

Hubert H. Humphrey Digitization Project

Criteria for Digitization of Analog Sound Recordings - 9/17/2012

Condition of tape: A tape that has been neatly wound, safely stored, and is relatively free of crimps will play better than a tape that is falling off its reel, wasn't kept in a box, and has lots of crimps and bends.

Speed: A tape recorded at 7 ½ ips will have captured sound more fully than a tape recorded at 3 ¾ ips. 1 7/8 ips is the lowest speed the Humphrey reels have been recorded at and would likely yield the lowest sound quality. [Addition - 6/3/2013: Our reel to reel player can only play 7 ½ ips and 15 ips.]

Available text: An argument can be made for digitizing speeches that have complete text and accompanying notes and/or materials. A user can get a fuller picture hearing the speech while following along with the text, particularly if the text has Humphrey's handwritten notes. An argument can also be made for digitizing speeches that have no accompanying text because that is the only way an audience can access the speech.

Use/citations: If the speech has been oft-quoted or referenced frequently, it would be wise to digitize it, particularly since our aim in digitizing his speeches "is certainly the best possible way to let his voice reverberate through the ages." Digitizing the speeches with the most impact and familiarity to audiences achieves that goal.

Broad representation: Already outlined in the project proposal, it's vital that we select speeches from each year possible. It's easy for the 1950s and 1970s to be overlooked in comparison to Humphrey's contributions to the 1960s political scene, but speeches from all years are a priority for this project.

Interaction with the material: As the digitization assistant digitizes and reads textual speeches, and the cataloger examines notes about the tapes, suggestions for digitization can be made based on the information they find. Regardless of the speech on a tape, if someone notes it's a "poor quality" recording, it's not worth our time to digitize.

Repetition: If a speech is in video/audio format already from another institution/website and readily available, we may want to consider using another speech unless it's one of Humphrey's most well-known speeches (like the 1948 Convention speech).

Rights: We shouldn't consider digitizing audio associated with programs such as *Meet the Press* or *Face the Nation*. We don't have the rights or permission to put these materials on the web and it's possible that their archives have already digitized and preserved the same sound content.

Length: This may or may not be a consideration, although depending on who digitizes the material, cost per minute may be an issue. A mix of short and long speeches might be nice.

Importance to Humphrey's career: We should consider if we want to thoroughly document Humphrey's political career (acceptance speeches, concession speech, major debates), in addition to his other speeches and remarks.