

## MedialInfo Orientation

### Updated October 2018

MedialInfo is a free and open-source program that displays technical information about media files, as well as tag information for many audio and video files.

#### Note about versions:

Stylesheets for transforming MedialInfo XML to the master.xml were written based off the output of Mediainfo version 0.7.99. This was the latest available version at the time. Starting with subsequent version 17.10 (as of 11/02/2017), there was a new MedialInfo XML output with XSD, which resulted in a restructured display of the XML structure and tags.

**If upgrading from version 0.7.99, then use the command "`--Output=OLDXML`" for keeping previous output behavior. Using the old XML behavior will preserve elements required by the `mediainfo-to-master.xsl` in order to run a correct transformation on the data.**

See the [MedialInfo CLI History page on GitHub](#) for an overview list of changes/upgrades between versions.

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MedialInfo identifies a list of detailed information about digital files, including:

- File name, folder name
- File path
- Format, Format Profile, Extension
- Codec
- Size, Duration, etc.

MedialInfo can be installed two ways:

- 1) GUI (Graphical User Interface) - application accessible through icon on the Dock; useful for checking file characteristics if there is uncertainty about codec, creation date, etc
- 2) CLI (Command Line Interface) - settings have been installed to `/usr/bin/local` and program is accessed through 'mediainfo' command from command line

You need to install the MedialInfo CLI in your AIP processing station because MedialInfo in the `aip-creation.sh` script is called from the command line.

The command in the script is the following:

```
mediainfo -f --Output=OLDXML --Language=raw /directory/of/files > /directory/where/to/save/filename
```

- `--Output=OLDXML` structures the output as an XML file
- `--Language=raw` displays the richest metadata information about the file(s)

The resulting document resembles the following:

```
<Mediainfo version= 0.7.99>
<File>
<track type=General>
<.../>
<.../>
</track>

<track type=Video>
<.../>
</track>

<track type=Audio>
<.../>
</track>

<track type=Other>
<.../>
</track>
</File>

<File>
<.../>
</File>

</Mediainfo>
```

Each <File> element has three or four corresponding tracks, one for each stream of information (general, video, audio, other).

The resulting document is a simplified XML. The XML is structured mainly as a few parent nodes with a lot of individual children nodes. Only some elements have attributes.

The MediaInfo XML generated by the aip-creation bash script is transformed by the mediainfo-to-master.xsl stylesheet to generate the preservation metadata master.xml.

The stylesheet reads the size, format, and name information from the "General" and "Video" tracks in order to populate the fields in the resulting master.xml.