



Local Television Task Force 2017/2018

Approved by the AMIA Board in February 2017

The Association of Moving Image Archivists' (AMIA) Local TV Task Force was relaunched to identify, analyze, and provide recommended solutions for the significant gaps still remaining in the preservation and access of the United States' local television archives.

For our current purposes, we are focusing on moving images and recorded sounds that were created for television broadcast in local U.S. markets, specifically network affiliate and independent stations, including public and cable access stations but excluding public broadcasting stations. This exclusion was decided by unanimous vote at the [2016 AMIA Local TV Working Group](#) as the preservation of local US public broadcasting stations is being overseen and undertaken by the American Archive at WGBH. We look to the American Archive as a potential model project for future work with non-public television broadcasting archives. There is some crossover, but these other types of collections are the most at-risk.

[History of Local TV Preservation Timeline](#)

The Task Force felt that in order to best know what direction the preservation of local TV should go, we needed to have a better grasp on what had already been done. Our research has been distilled into this timeline and we also have additional documentation [here](#).

[Survey and Summary](#)

We conducted a survey with aims to facilitate preservation of and access to local television collections across the United States by collecting information about local television collections and their collecting institutions. The last survey of this kind was taken almost 15 years ago, so we felt it was time to update the information as much as possible. The closing date for the survey was January 12, 2018.

Resource-Sharing Topics

[Copyright, IP, and Re-Use](#) Copyright and Intellectual Property are issues that seriously restrict access and preservation of local television archival content. Here the Local TV Task Force provides an anonymous example regarding an acquisition of a local TV news station's archive by a small regional archive to offer as inspiration to both content creators and collecting organizations.

[Digitization & Access](#) Digitization is a huge stumbling block for archives in providing access to local TV collections. Here we provide FAQs and further resources for in-house digitization and working with vendors.

[Glossary of TV Production Terms](#) to demystify your archive. Please add your comments or suggestions! We will be launching a wiki-type site with photo, audio, and video examples in the future.

[Further Reading](#) on the history of local TV, its preservation, and how best to care for these collections.

AMIA Annual Conference - 2017

- [Meeting Notes](#) from the AMIA annual conference
- [Slides](#) from the Task Force's pop-up panel presentation at the AMIA annual conference

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