

Preservation of data stored on optical discs

CDs CDs everywhere! It wasn't that long ago that the common practice of backing up data on optical media was considered a reliable way to archive digital material. Time has proven this approach unsound. Bit and disc-rot are real, on-going threats to digital material housed on discs, and locating drives capable of reading CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray has become prohibitive.

RMA is working in collaboration with University Communications Services (UCS) to preserve and ensure ongoing usability and access to material contained on 1 200 CDs and DVDs that date back to the early 1990s. The process begins with imaging discs using a Nimbie CD-autoloader, extracting and appraising the contained material, then ingesting and storing the files as standardized Archival Information Packages (AIPs) for future users.

Archival descriptions and related metadata are continually made available to the public in the online *Archives and Special Collections Shared Catalogue* located in the web-based multi-repository environment [AtoM \(Access to Memory\)](#).



Tools:

- Nimbie CD Autoloader
- DROID

Preservation:

- Digital Preservation System: [Archivematica](#)

Access and dissemination:

- Archives and Special Collections Shared Catalog: [AtoM](#)
- RMA social media channels: [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)

