

STANFORD DIGITAL REPOSITORY -- FORMAT SCORING MATRIX

The Format Scoring Matrix (below) provides a scale for measuring the long-term sustainability of a digital file format or group of like formats. It is based in large part on the work of the Library of Congress Office of Strategic Initiatives. Formats are evaluated against the five factors listed in the left columns (definitions for the factors appear on page 2). The format scores positively for a given factor if that factor is considered not to impede future digital preservation efforts; a negative score is assigned when the factor is expected to hinder preservation. The accumulation of negative scores results in an increasingly lower status for a format. Therefore, a higher score indicates that a format's prospects for sustainability are poorer than one with a low score. If no match on the matrix is made, or if the MIME type is determined to be application/octet-stream, a file undergoign assessment receives a score of 5. The resulting Format Score is matched to a corresponding Preservation Quality Value (see table to right).

Preservation Quality Values:	
Neg. Count	Status
0	high
1	
2	medium
3	
4	low
5	

	Text		Image/Graphic								Page-viewer
	Plain (ASCII, UTF-8)	Marked-up (html, css, xml, sgml)	JPEG	GIF	TIFF	JPEG2000 (lossless comp)	BMP	PNG	Photoshop	PDF	
Adoption	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	
Disclosure	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	
Transparency	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	
Self-Documentation	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	
External Dependencies	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	
Negative Count	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	2	

	Office Docs	Audio		Video					Animation
	Word, Excel, PowerPoint	WAVE (LPCM)	AIFF	MP3	MPEG	Real	QT	Windows Media	Flash
Adoption	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Disclosure	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
Transparency	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Self-Documentation	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
External Dependencies	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
Negative Count	4	0	0	1	1	4	4	4	4