

Guidelines for Digital Media provided to the MCZ

A general condition of use for specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology is that copies of any digital media files and all associated metadata must be provided to the appropriate MCZ collection department for archiving. These media files are loaded into the museum database (MCZbase), and associated with the relevant specimens. The following best practice guidelines must be followed to ensure correct association and an efficient loading process.

FILE FORMAT

The MCZ archives all digital media in their original file format whenever possible.

- For cameras, files should be captured in the RAW format of the camera (for example, .cr2 or .nef).
- For scanners or other devices, uncompressed TIF files, 8 bits per color channel or higher should be provided.
- For audio recording devices, the least compressed original version of the file is preferred, ideally uncompressed WAV.
- For cameras or other sources of video, the original files from the camera should be provided, as well as encoded as mpeg level 4 video (mp4) in 480p, 720p, or 1080p.
- For micro-CT data, all original back-projections and reconstruction files are needed, in their original uncompressed formats. The deliverable file format for CT data is a U3D object embedded in a PDF document. The MCZ can supply a roadmap for this conversion process. All data associated with a given specimen should be kept in a single file folder named according to the convention below (use abbreviation “_3d”).

FILE NAMING CONVENTION

Digital media representations of MCZ specimens should be named according to the following convention: MCZ#, underscore, Genus, underscore, species, underscore, then (if applicable) an abbreviation to indicate the view of the specimen shown in the image, or a number to indicate that the image belongs to a series of images of the same specimen.

- For example, the image of the dorsal view the head of a *Boa constrictor* would have the following filename: MCZ5460_Boa_constrictor_hd.tif
- A list of standard abbreviations, which encompasses both animal and non-animal specimens, is provided on the second page of this document.

METADATA

For each digital media file, please capture metadata (when available) in an Excel spreadsheet with separate columns for each of the following:

- Filename (e.g., “MCZ5460_Boa_constrictor_hd.tif”)
- Aspect, if it’s a digital image (dorsal, ventral, etc.)
- Date on which the media file was made
- Original filename (e.g., “IMG_0123.cr2,” “DSC_0456.MOV”)
- Name of the person who captured the media
- MCZ catalog number of the specimen represented
- Description: a brief summary of the circumstances or project under which the media was produced

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS FOR NAMING CONVENTION FOR DIGITAL MEDIA

image of animal part, view	abbrev
whole body, dorsal	d
whole body, lateral	l
whole body, ventral	v
head, dorsal	hd
head, lateral	hl
head, ventral	hv
head, frontal	hf
front foot, dorsal	fld
hind foot, dorsal	hld

image of paleo specimen, view	abbrev
paleo specimen, full view	full
paleo specimen, partial/close-up/detail	detail
paleo specimen, counterpart	counterpart
paleo specimen, part	part
paleo specimen, coated w/ powder	coated

image of object, view	abbrev
label	label
labels, multiple per specimen	label1; label2; etc.
object, full view	(objectname)_full
object, partial/close-up/detail	(objectname)_detail
object, series of related details	(objectname)_series_1of4; ..._series_2of4; etc.

other digital media files	abbrev
CT reconstructions	3d
audio	audio (more specific descriptors are acceptable, e.g., call, chorus, hiss, rattle, chirp)
video, 480p	480p
video, 720p	720p
video, 1080p	1080p