

## Case study

# Military Women's Memorial

## Digitizing oral histories to help honor the diversity of servicewomen

The Military Women's Memorial (MWM), located at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, serves as a vital historical repository dedicated to documenting the service of women in the military. Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services was entrusted with the task of digitizing and extracting metadata from the audiovisual media within the MWM.

The Military Women's Memorial possesses a rich collection of historical materials, including oral histories in legacy formats such as CDs, DVDs, and Video Cassettes. The challenge was to preserve and organize these valuable artifacts while ensuring accessibility and ease of retrieval for future generations. Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services was tasked with digitizing historic content and processing the associated metadata to migrate it to align with military specifications.

Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services' comprehensive digitization process employed state-of-the-art equipment and expertise to capture and preserve the content effectively. The team meticulously digitized the 74 pieces of content, resulting in a total of 85 hours of digitized material. The metadata associated with each piece was carefully extracted, allowing for improved searchability and categorization.

To ensure the captured data aligned with military specifications, Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services reconfigured the standard fields to match the designated criteria, including service branch and rank. This step was crucial in creating a seamless integration of the digitized content within the MWM's existing archival systems and databases.

This project played a pivotal role in enabling the MWM to make these histories accessible to the public. The digitized material became an integral part of the MWM's mobile exhibition titled "The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen," showcased as part of their AppreSHEation Tour.

By capturing and showcasing the sacrifices and contributions of all women, with a particular focus on women of color, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the MWM's mobile exhibition aimed to raise awareness and appreciation for their invaluable service. The digitized content and associated metadata significantly enriched the exhibition's interactive experience, allowing visitors to access and explore the historical narratives and personal stories of these remarkable women.



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### About Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services

Iron Mountain Media and Archive Services, founded in 1988 is the media and entertainment division of Iron Mountain Incorporated® and the go-to physical and digital media archiving service for the media and entertainment industries. They partner with clients ranging from the broadcast, film, music and sports sectors to brand archives and individual artists' collections and estates, to protect and activate media archives to preserve our collective cultural heritage. A global leader in media preservation, restoration and archive management, they offer industry-leading archive, storage, chain-of-custody processes and physical and digital content preservation solutions to ensure the complete protection of some of the world's most treasured and iconic assets. Visit <https://www.ironmountain.com/industries/entertainment> for more information.

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## Industry

- Military Heritage
- Digital Archiving

## Challenge

Preserving and digitizing historical military women's oral histories

## Solution

Digitized 85 hours of content and processed metadata to military specs

## Value

- Enabled public access to military women's histories
- Integrated digitized content into the MWM's mobile exhibition
- Enhanced awareness of women's contributions to the U.S. Armed Forces

