Bring Your Own Born- Digital (BYOBD)

Ingesting Digital Media When You Don't Have a Budget

Tyler G. Cline

Introduction

When tackling born-digital records on older media, it is often necessary to utilize period hardware for transfer. This hardware is often obsolete and cannot be sourced through large centralized procurement processes at some Universities.

Sometimes it's necessary to acquire component materials from secondhand sources, often outside of the purchasing structure of the university.
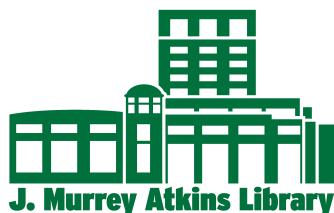
Process

Start by determining what you need to address your born-digital media. In this example, personal computer media from the 1980s and 1990s.

Make a list of technology you need to ingest your digital media, e.g. to ingest Apple // and Macintosh disks, you will need a 5.25" floppy drive, a 3.5" floppy drive, and a compatible computer.

Check local secondhand stores or your University's IT department. It always helps to make acquaintances with your IT personnel. If you have technology of your own, don't hesitate to utilize that resource (check with your University's BYOD policies first).

Utilize eBay for harder-to-locate items, such as running computers and 5.25" floppy disk drives, which are no longer being produced. The TEAC FD-55 GFR is the gold standard floppy disk drive, known for its compatibility with KryoFlux and FC5025 interface cards.
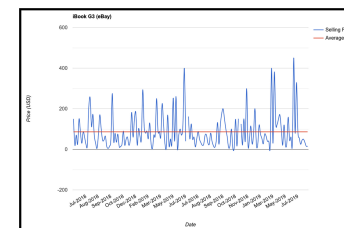
J. Murrey Atkins Library

Sometimes you need to **bring your own** hardware and software for digital archiving workflows. Basic hardware tools for digital ingest can be sourced with **minimal cost** from online vendors.

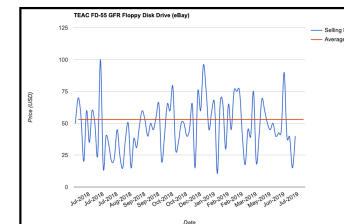*The* UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH CAROLINA *at*
CHARLOTTE

Price Comparisons

Using price comparison tools from recent listings on eBay, you can determine mean pricing and see how affordable vintage hardware for digital ingest remains.

Prices over twelve-month period for iBook G3 laptop.

Prices over twelve-month period for Teac FD-55 GFR drive.

Left: author's iBook G3, Imation Floppy Drive, Apple //c
Right: Author sets jumper pins on a Teac FD-55 GFR floppy drive.

Conclusion

While prices in the secondary market for obsolete hardware fluctuate, we have not yet reached the tipping point of unaffordability. When and if employers are unwilling or unable to purchase these materials for digital archiving, you can do this yourself with a few tools and knowledge.

About the Author

Tyler Cline is the digital archivist at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he is responsible for born-digital manuscripts and University records. Previously, Tyler was the digital archivist at the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.

Further Reading

Erway, Ricky. 2012. *You've Got to Walk Before You Can Run: First Steps for Managing Born- Digital Content Received on Physical Media.* Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Research. oclc.org/research/publications/library/2012/2012-06.pdf

Goldman, Ben. Outfitting a Born-Digital Archives Program. Practical Technology for Archives (2), 2014. practicaltechnologyforarchives.org/issue2

Reside, Doug. Digital Archaeology: Recovering Your Digital History. New York Public Library Blog, 2012. nypl.org/blog/2012/7/23/digital-archaeology-recovering-your-digital-history

Watch Count eBay sold items and completed listings tool. watchcount.com