

Marisa Goldman

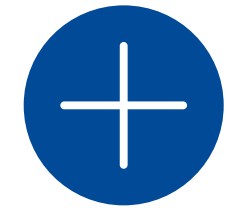
Search



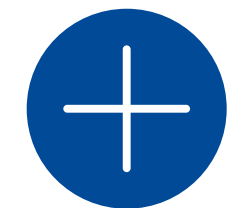
# WAV / WMA

Audio File Format

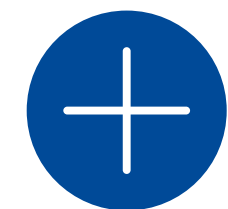
# What is a WAV File?



Created by Microsoft, it is a subset of a RIFF File

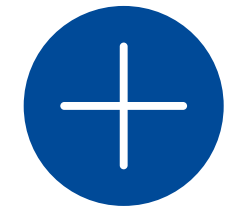


No compression is applied to a WAV file, and because of that they are larger in size than a normal MP3 file

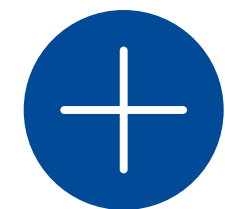


The WAV format, along with the BWF format, are the current archival file format standards for audio

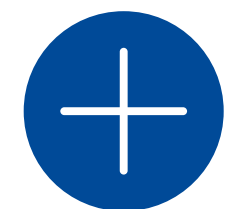
# What is a RIFF File?



Created by Microsoft, RIFF is a is the tagged file structure developed for multimedia resource files

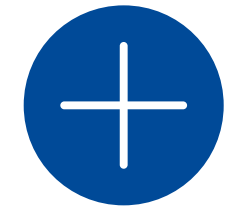


RIFF is not actually a file format itself

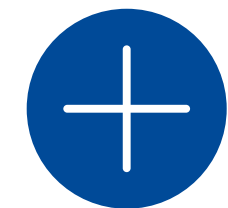


WAV, AVI, RMI are just some examples of RIFF based files

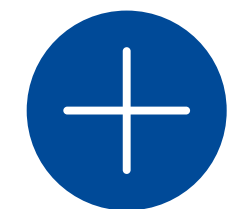
# What is a WMA File?



Created by Microsoft, it is in the ASF container format



It stores audio data encoded in the Windows Media Audio (WMA), WMA Pro, WMA Lossless, or WMA Voice codecs.



They are similar to MP3 files, and mostly used for streaming music for the web

# WAV vs MP3

Sampling Rate

WAV File Size

MP3 File Size

11,025

4.04 MB

513 KB

22,050

8.08 MB

800 KB

44,100

16.1 MB

1.07 MB

## **Preservation and Access**

The IASA (International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives) has published four special publications depicting guidelines for preserving and storing audiovisual objects, including one in 2009 detailing the Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects.

# Preservation and Access

- Preservation copies should be in WAV or BWF format
- The DIP (Dissemination Information Package) should be in a format suitable for delivery
- Separate Access Copies should be made in popular formats (MP3)
- Two master WAV files should be created if there needs to be any audio processing

# Sources

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IASA Technical Committee. 2009. "6.6. Access." In Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects. Edited by Kevin Bradley.

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IBM and Microsoft Corporation. 1991. "Multimedia Programming Interface and Data Specifications 1.0."

[http://tactilemedia.com/info/MCI\\_Control\\_Info.html#audio](http://tactilemedia.com/info/MCI_Control_Info.html#audio)