

The DFT Film Scanning Initiative

Supporting Access to High-Quality Digitization of
Fragile Film



Digital Film Technology
Darmstadt | Los Angeles | London
www.dft-film.com



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The Purpose of the Initiative

As a leading manufacturer of high-quality film scanners, we at DFT are committed to supporting the preservation of global film heritage. With millions of irreplaceable films at risk of permanent loss, we launched the DFT Film Scanning Initiative to help address the need for better access to professional and high-quality film scanning technology. Through this initiative, we support non-commercial digitization projects facing budgetary constraints or limited access to advanced scanning technology. We provide selected projects with professional scanning services free of charge at our facility in Darmstadt, Germany.

Polar HQ: A Solution for Saving At-Risk Film

Many collections include films that are affected by shrinkage, brittleness, warping, or damaged perforations, making conventional scanning risky or inadequate. DFT's Polar HQ film scanner enables safe digitization of delicate materials while minimizing manual preparation. The resulting high-quality files are suitable for restoration and long-term preservation.

Services Included in the Initiative

- Digitization services for approved film projects
- Use of specialized scanning solutions tailored to fragile or complex material
- Delivery of high-resolution digital files (up to 8K/16-bit, DPX/TIFF formats with embedded metadata)
- Tailored support and services for project-specific handling/logistics

Who Can Apply

We welcome applications from projects that meet the following criteria:

- The digitization project involves fragile, damaged, or otherwise at-risk film
- The film has cultural, archival, or curatorial significance
- The project is non-commercial and would otherwise not be realized due to budget constraints
- The film can be safely transported to DFT's facility in Darmstadt, Germany

How to Apply

All details about the application process are available on our website. Scan the QR code to find out more.

