



**Library of Congress**  
**Recommended Formats Statement**  
**Change History from 2023-2024 version to 2024-2025 version**

[Recommended Formats Statement - 2024-2025 \(link\)](#)

Last updated: July 1, 2024

Minor formatting changes are not included in this list.

**1. General**

- a. Updated header to include new FAQ page

**2. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

- a. Creation of new FAQ to address some comment questions

**3. Introduction**

- a. Information added about digital accessibility features as an evaluation criterium as well as general discussion of updates and scope

**4. Summary Table of Digital Format Preferences**

- a. Updates to reflect changes in format categories

**5. Textual Works**

- a. Updates to Textual Works - Print (books, etc.). Changes are the same as to Musical Scores – Print.
  - i. Paper: Addition of “Paper which does not meet this standard can successfully be preserved by the Library of Congress” to Acceptable
  - ii. Printing Process, in order of preference: Move “Xerography (Electrophotography)” to Acceptable from Preferred (with updated language)
  - iii. Binding and Packaging: Changes to the criteria for Hard Cover bindings; Addition of criteria for broadsides to Preferred (previously under Size); Move Soft Cover and Unbound materials from Preferred to Acceptable
  - iv. Size: Removed entirely
  - v. Rarity, Special Features, Illustration: updated row label to D from E to accommodate the removal of the Size row; Addition of “Editions without these features” to Acceptable
  - vi. Completeness: updated row label to E from F to accommodate the removal of the Size row
  - vii. Metadata: updated row label to F from G to accommodate the removal of the Size row; Addition of Publication Date, ISSN and Contact information to Preferred; Addition to Acceptable: As displayed on item: Title, Creator, Publication/Creation Date or Start Date/End Date, Place of Publication, Publisher/Producer/Distributor

- b. Updates to Textual Works – Digital
  - i. Formats: Removed “In order of preference”; Addition of “As received” to Preferred; Addition of “In order of preference” to Acceptable
  - ii. Move [BITS](#) (Book Interchange Tag Suite) version 2.0 from Preferred to Acceptable
  - iii. Rarity, Special Features, Illustration: Addition of Editions without these features to Acceptable
  - iv. Metadata: Addition of Publication Date and Contact information to Preferred  
Addition to Acceptable: As displayed on item: Title, Creator, Publication/Creation Date or Start Date/End Date, Place of Publication, Publisher/Producer/Distributor
- c. Updates to Textual Works - Electronic Serials
  - i. Formats: Removed “In order of preference”; Addition of “As received” to Preferred; Addition of “In order of preference” to Acceptable
  - ii. Rarity and Special Features: Addition of entire row to Serials section
  - iii. Completeness: Updated row label to C from D to accommodate the addition of the Rarity and Special Features row
  - iv. Metadata: Addition of METS as example metadata schema, replacement of “structured” for “article level” metadata in Preferred.

## 6. Still Image Works

- a. None

## 7. Moving Image Works

- a. None

## 8. Audio Works

- a. Updates to Audio - On Tangible Media (digital and analog)
  - i. Sound recordings, in order of preference:
    1. Preferred: Updated from “Published Compact Disc (CD audio) rather than Recordable Compact Disc (CD-R, audio format)” to “Published (commercially manufactured) Compact Disc (CD audio) with all jackets, sleeves, inserts and intact enclosures”; Added “Original recorded (soundstage)/release channel format (e.g. Stereo or mono)”; Added “Multi-channel Surround Sound/Immersive release in addition to stereo version if released in both, e.g., SACD (DSD) and Blu-Ray Audio”; Removed “Monaural if originally recorded/release as monaural”; Removed “Direct Stream Digital (DSD) or other multi-channel (e.g. Surround Sound) version in addition to stereophonic version if release in both”
    2. Acceptable: Removed “Recordable Compact Disc (CD-R) rather than vinyl disc”; Added “Published (“burned”) Archival CD-R (CD audio formats)”; Added “Archival quality recordable Compact Disc (CD-R) rather than vinyl disc”
- b. Updates to Audio – Media-independent (digital)
  - i. Format, in order of preference:

1. Preferred: Updated Highest native resolution PCM WAVE file of final version produced (44.1 kHz / 16 bit or higher) in addition to Compact Disc (CD) when both are produced” to “High Resolution Audio (HRA) files of final version produced (96kHz/24bit or higher PCM, 2.8 MHz or higher DSD) in addition to Compact Disc (CD) when both are produced”; Updated “DSD in the released version (e.g., surround-sound or stereo)” to “Multi-channel Surround Sound/Immersive release in addition to stereo version delivered at highest resolution files available”; Removed “Compressed version in a major standard compression scheme rather than non-standard scheme “
  2. Acceptable: Updated “Uncompressed file of final release version” to “CD Redbook quality files (44.1 kHz/16 bit) in PCM wave format or DDP”; Switched the preference order of “Lossless compression scheme rather than lossy compression scheme” and “Highest resolution compressed version in a major standard compression scheme”
- ii. Metadata:
1. Addition of “If produced in a format that uses an [ADM \(Audio Definition Model\)](#), the ADM file accompanies” to Preferred; Clarification of “RSS feeds are desirable for podcasts” from “RSS feeds”

## 9. Musical Scores

- a. Updates to Musical Scores – Digital.
  - i. Rarity and Special Features: Addition of Editions without these features to Acceptable.
- b. Updates to Musical Scores – Print. Changes are the same as for Textual Works – Print (books, etc.)
  - i. Paper: Addition of Paper which does not meet this standard can successfully be preserved by the Library of Congress to Acceptable
  - ii. Printing Process, in order of preference: Move Xerography (Electrophotography) to Acceptable from Preferred (with updated language)
  - iii. Binding and Packaging: Changes to the criteria for Hard Cover bindings; Addition of criteria for broadsides to Preferred (previously under Size); Move Soft Cover and Unbound materials from Preferred to Acceptable
  - iv. Size: Removed entirely
  - v. Rarity, Special Features, Illustration: updated row label to D from E to accommodate the removal of the Size row; Addition of Editions without these features to Acceptable
  - vi. Completeness: updated row label to E from F to accommodate the removal of the Size row
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**10. Datasets**

- a. Updates to Datasets – Metadata:
  - i. Addition of “A list of software used to produce, render or compress the data,” “Grant number Information,” and “Name and permalink or DOI to access the repository in which the dataset is shared or preserved” to Preferred

**11. GIS, Geospatial and Non-GIS Cartographic**

- a. None

**12. Design and 3D**

- a. None

**13. Software and Video Games**

- a. None

**14. Web Archives**

- a. None

**15. Email**

- a. None