**Audio and video recording for language documenters**

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Recommended reading:

mediacollege.com has some pages on video cameras and on audio recording. Even though language documentation has a different focus than most other genres of video (documentaries, vacation movies, etc.) and therefore sometimes requires a slightly different approach, the mediacollege pages are a good source to familiarise oneself with the terminology and the basic concepts of audio and video recording:

<http://www.mediacollege.com/video/camera/>

<http://www.mediacollege.com/audio/>

digital-photography-school.com is a good resource to learn about digital photography. Many of the concepts also apply to recording video, for example adjustment of shutter speed, aperture and ISO value:

<http://digital-photography-school.com/learning-exposure-in-digital-photography/>

To find out about camcorders on the market today, <http://camcorders.reviewed.com/> is a good source. For language documentation, one should pay attention to the following features when selecting a camcorder:

- a microphone input (depending on the kind of microphone you have either a 1/8" jack input or professional style XLR inputs)

- audio recording level adjustment option

- possibility to use large capacity batteries (larger than the one shipping with the camcorder)

- headphones output

- good performance in low-light situations

- recording on SD cards (gives you more flexibility than just internal storage)

- recording uncompressed audio (Linear PCM). Unfortunately only available in some higher priced consumer models or some semi-professional models

The German online shop audiotranskription.de has tested numerous audio recorders and has put their evaluation along with audio samples on their website:

<http://www.audiotranskription.de/rekorder>

(This site is mostly in German but even if you don't understand that you should still be able to find the audio samples and understand some of the content with the help of Google Translate.)