

Audio timeline

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [Sound recording cataloging](#) [2]

Note: this page was created as an aid for cataloging sound recordings.

Excerpted from *Preparing for the brave new world of sound recordings cataloging*

by Mary Huismann, University of Minnesota; used with permission

See the [complete power point presentation](#) [3] from the [2006 OLAC Conference](#) [4]

information also from Wikipedia and other sources

Year	Physical format	Content format
1870s	Phonograph cylinder	Analog; "hill-and-dale" grooves, vertical stylus
1895	Gramophone record	Analog; lateral grooves, horizontal stylus
ca. 1898	78rpm or 78s	disc first produced around 1898; popular from 1910-1950s; by 1910 actual speed ranged from about 78 to 80 rpm; size was 10 or 12 inches
1930s	Wire recording	Analog
1940s ¹	Reel-to-reel tape Magnetic tape	Analog
1948	Vinyl record	Analog; lateral grooves, horizontal stylus also known as LP or long-playing records
1954		
1957	Stereophonic vinyl record	Analog; lateral/vertical stylus (each channel encoded 45 degrees to vertical)
1963²	Audio cassette	Analog; 1/8 in. tape width; 1 7/8 ips popular in the US through the 1990s
1964	8-track tape	Analog; 1/4 in. tape width; 3 3/4 ips in an endless loop cartridge
1969	Microcassette	Analog
1970		Dolby noise reduction introduced (cassettes)
1975	Betamax digital audio	"Dolby Stereo" cinema surround sound
1982	Compact disc	Digital; usually 4 3/4 in. diameter first available in Japan in October 1982, in Europe in February 1983, and in the US in March 1983
1985	CD-ROM	
1987	Digital audio tape (DAT)	cassette version of the CD; used in the recording industry until 2000; DAT players ceased production in 2005
1990s	Digital compact cassette	
1991	MiniDisc	
1992		WAVEform (WAV)
1993		Dolby digital surround cinema sound Dolby theatre system (DTS)
1995		Sony dynamic digital sound (SDDS)
1996	DVD	MP3

Audio timeline

Published on Yale University Library (<https://web.library.yale.edu>)

1999 ³	Streaming audio	
1999	Super audio CD (SACD)	Windows media audio (WMA) (higher sampling rate, spatial sound capability)
2000	DVD-Audio	
2004	DualDisc	CD on one side, DVD on the other
2005	Playaway	

Cataloging guidelines:

Playaway [Guide to cataloging playaway devices](#) [5] (MLA/OLAC Playaway Cataloging Joint Task Force)
WAV, WMA, MP3: [Best practices for cataloging streaming media](#) [6] (OLAC Cataloging Policy Committee)

[OCLC](#) gives different dates; see www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/2xx/260.shtm [7] under *REC guidelines for \$c*

¹ OCLC gives this date as 1954

² OCLC gives this date as 1965

³ This date is from OCLC

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/audiotimeline>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music>

[2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/sound-recording-cataloging>

[3] <http://www.olacinc.org/drupal/conference/2006/huismann.ppt>

[4] <http://www.olacinc.org/test/conference/2006.html>

[5] http://www.olacinc.org/drupal/capc_files/playawaysPDF.pdf

[6] http://olacinc.org/drupal/capc_files/Streaming_Media_RDA.pdf

[7] <http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/2xx/260.shtm>