

I am kind of undecided when it comes to using microfilm. There were two factors that I considered when analyzing the practice and usage of microfilm. The first one was integrity while the other one was accessibility.

The integrity of the file is based on the format of the file itself. What we covered in this week's lecture stated that transferring microfilm to the digital file is not always beneficial. As a matter of fact it could go both ways. Depending on the file type, it could be worse than the original microfilm that was generated. For example, JPEG formats are commonly used on internet formats but do not utilize the maximum quality that a TIFF file does. I personally never been exposed to a TIFF file, but if I had, I would probably think lesser of the JPEG file that I commonly used for photo albums. Speaking of accessibility, the JPEG format is useful because the format is more commonly used than a TIFF file. TIFF files usually require a separate program to view or edit unless you want to settle for a JPEG format. PDF files are slightly better at picture quality than JPEG files and are usually easier to access than a TIFF file. Unfortunately, like the lecture said this week, the size of the file will increase based on the better quality of the given document.

Personally, I think that microfilm will be replaced by a new format of physical data storage, but the practice itself will not fade away. An example of this is through the development of photography. We used the collodion process in the 1850's to produce black and white photos that were heavily used in the Civil War. Now we have Polaroids that can instantaneously print out microfilm in an instant for photographs. There will always be a need for physical documentation and the digital era will not move away from it anytime soon.

References

Kaltenbacher, J. (2018). Digitizing and Microfilming Paper Records: Preservation and Active Use [Lecture Transcript]. Retrieved from https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1260979/files/49099826?module_item_id=9341140