The Digital Dilemma:
Examining the Practicality of Digital Forensics in Cultural Institutions

Angelique Kelley
Intern
Special Collections - University of Texas at San Antonio
Let’s Talk Digital Preservation!
The Big Questions

- Is digital forensics for cultural property practical?
- Are there established standards for employing digital forensics in cultural institutions?
- What programs are available to assist cultural institutions in adopting digital forensics practices?
- Does digital forensics have applications outside of archives and special collections?
- Are there risks associated with using digital forensics that require advanced policy considerations?
Quantity of Media by Format

- 3.5" floppy: 296, 18%
- 5.25" floppy: 311, 18%
- Master Broadcast Record: 311, 18%
- DAT: 361, 21%
- Mini Data Cartridge: 213, 13%
- Hi8: 73, 4%
- Digital Data Cartridge: 79, 5%
- Digital Voice Recorder: 47, 3%
- Microfilm: 44, 3%
- Hard disk drive: 8, 0%
- CD: 12, 1%
- miniDV: 12, 1%
- DVD: 12, 1%
- Zip disk: 14, 1%
- VideoWriter 3.5" floppy: 12, 1%
- Tape Reels: 1, 0%
- MicroCassette: 1, 0%
- USB flash: 3, 0%
- DV Cam: 3, 0%
- Memory Card: 2, 0%
- Tape Reels: 1, 0%
Digital Preservation Challenges

- Costly
- Time consuming
- Requires technical training and support
- Accessibility concerns

- The big one: What deserves preserving?
# Digital Forensics: Pros & Cons

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open-source and low-cost software</td>
<td>Program limitations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disk images are quick, simple</td>
<td>Cannot generate bulk reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online tutorials and free webinars</td>
<td>Installation and troubleshooting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disk image (exact copy)</td>
<td>Format</td>
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<td>Storage</td>
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Possible Ethical Concern: Privacy (deleted content, sensitive information)
Bottom Line

Image courtesy of Talent Centric
Thank You!

Questions?
Email me at akelley6609@gmail.com