# Video Digitization

Digital Stewardship Curriculum

# Playback device.

# Intermediary hardware & software.

# Digital recording device.

# Playback devices.

What do you need?

What do you already have?

What can you scrounge?

What is worth buying?

A good computer, with good processing speed, a good amount of RAM, and good storage capabilities.

Digital recording device.

# Intermediary hardware & software.

Three roles for intermediary software / hardware:

1. A recorder and connector, to get the image from the playback equipment and recorded in your computer .

2. Software to manage the digitization of the video/film.

3. Software to edit and/or convert formats of the original film.

Usually, 1 & 2 will come together.
Sometimes 2 & 3 will come together.

# “Video Capture card”

(NOT “Video Card” and NOT “Game Capture Card”)

Starter level (?)…

Digitizes at 640 x (360 or 480)

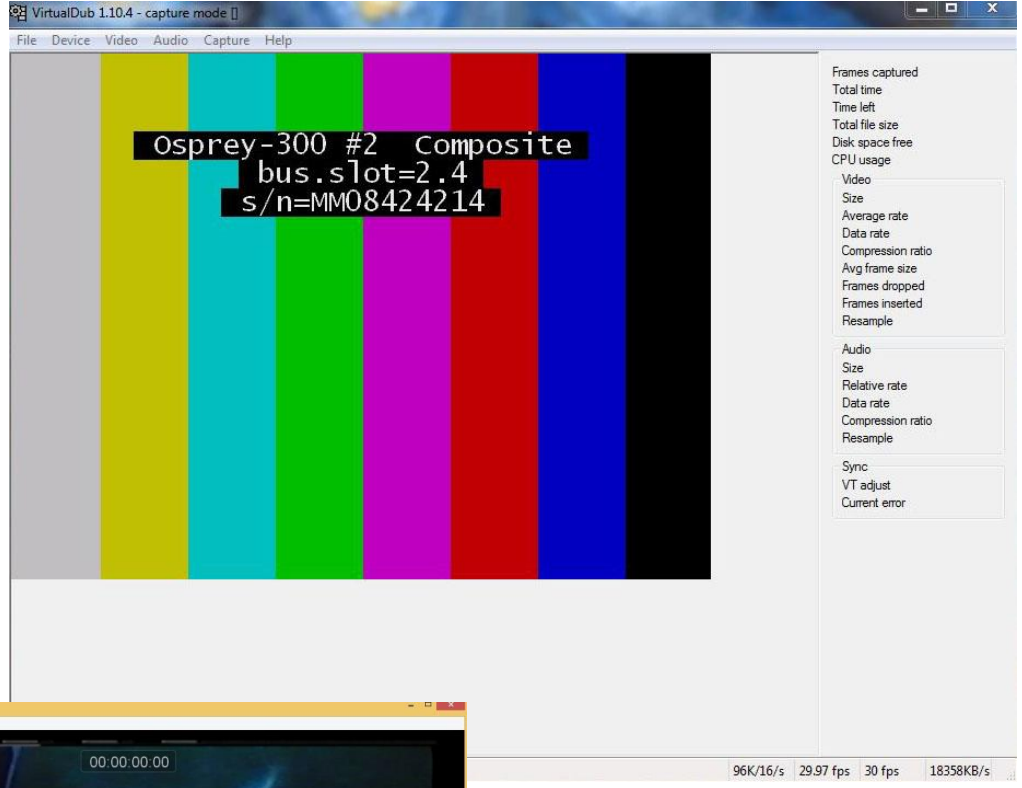
Exactly meets minimum archival standards
= a decent starter option

About $80.

# Software I

Something to capture your video.

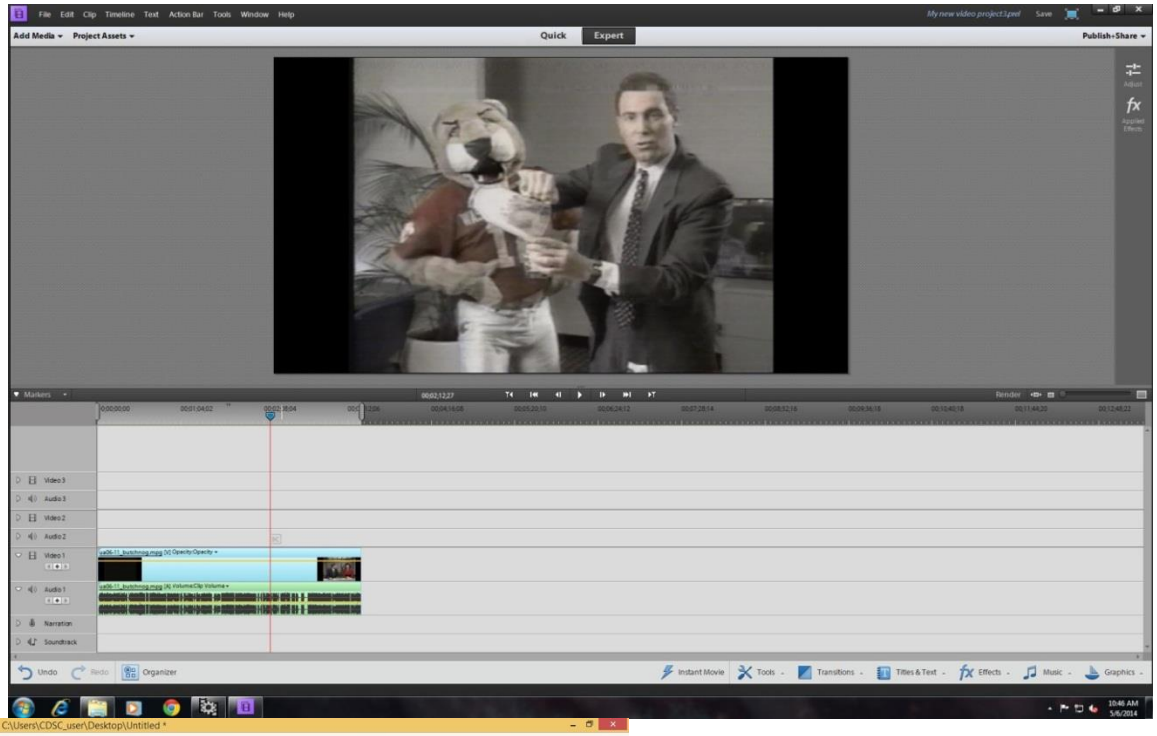
WSU Libraries use VirtualDub or Media Express; there are many others.

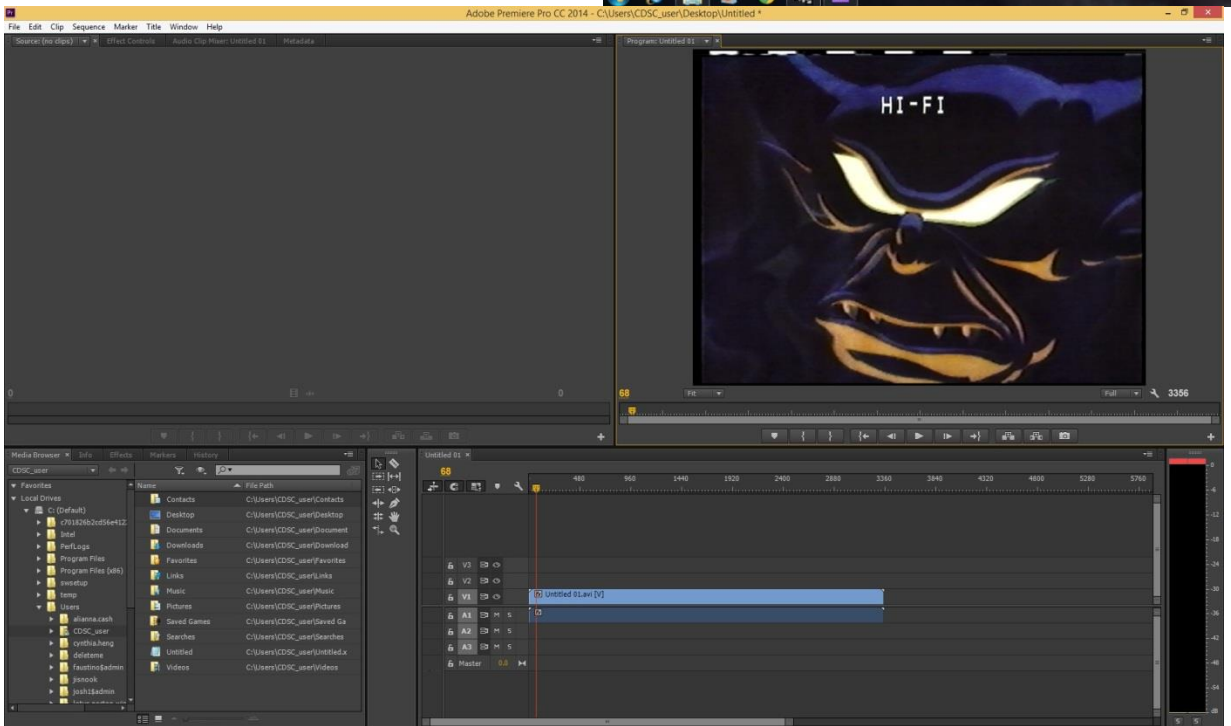


There are many out there. Your video capture card will almost certainly come with one.

# Software II

Something to edit your video, and probably something to convert your video's file format.






If possible, find one piece of software which will do all the edits you need, and the file conversions you'll need.

Finding video editing software:

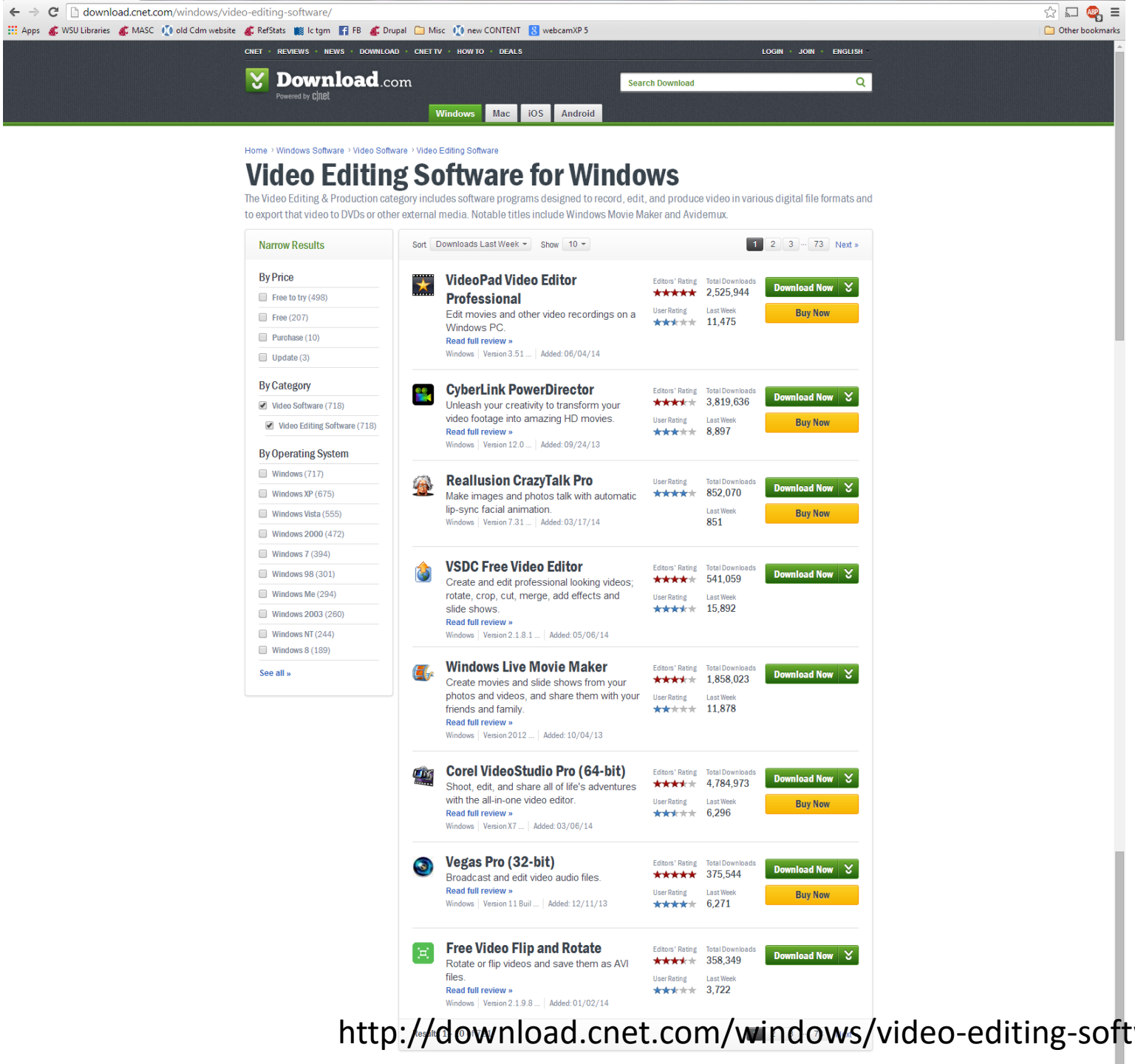
There are lots of small freeware which do a few things.

Lots of online sources… either search for video editing software (or freeware) or look for someone who reliably compiles lists.

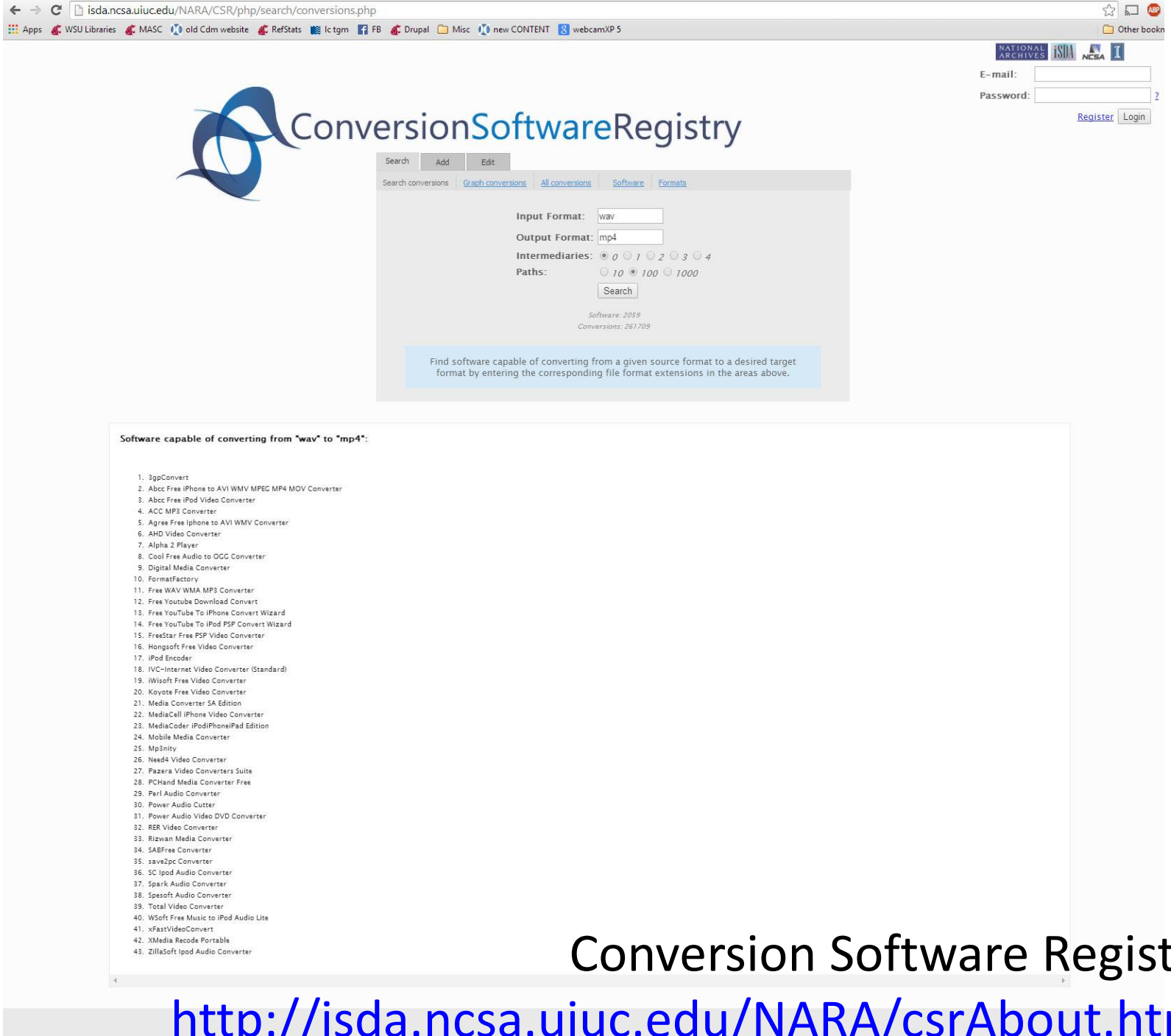
If you just need one particular function, consider looking for freeware which does just that. If you need multiple functions, purchase something!

Freeware is ‘free.’ You get what you pay for.

Again… make sure it meets your standards!




http://download.cnet.com/windows/video-editing-software/




# Conversion Software Registry

http://isda.ncsa.uiuc.edu/NARA/csrAbout.html

Two cautionary tales before we actually digitize something…

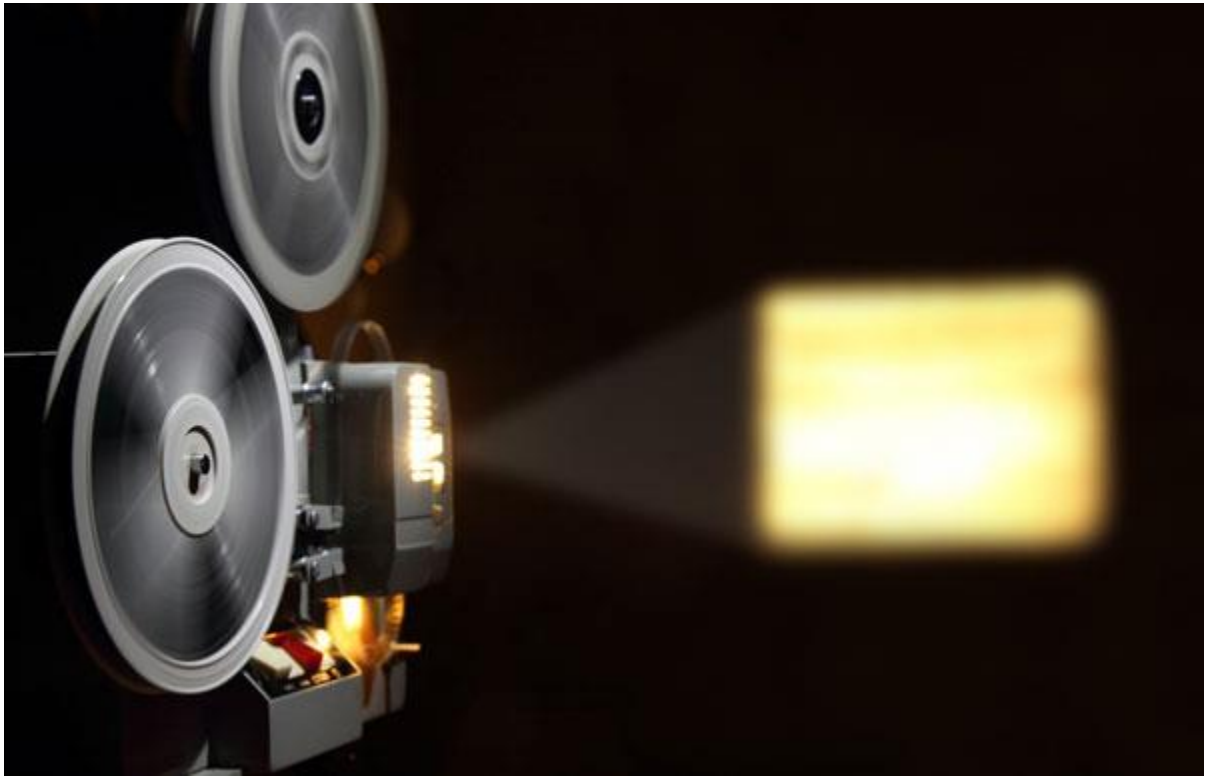
First:
Digitizing video can take a lot of processing power.
Editing/converting video can take a lot of processing power.

Any time you're working with video, _DON'T_ do anything else on that computer which takes chunk of power!

Second:
Digitizing video can build up a lot of large files. Always work in a space which keeps your files visible (your desktop is perfect!), so you can be sure they get deleted when you're done with them.

One final catch… these all assume your video/film is being output in an electronic format.

Great for VHS, laserdisc, or anything which is basically electronic information on a piece of plastic or on a piece of tape.  What about film…



Why not just project it and film it?

You can, but…

Digital cameras take pictures at 30 frames per second (generally).
16mm projectors run at 24 frames per second (generally).

These need to be synched,
or you can get a strobelike effect.

Variable speed projectors.
Variable speed cameras.
Various pieces of equipment or software.

ELMO