

Recommended Digitization Standards

We recommend using the digitization standards for cultural heritage still images from the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative Still Image Working Group. This group was formed under the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIP) with the goal to create common guidelines, methods, and practices to digitize historical materials. For more information please follow the links below.

http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov/guidelines/digitize-technical.html

September 2016 Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials: Creation of Raster Image Files.pdf

Optimal Standards

Material	Image Resolution	Color Resolution	Color Space	Master File Format	Access File Format
Textual documents, artwork, maps, etc.	600 ppi	24 bit	RGB	TIFF	PDF (text documents), JPEG
Documents with poor legibility	400 ppi	8 bit	Grayscale	TIFF	PDF
Photographs	600 ppi	24 bit	RGB	TIFF	JPEG or JPEG2000
Negatives	2800 ppi	48 bit	RGB	TIFF	JPEG or JPEG2000
Artifacts, oversized items, fragile materials (anything photographed instead of scanned)	10 to 16 megapixel	48 bit	RGB	TIFF	JPEG or JPEG2000

Updated: March 2019