



Preserving and Digitizing Singapore's Film Heritage





About the Client

The client is the custodian of libraries, archives in Singapore for preserving and providing digital access of Singapore's history and heritage to 11.5 million visitors annually enabling them to read, learn and understand history



Business Need

The client entrusted Prasad Corporation with the critical task of digitizing a collection of historical film reels. The project encompassed a total of 127 reels, divided into the following categories:

- **108 reels of 8MM and Super 8MM films:** Among these, 4 reels were found in extremely poor condition, exhibiting severe defects such as stickiness, brittleness, and shrinkage.
- **19 reels of 16MM films:** These reels were in relatively better condition but still required careful handling to ensure high-quality digitization.



The Challenge

The primary challenges included:

- **Preservation and Stabilization:** The 4 severely damaged 8MM and Super 8MM reels required extensive preventive conservation to stabilize their condition and prevent further deterioration.
- **High-Quality Digitization:** Ensuring that all reels, irrespective of their initial condition, were digitized at the highest possible resolution to preserve the integrity and detail of the original footage.
- **Multiple Deliverable Formats:** The project demanded the creation of various deliverable formats, including high-resolution preservation copies, working copies, and access copies, each with specific requirements.



Prasad's Solution

To address these challenges, Prasad Corporation implemented a multi-faceted approach encompassing preventive conservation, state-of-the-art digitization techniques, and meticulous quality control. The key solutions included:

Preventive Conservation for Damaged Reels:

- **Assessment and Inspection:** Conducted a thorough assessment of the present condition of the 4 critically damaged reels and generated detailed inspection reports.
- **Specialized Treatments:** Applied specialized treatments to stabilize the physical integrity of the films. This included processes to de-sticky, de-brittle, and address shrinkage issues.
- **Skilled Repair Services:** Carried out skilled repair services to fix any physical damage to the reels, ensuring they were restored to a stable condition.
- **Cleaning and Decontamination:** Employed thorough cleaning processes to remove dirt, dust, and other contaminants.
- **Moisture Control:** Used molecular sieves to absorb moisture and prevent further chemical deterioration.

Digitization Process:

- **8MM and Super 8MM Films:** Digitized on the DFT Scanity scanner at a resolution of 2K to capture detailed and high-quality digital copies.
- **16MM Films:** Scanned on the DFT Scanity at 4K resolution, ensuring superior image quality and preservation of finer details.

Deliverables:

- **Preservation Copies:** Produced DPX files at 2K resolution for the 108 8MM and Super 8MM reels, and at 4K resolution for the 19 16MM reels, ensuring long-term preservation of the digital assets.
- **Working Copies:** Delivered MOV files in HD resolution for all reels, providing a high-quality, accessible format for daily use.
- **Working Copies:** Created MXF files in SD resolution for all 127 reels, offering a user-friendly format for wider access and distribution.

Key Benefits to the Client

The comprehensive approach adopted by Prasad Corporation provided significant benefits to the client:

- **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** The preventive conservation efforts ensured that even the most deteriorated reels were stabilized and preserved, safeguarding invaluable historical content for future generations.
- **High-Quality Digital Archives:** The digitization process produced high-resolution digital copies, enhancing the accessibility and usability of the archival footage. The 4K and 2K DPX files serve as robust preservation copies, ensuring the longevity of the digital assets.
- **Versatile and Accessible Deliverables:** The provision of multiple deliverable formats (HD MOV files for working copies and SD MXF files for access copies) ensures that the client can use the digital assets for various purposes, from detailed research and analysis to public access and dissemination.
- **Efficient Asset Management:** Overall, the project not only addressed the immediate challenges of film deterioration and digitization but also provided the client with a comprehensive and sustainable solution for managing their valuable film archives

