

Historical Sound Recordings Activities

Activity 1: Formats at Risk

Review the chart of formats at risk.

Consider these formats in relation to the sound recordings in your collections.

Identify two formats in your collections and consider how much you know about their condition.

Format	Major Risk Factors	Risk Level
Lacquer/ Aluminum Discs	Catastrophic chemical deterioration	Very High
Digital Audio Tape	Obsolescence factors, mechanical misalignment	Very High
Cylinders	Fungus/efflorescence, obsolescence factors	High
Recordable CD	Degradation, compatibility issues	High
Open reel tape	Cellulose acetate base, Sticky Shed Syndrome, fungus, urgent obsolescence factors, others	Medium to High
Audio Cassette	Tape type, off-brands, obsolescence factors	Medium