

Images and File Types

JPEG or JPG (Joint Photographic Experts Group)



Girl with doll standing by fence
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI
Collection, [reproduction number, LC-DIG-fsac-1a34429 DLC
(digital file from original slide)]

Most common file type for saving photographs and images. This file type is good for color images; however, it is not a good format for saving line drawings.

GIF (Graphic Interchange Format)



Cartoon by Miyamoto, U.S. Army.
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI
Collection, [reproduction number, LC-USE6- D-007767]

This is the second most common format for saving photographs and images. Since it allows you to save only 256 colors, it is best used with logos, cartoons, and illustrations. One advantage for using GIF file types is they can be animated – JPG cannot. The file size is smaller which enables faster loading on web pages.

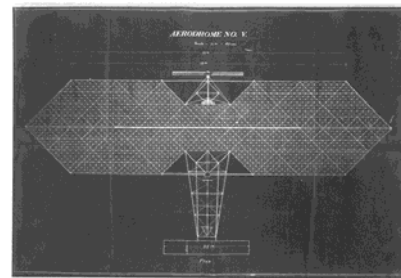
TIFF or TIF (Tag Image File Format)



US gunboat Owasco at sea. Accessed through Library of
Congress: Rep. #1945.351. Mystic Seaport.

The highest quality file format for images and is most commonly used for color images. Images and photographs saved in this format are very large in file size (they take up hard drive space in your computer and take longer to appear on the Internet). Therefore, they are usually not used on the Internet.

BMP (Bitmaps)



Blueprint, undated
(Series: Subject File, Folder: Aviation, Blueprints, 1908, undated)
Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Alexander Graham Bell
Family Papers

These are used primarily with graphics. Images saved as Bitmaps contain data that make up the images. The more dots there are on the BMP (higher density of dots), the better quality image.