

## A BIG LIST OF SOURCES AND IDEAS for FOUND / ARCHIVAL DIGITAL MOVING IMAGE COLLECTIONS

*A crowd-sourced, collaborative, ongoing list of US and international sources of accessible / online digital moving image material for found footage student (and non-student) filmmakers*

### SOME BIG / WELL-KNOWN US COLLECTIONS:

#### [ARCHIVE.ORG](https://archive.org)

The Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. Contains many sub-collections that have a more specific focus. Or just good for general browsing / foraging to see what turns up.

A few specific collections of interest:

- [Periscope Film Collection](#): one of the largest military film collections in private hands. It includes rare training, combat, recruiting and history films made by the U.S. Government from 1914 through the mid-1980s. Subjects include the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, Air Force, and civilian aviation, and conflicts from the Spanish-American War through WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.
- [Educational Films](#): This collection features vintage educational films from a variety of sources. Films intended for educational purposes are an enormous, often neglected part of the twentieth century media landscape. Archived here are corporate and government sponsored films; classroom academic films instructing students in science and the humanities, and classroom guidance films on sex education, manners, and morality; military training films; medical films aimed at the public or at health practitioners; religious conversion films; and a host of others, too many to fully enumerate.
- [California Revealed](#): California Revealed is a State Library initiative to help California's public libraries, in partnership with other local heritage groups, digitize, preserve, and provide online access to archival materials - books, newspapers, photographs, audiovisual recordings, and more - that tell the incredible stories of the Golden State.
- [The VHS Vault](#): A wide collection of trailers, shows, recordings, and other captures on VHS tape.
- [XFR Collective](#) - Content digitized as part of pop-up digitization events hosted by XFR collective. Includes video art from New York's Downtown scene and activist efforts from across the country. There is significant LGBTQ+ content, including home movies and raw

footage from the AIDS crisis. The date range of the content extends from the early 1980s through the early 2000s.

### [PRELINGER ARCHIVES](#)

*Collection: [Prelinger Archives : Free Movies : Free Download, Borrow and Streaming](#) Focus: Industrial film, Educational film, Advertising, Home Movies*

Hosted on Archive.org, but significant and large enough to merit listing separately.

Prelinger Archives was founded in 1983 by Rick Prelinger in New York City. Over the next twenty years, it grew into a collection of over 60,000 "ephemeral" (advertising, educational, industrial, and amateur) films. In 2002, the film collection was acquired by the [Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division](#). Prelinger Archives remains in existence, holding approximately 11,000 digitized and videotape titles (all originally derived from film) and a large collection of home movies, amateur and industrial films acquired since 2002. Its primary collection emphasis has turned toward home movies and amateur films, with approximately 17,000 items held as of Spring 2019. Its goal remains to collect, preserve, and facilitate access to films of historic significance that haven't been collected elsewhere. Included are films produced by and for many hundreds of important US corporations, nonprofit organizations, trade associations, community and interest groups, and educational institutions.

### [NARA \(US NATIONAL ARCHIVES\)](#)

*Collection focus: US historical footage, historic newsreels, military footage (but contains all kinds of other things).*

The motion picture, sound, and video holdings include official U.S. Government records of permanent value and donated materials obtained from various sources. Not everything is digitized, but many things are, and you can set up your search to only show digitized films. A lot of material (i.e. anything produced by the government) is in the public domain.

**SEARCH TIPS:** Use "advanced search" to look for films that are digitized and hosted online: use any keywords to narrow down your search by subject; select "moving images" under "type of materials" menu; then select "available online" tab after your search results are listed to generate a list of films that are digitized and viewable online.

NARA also has a [YouTube channel](#)

### [LIBRARY OF CONGRESS DIGITAL COLLECTIONS](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL / NON-US ARCHIVES:**

### [NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA](#)

*Collection focus: Canadian film, Indigenous film, documentary, animation*

Welcome to NFB.ca, the National Film Board of Canada's award-winning online Screening Room, featuring over 3,000 productions. Films on this site can be streamed free of charge, or downloaded for your personal use for a small fee. Our Collection includes documentaries, animations, experimental films, fiction and interactive works. We showcase films that take a stand on issues of global importance that matter to Canadians—stories about the environment, human rights, international conflict, the arts and more. We also have a selection of animated films for both adults and children from talented filmmakers such as Cordell Barker, Chris Landreth, Ryan Larkin, Richard Condie, Ishu Patel, Caroline Leaf, and others.

### [BRITISH PATHÉ](#)

British Pathé hosts a collection of archived footage of major events, fashion trends, famous faces and more. It also represents the news agency Reuters, and their 120, 000+ historical news clips. Though licensing the footage is not free, licenses are priced according to the manner in which you want to use a clip, which opens up a range of options. One of the most useful features of their website is their 'Archive Picks', a selection of clips which they believe will be useful for contextualizing current events, illustrating trending topics, or which are relevant to important anniversaries.

### [BBC ARCHIVES](#)

BBC Archives manages one of the world's largest multimedia archives. Our mission is to preserve content so that it can be re-used. Our vision is to have an open archive, fit for a digital world.

### [NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE](#)

From home movies to documentaries, from industry to entertainment - the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive (formerly the Scottish Screen Archive) has something for everyone. Explore around 100 years of Scotland's history captured by amateur and professional film-makers. Here in the Moving Image Archive catalogue you will find details of thousands of films and videos held at the Library.

### [DAS BUNDESARCHIV / GERMAN FEDERAL ARCHIVES](#)

German History and its Digital Memory in Moving Images

### [EYE FILM MUSEUM](#) (The Netherlands)

The EYE collection dates back to 1946, when the first predecessor of EYE was founded: the Nederlands Historisch Filmarchief. In 1952, this became the Dutch Filmmuseum; since 2010 we are EYE. EYE also has a [YouTube channel](#) with lots of historic films

**Includes the [Jean Desmet](#) collection** - Desmet was one of the pioneering early cinema operators in the Netherlands, and he also documented and preserved almost everything that had to do with his business: not only bookkeeping and films, but also posters, advertisements, and memos. This resulted in an extraordinary archive, which received worldwide recognition in 2011 when UNESCO included it in its Memory of the World Register.

#### [ARCHIVIO LUCE / INSTITUTE OF LIGHT CINECITTA](#) (Italy)

The Cinecittà Luce Historical Archive is one of the richest in the world, documenting the audiovisual memory of Italy and the Mediterranean in the twentieth century. Newsreels, documentaries, directories, photographs, an archive of contemporary life. A set of documentary productions that represent the "short century."

#### [FILMARKIVET.SE / SWEDISH FILM ARCHIVES](#)

On [www.filmarkivet.se](http://www.filmarkivet.se) you have the opportunity to see unique archival moving image material that otherwise are rarely accessed; mainly shorts, non-fiction films, news-reels and commercials; films that reflect the transformation of Swedish society over the last century.

#### [SAHIA VINTAGE](#) (Romania)

(website text is only in Romanian for now! But film clips have English subtitling) Public-facing project to share state-sponsored documentaries produced during the Communist era in Romania.

#### [SLOVENIAN FILM DATABASE](#)

#### [INDIANCINE.MA](#)

Indiaincine.ma is an annotated online archive of Indian film. It is intended to serve as a shared resource for film scholars and enthusiasts in India and beyond. Since 1931 to date, India has made around 50,000 sound films. Official figures suggest that around 4.4% of all films made exist in archival conditions. On the other hand, it is likely that low-end sector, including 16 mm, VHS, VCD and DVD, might have 15,000 sound films, i.e. 30%, across the Indian cinema's history, and across regions.

#### [KOREAN FILM ARCHIVE YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Read about this channel [here](#).

[selected DPLA, DigitalNZ, Europeana, and Trove](#)

DPLA is the Digital Public Library of America. The others are collections from Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. This list was compiled for a found-image GIF competition sponsored by the archive consortium.

### **SCIENTIFIC / MEDICAL FILM:**

#### [US NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE HISTORIC FILMS COLLECTION](#)

*Collection focus: medicine, mental health, child development, public health, disease*

The films and videos collection is a principal repository for biomedical moving images in the U.S. and around the world. The collection includes more than 8,000 cataloged films and video recordings from the early twentieth century through the present day. More than 900 titles date from before 1950. While most of the films are in English, there are important titles in German, Russian, French, and Spanish. The collection includes instructional and educational films, public health titles, commercial films with medical themes, public service announcements, histories of medicine on film, recordings of public lectures and ceremonies, and documentary footage of biomedical research.

#### [WELLCOME LIBRARY MOVING IMAGE COLLECTION](#) (UK)

The Library's film, video and audio collection is one of the largest of its kind. It covers all aspects of medicine, health and welfare throughout the 20th century and beyond.

#### [NASA Video Gallery](#) (public domain)

#### [HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE FOOTAGE](#) (public domain)

#### [ROMAN VISCHNIAC FILM COLLECTION](#) (University of South Carolina)

*Collection focus: cinemicroscopy*

The Roman Vishniac Film Collection comprises Vishniac's pioneering work in naturalist cinemicroscopy and photomicroscopy. It includes approximately 156,000 feet of motion picture film; more than 800 photographic negatives, slides, and prints; and paper records associated with these works. Film holdings include home movies and naturalist film experiments as well as outtakes and working materials from the Living Biology film series. The bulk of the collection dates to the 1960s and 1970s, when Vishniac was producing microbiology films in New York City.

#### [MACCAULAY LIBRARY / THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY](#)

The Macaulay Library is the world's premier scientific archive of natural history audio, video, and photographs. Although the Macaulay Library's history is rooted in birds, the collection

includes amphibians, fishes, and mammals, and the collection preserves recordings of each species' behavior and natural history. Our mission is to facilitate the ability of others to collect and preserve such recordings and to actively promote the use of these recordings for diverse purposes spanning scientific research, education, conservation, and the arts.

#### [ROYAL INSTITUTION BRAGG FILM ARCHIVE](#) (UK)

The Royal Institution is an independent charity dedicated to connecting people with the world of science. The Bragg film archive is The Royal Institution's digitised archive of films relating to the Bragg family, their research, and the world of science at that time. (Includes amazing SOAP films!)

#### [LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MENTAL HEALTH FILMS](#)

The films in this presentation, dating mainly from the 1950s, are a striking example of how mental illness—so often sensationalized in Hollywood features—could be handled with considerably more nuance and sensitivity when produced for educational and training purposes. Many of these films were intended for mental health professionals.

#### **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COLLECTIONS:**

#### [UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA MOVING IMAGE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS](#)

(<https://mirc.sc.edu/> to search the collection by keyword)

The Moving Image Research Collections Digital Video Repository (MIRC-DVR) serves MIRC's preservation and access missions. It aims to engage researchers from all walks of life in the process of discovering, enjoying, and contributing to knowledge about the sounds and images it contains—all without adding wear and tear to the fragile originals in MIRC's care.

#### [INDIANA UNIVERSITY MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE](#)

IU Libraries Moving Image Archive is one of the world's largest educational film and video collections. With more than 130,000 items spanning nearly 80 years of film production, the Archive is a member of the distinguished International Federation of Film Archives, the world's leading association for film preservation.

#### [USC HUGH HEFNER MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE](#)

The Hugh M. Hefner Moving Image Archive is comprised of approximately 70,000 motion picture negatives, magnetic sound elements, release prints and a growing percentage of moving image materials in digital formats. The archive's collection of USC student and staff films provides a unique opportunity for current production students to study the works of USC

alumni to find inspiration, renewed confidence and a sense of history. The student film collection houses both the original camera negative and release prints of many USC alumni who have become leaders in the film industry today, as well as the works of many other young filmmakers who are soon to make their distinctive marks on the motion picture and television industry. The archive also holds a research collection of commercial feature films, television programs, educational films and shorts to support the school's academic mission. Collections include: Motion Picture Technology Archive / USC Student Films / Theatrical and Educational Films / Special Collections (films) / Historical Photographs

#### [UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA / PENN MUSEUM](#)

The Penn Museum has an extensive collection of archival films (that have been digitized) and born-digital videos covering a range of archaeological and anthropological topics. More than 1,100 online resources can be browsed via their thumbnails below or by using the left navigation links to Archival Films, Lectures, Educational & Other, and Playlists or via the dropdown menu under Videos on the top navbar. Alternatively, this simple search function allows discovery via content available in the video and film titles.

#### **POLITICS AND NEWS:**

#### [MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY - WLBT Newsfilm Collection](#)

The WLBT Newsfilm Collection (1954-1971) documents two decades of intense social and political change in Mississippi. It primarily consists of more than 520,000 linear feet (635 16mm reels) of black-and-white and color film footage from WLBT, the National Broadcasting Company's affiliate in Jackson, Mississippi. The collection is made up of the "outtakes" of the film shot, not the segments that were broadcast on the news program. Some but not all of the reels have sound tracks. The collection also includes a few still photographs, reel-to-reel audio tapes, very early videotapes, and news scripts. [NAVIGATE TO DIGITAL ARCHIVES]

#### [POLITICAL AD ARCHIVE](#)

The Political TV Ad Archive collected and, using innovative open source technology, tracked airings of political ads in key markets the 2016 election cycle.

#### **HOME MOVIES (beyond Prelinger Archive!):**

#### [AFRICAN AMERICAN HOME MOVIE ARCHIVE](#)

the African American Home Movie Archive was created to serve as an online resource for researchers, educators, students, archive and library professionals, and other interested

parties. The main feature of the website is the Black Home Movie Index, an aggregate of African American home movie collections from the early 1920s through the mid-1980s. Complete with collection names, scope and content, dates, links to online finding aids, video streaming links (if provided by the holding institution), and contact information for each participating institution, the virtual archive aims to serve as a liaison for African American home movie research by streamlining access to this information.

Also: [Home Movie Archives](#) is another useful aggregation database for home movies and where to find them (though it doesn't show you what it is digitized and what isn't).

## OTHER TOPICAL ARCHIVES

### [UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM FILM AND VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

The Museum's Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive is one of the world's most comprehensive informational and archival resources for moving image materials pertaining to the Holocaust and World War II. Staff continue to locate, acquire, preserve, and document historical film footage from sources throughout the United States and abroad. Unique original film collections and a wide range of videotape and digital formats are preserved and stored offsite in temperature and humidity-controlled vaults. The online catalog (film) includes descriptive information and streams thousands of digital video clips from the collection.

### [HAGLEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES](#) (DuPont Corporation / US Industrial history)

Hagley Museum and Library collects, preserves, and interprets the unfolding history of American enterprise. Hagley's collections document the interaction between business and the cultural, social, and political dimensions of our society from the late 18th century to the present. The library opened in 1961 and has been assisting authors, historians, filmmakers, genealogists, hobbyists, and an assortment of content producers for over half a century. We are recognized around the world as one of the preeminent institutions for the study of business history.

**SEARCH TIP:** To find digitized film material, do an advanced search and select "moving image" in the "type of resource" menu.

\*\*\*\*

## SOME SOURCES FOR FOUND SOUNDS

### [RADIO APOREE - SOUNDS OF THE WORLD](#)



[FREESOUND.ORG](http://FREESOUND.ORG)

## [HISTORICAL SOUND RECORDINGS AND FIELD RECORDINGS](#)

A list from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library

## [BBC SOUND EFFECTS AND FIELD RECORDINGS](#)

## [CULTURAL EQUITY / Alan Lomax Archive](#)

"Inspired by the example set by Alan Lomax, our mission is to stimulate cultural equity through preservation, research, and dissemination of the world's traditional music, and to reconnect people and communities with their creative heritage."

\*\*\*\*

## **SOME OTHER IDEAS!**

## [AMIA \(ASSOCIATION OF MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVISTS\) DEEP FOCUS PORTAL](#)

is an inclusive outreach tool designed to provide academics, archivists, artists, curators, educators, exhibitors, filmmakers, programmers, researchers and students with a user-friendly and centralized means of global discovery - interconnecting a disparate labyrinth of invaluable moving image catalogs, services, resources, websites and related information.

**Other interesting found footage sources, not necessarily digital:** local community archives can have amazing treasures (and can be extremely accessible / eager to work with filmmakers and researchers), US presidential libraries (in the public domain), [Vanderbilt TV News Archive](#), which has been recording network news every day for decades (amazing / fascinating resource but not digitized for the public).

Lastly, [eBay](#) is still an amazing place to forage for old home movies and educational films on original 16mm and 8mm. Lots of decommissioned library collections end up on eBay. Who knows what you will find!

And, of course, all kinds of stuff is on [YouTube](#), but you already knew that.

\*\*\*\*

## **FREE VIDEO STOCK FOOTAGE RESOURCES**

[Pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com) + [Pexels.com](https://pexels.com) both are great resources for public domain, open source images AND videos!

\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed ideas and suggestions so far: Melissa Beeken, Noe Kidder, Benjamin Schultz-Figueroa, Adina Bradeanu, Regina Longo, Debra Schaffner, Leo Goldsmith, Brett Kashmere, Caio Simbula, Jenny Horne, Jennifer Peterson, Kelly Gallagher, plus some other generous anonymous Google doc editors!

Assembled by Irene Lusztiig for UCSC FILM 171C, January 2020