV for film scans: RAWcooked
- ▶ Using MKV chapter feature for newsfilm?
- ▶ MediaConch
- ▶ Figure out how to give \$ support to open source projects



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