

CHOOSING AND DOWNLOADING AUDIO

GOAL	Saving and Presenting Primary Sources	Time Required
OBJECTIVES	Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between the various audio formats. • Execute the process of downloading maps from a website. 	Standards
MATERIALS	Materials/Resources Using Primary Sources in the Classroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Computer with Internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Projector and screen 	
PREPARATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that you can access the Library of Congress website at http://www.loc.gov/. • Test all of the links below. 	
PROCEDURE	<p>Digital Audio Formats</p> <p>Sound recordings are offered in three different formats for listening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RealAudio (.rm) • Mpeg 2, Layer 3(.mp3) • WaveForm (.wav) <p>Each of these formats requires special players or plug-ins to listen. The RealAudio format can be played on a Mac or PC, but requires the Real One Player to listen. The Real One Player is available at http://www.real.com. MP3 files provide great sound in a smaller file size and can be played on a Mac or PC. A computer's default player (QuickTime on a Mac or Windows Media Player on a PC) will play MP3 files. Finally, WAV files are the highest quality and largest files available for download at the Library of Congress and take longer to download than the previous two file types. QuickTime and Windows Media Player will both playback WAV files.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open the Library of Congress website: http://www.loc.gov/. 2. Click on the <i>American Memory</i> tab on the LOC home page and click the <i>GO</i> button or click on the following link: http://memory.loc.gov/. 3. Select the <i>Browse</i> button. 4. Choose <i>Sound Recordings</i> under <i>Browse Collections Containing</i>. 	

CHOOSING AND DOWNLOADING AUDIO

5. Click on the first collection listed, *African-American Music. Southern U.S. - Recordings - 1938-1943*.
6. Next to *Browse by*, select the *Audio Title* option.
7. Select the first title "Ain't but Me One."
8. Notice the first option offered is the Mp3 format. Click on *Additional audio formats* below the Mp3 example. This is where you will find the Real Audio and WAV versions.
 - Pros and cons of Mp3 files:
 - Adequate audio quality (especially music primary sources)
 - Faster download / smaller file size
 - Not good for reuse in another digital presentation (PowerPoint or video)
 - Voice only files may sound "tinny"
 - Pros and cons of Real Audio files:
 - One time listen only
 - Cannot be downloaded to a computer
 - Great for dial-up or low-bandwidth conditions
 - Real Player required
 - Not a good choice if you plan to use the file again
 - Pros and cons of WAV files:
 - Higher-quality format
 - Reuse in PowerPoint or video presentations
 - Longer download time / larger file size than Mp3
 - Windows compatible (will play in Mac OS 9 and above)
9. Return to the Mp3 file option, right-click on the icon next to *Listen to this recording*. (Mac users should hold down the control button.)
10. Choose the *Save target as...* or the *Save link as...* option.
11. In the *File Name* text box, rename the audio file "AintButMeOne".
12. In the *Save In* dropdown box, select where you want to save the file (for this lesson save the file to your Desktop).
13. Click *Save*.
14. Locate the audio file on your desktop folder and double-click it to listen.

CHOOSING AND DOWNLOADING AUDIO

Notes:

For an informative and entertaining history of sound recording's profound impact on the musical life of the past century, check out a webcast that was sponsored by the Library's John W. Kluge Center, the Music Division and the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. In the webcast, Mark Katz discusses his book, "Capturing Sound: How Technology Has Changed Music." According to Katz, who teaches in the Department of Musicology at Peabody Conservatory of Music at The Johns Hopkins University, there is more to sound recording than just recording sound. Not just a tool for the preservation of music, the technology is a catalyst for change. To access the webcast go to:

http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3825.

To access the "President Harding's voice has been preserved in phonograph records in the government archives" image on the LOC website go to:

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(cph+3b11977\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/presp:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3b11977))).

To access the "Government Camp Song" audio file on the LOC website go to:

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/toddbib:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(5099a1\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/toddbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(5099a1))).

ASSESSMENT Have participants share questions they would like to investigate and how they might use this activity in the classroom.