Irish Film Institute

LOOP LINE

Digital Preservation Awards 2018

Safeguarding the Digital Legacy
IFI SCRIPTS & Loopline
Digital Preservation Coalition Webinar
April 2019

IFI Irish Film Archive Staff

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IFI Irish Film Archive

National cultural institution for film in Ireland
Remit to **Exhibit**, **Educate** and **Preserve**

Preservation= Ireland's National Film Archive:

Custodian of Ireland's moving image heritage, 750 donors plus State funded material from Arts Council, BAI and Screen Ireland

30,000 cans of film and 15,000 broadcast tapes

Collections spanning 1897 to present day in climate controlled vaults

IFI Digital Mandate

The digital preservation mandate of the IFI is twofold:

- The IFI must be able to accept material currently being produced in a digital format *(born digital)* by the broadcast & film industry and ensure it is both preserved & accessible in the future.

- IFI must digitise its existing analogue collections (both tape and film) to a high resolution digital format to protect them against media obsolescence and format deterioration, ensuring that they are preserved and accessible.

Digital Drivers

Digital technologies benefits :

- cheaper creation,
- cheaper distribution,
- lossless copying,
- a wide range of access activities
- **WE HAD NO CHOICE !**

Why was it such a challenge?

- Speed of change: little change for 100 years, then rapid move of film production, distribution and exhibition to digital.
- Whole new set of technical and financial challenges for Archivists requiring a complex set of IT based solutions.
- Lack of consensus standards or formats for digital preservation.
- Lack of understanding at stakeholder, funder and policy maker level.
- Budget, initial and ongoing costs.

Digital Strategy Preparation

The IFI set up 2 internal research groups to look at digital preservation:

- Researched the activities of Archive colleagues globally & examined the recommendations of various expert professional bodies.
- Looked at international examples of best practice relating to digitisation, file formats, metadata standards, storage and access technology.
- Worked with our technical partners to formulate a scalable, cost effective and practical digital preservation strategy.

IFI’s requirements...

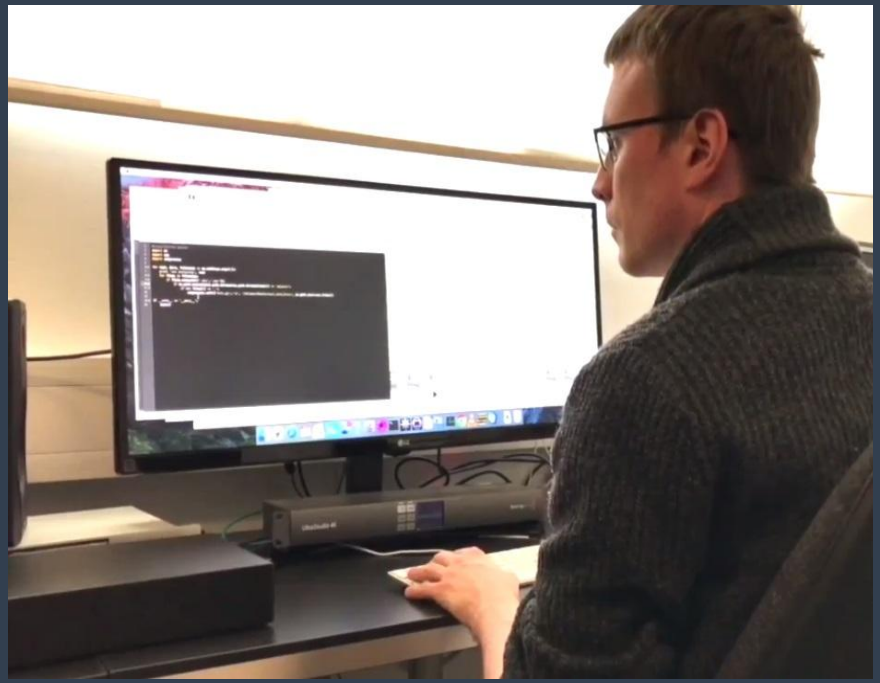
for any procedure or technical solution

Flexibility. Systems designed on a modular basis with each component capable of functioning as an independent unit or within a larger network.

Scalability. Processes designed to allow for integration of future technologies & storage operations, when technology becomes available and as funding permits.

Sustainability. Solutions chosen that can be maintained within organisational resources and development of new partner agreements.

Digital Strategy



Created a Digital Strategy document (DPAS)

Approached government & industry for financial support.

Developed international relationships.

Implemented open source solutions to introduce a range of microservices.

Introduced in- house scanning and restoration.

Increased access to the collections via IFI Player.

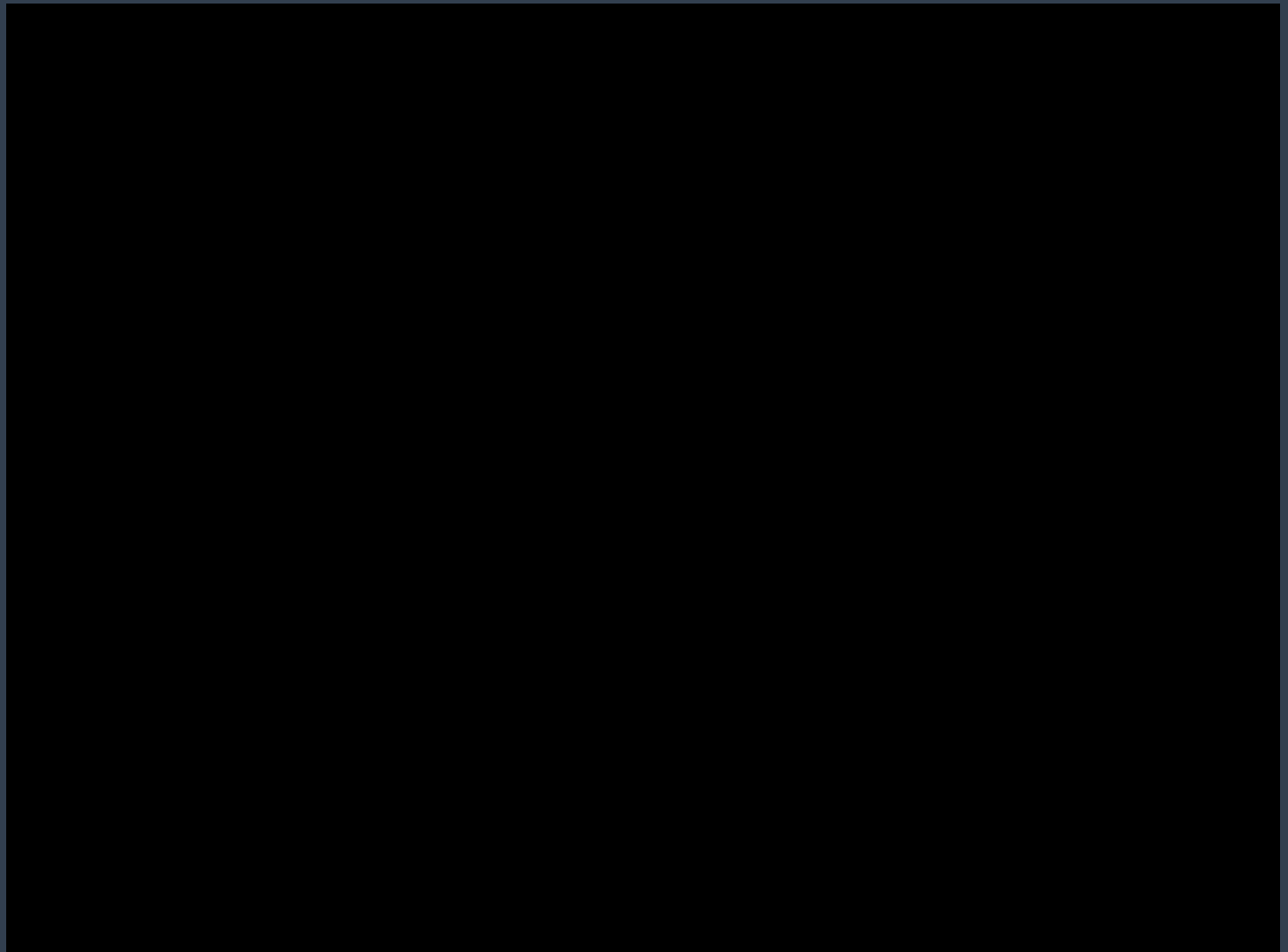
Received funding from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to assess, conserve, catalogue, digitise and make available the collection of independent production company Loopline.

The Loopline project was an opportunity to put our core principles into action and test IFI Scripts end to end.

Loopline Project

IFI Irish Film Archive:
Kasandra O'Connell
Raelene Casey
Kieran O'Leary
Aoife Fitzmaurice
Brian Cash

Loopline Film Ltd:
Sé Merry Doyle
Eugene Finn



Loopline Project - collection content

Documentaries/ original camera material (Rushes)

- Social history & social justice
- (re)development of Dublin & architecture
- Irish crafts & folklife
- Cultural figures
- IRA/The Troubles

Magnetic Tape Formats

- Betacam SP
- Digital Betacam
- MiniDV
- DVCam
- DAT

In-house Tape Migration

Monitor and Control

Enhance Knowledge and Skills

Guidelines for Migration of each Tape Format

Guidelines for Quality Control including QC and Deck Maintenance

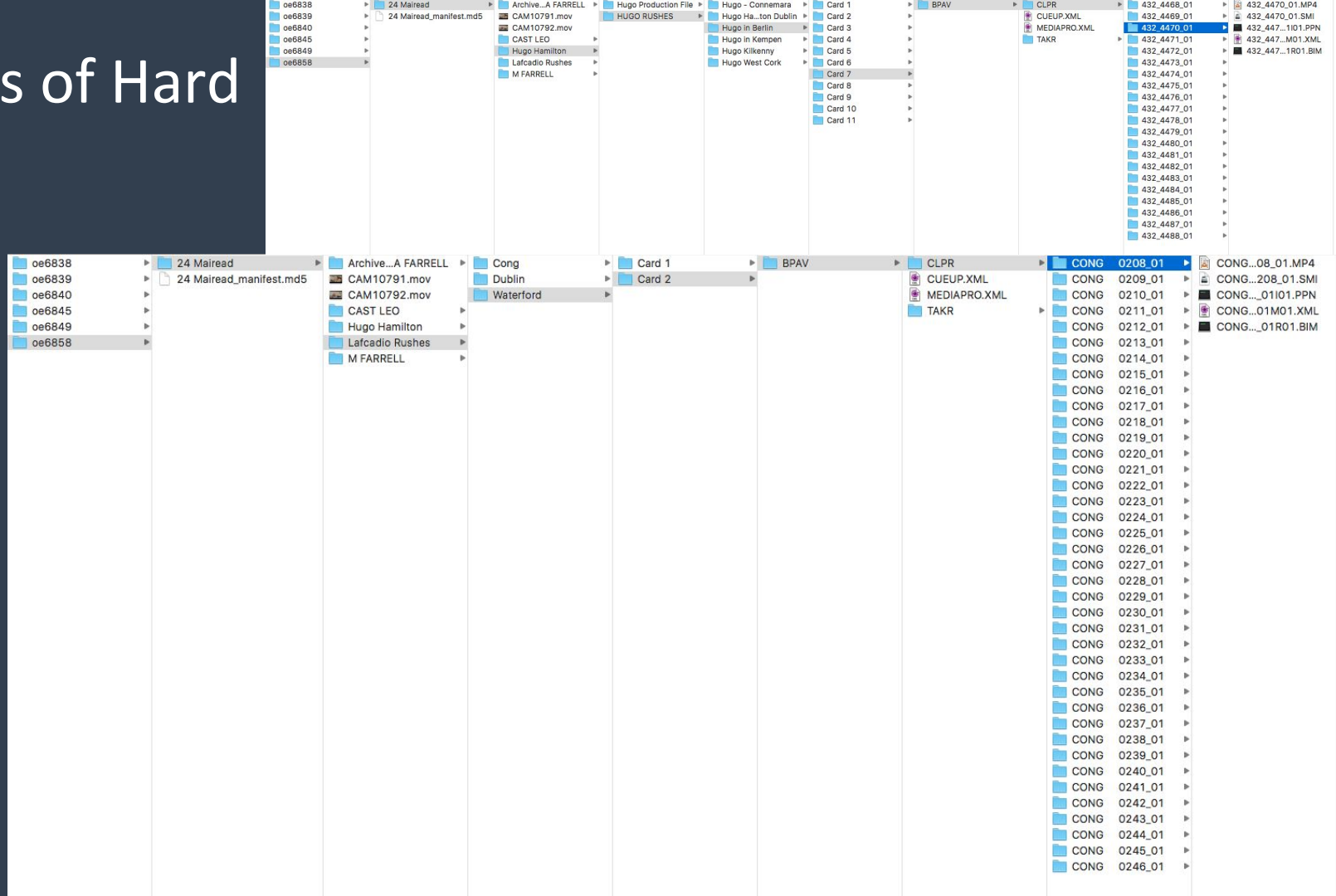
Hard Drives

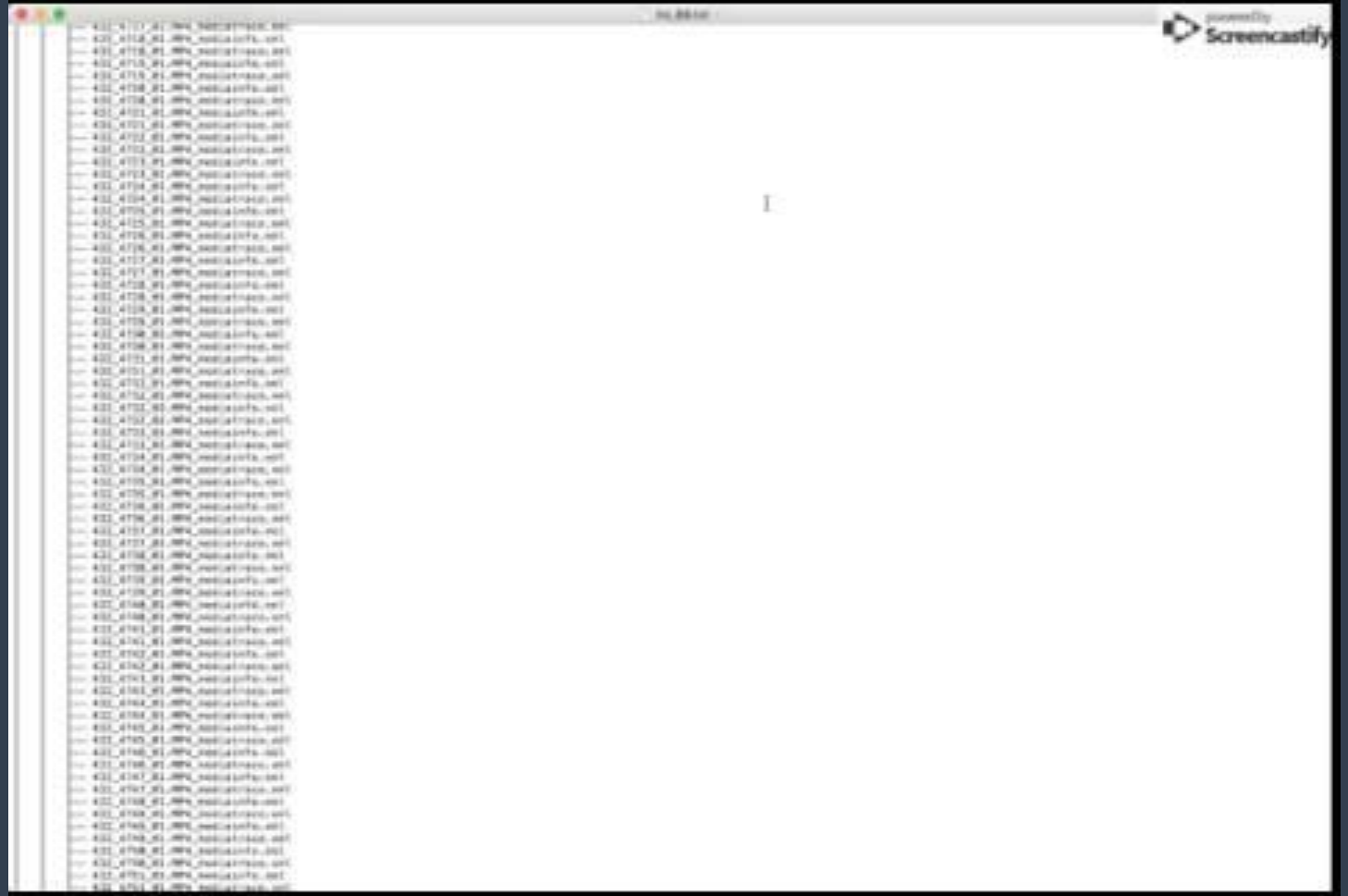
XDCam

P2

Converted Quicktimes

Examples of Hard Drives



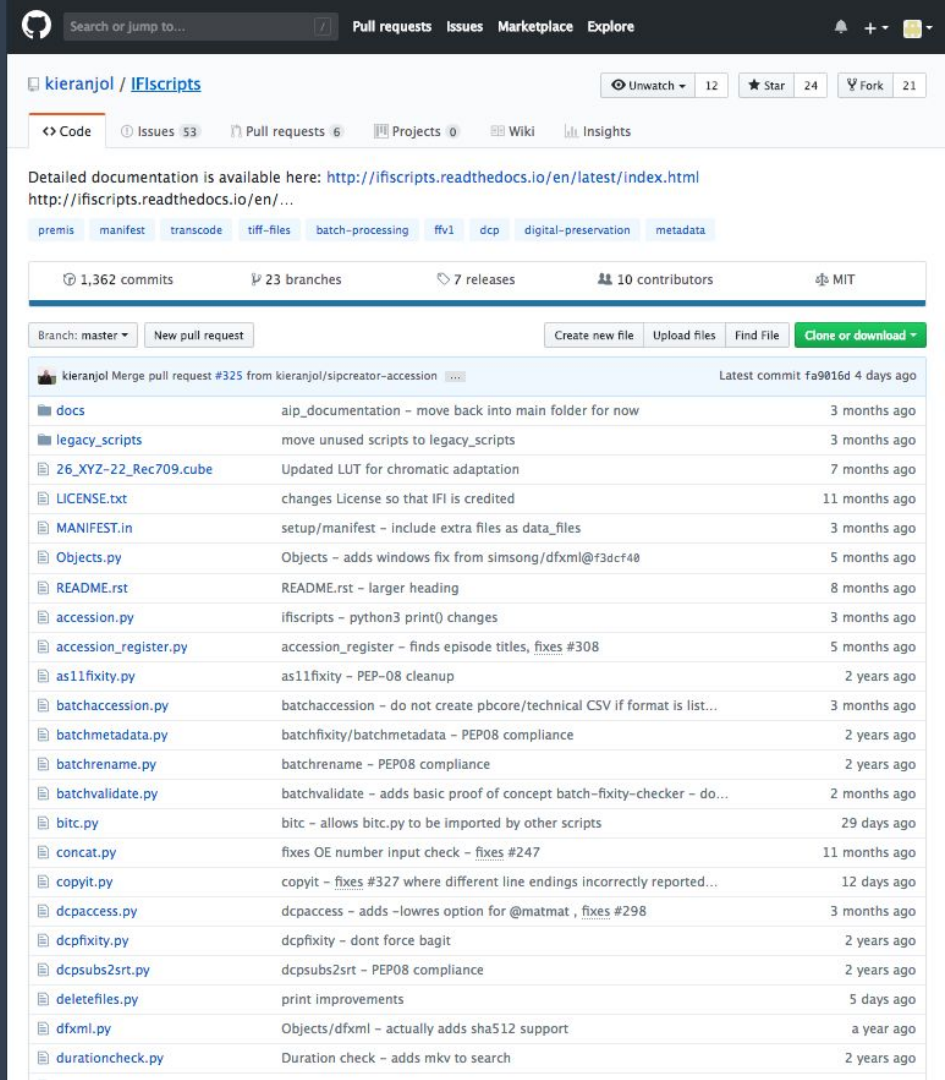


IFIscripts

microservice architecture

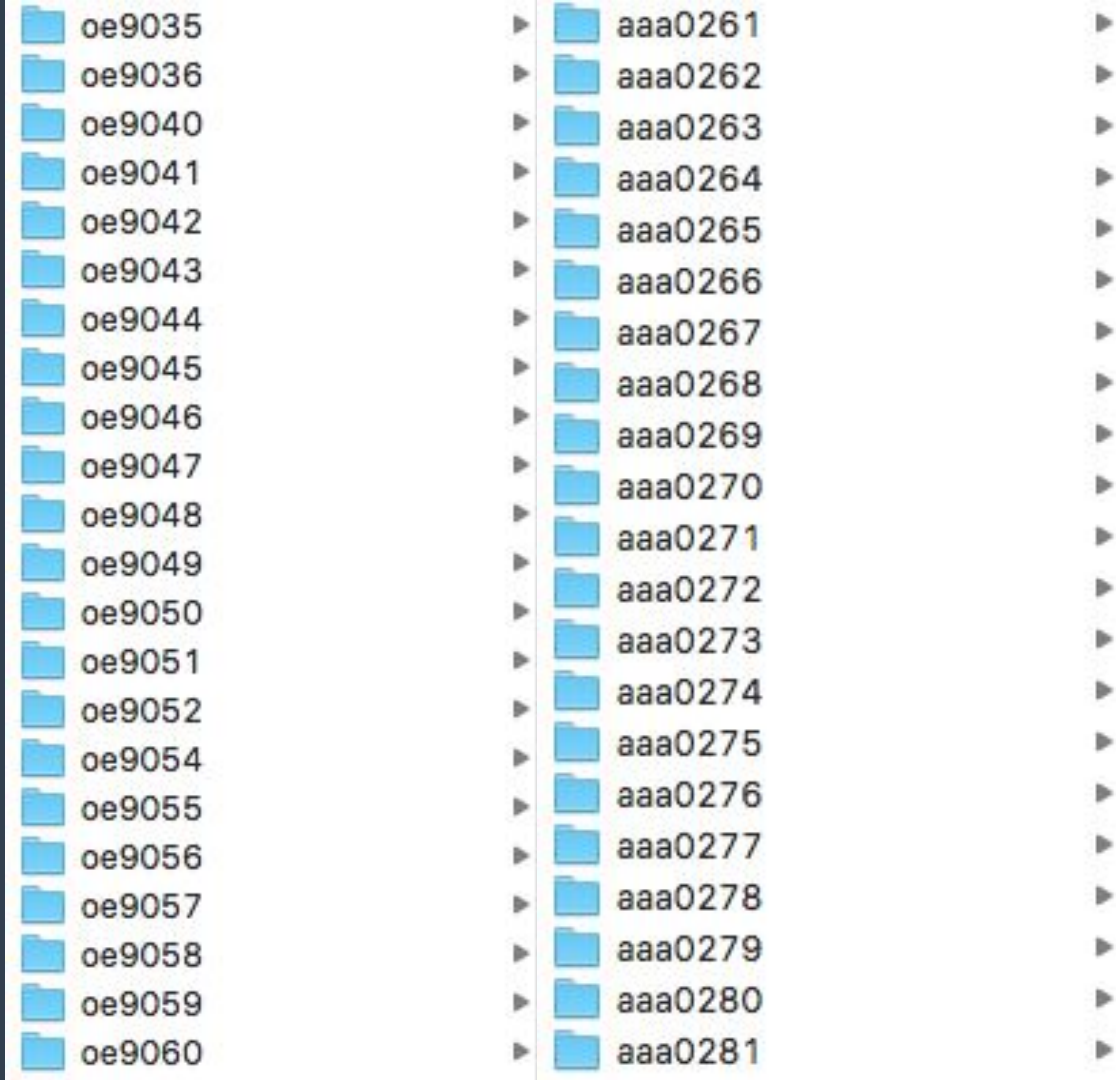
open source software

preservation context



Automated workflows

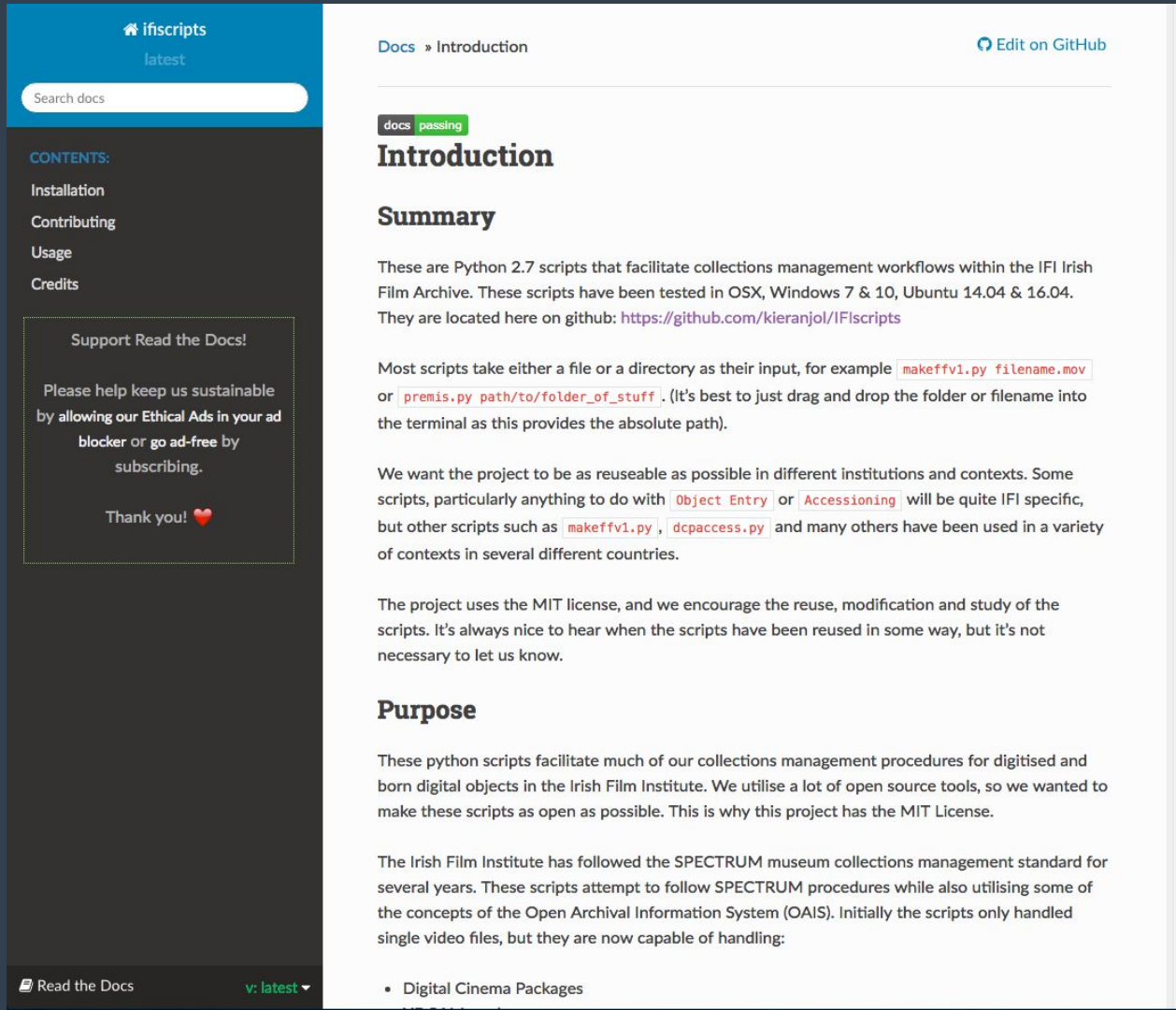
- Submission Information Packaging
- Archive Information Packaging
- Normalisation of objects
- Creation of access proxies
- Harvesting PBCore metadata xmls
- Concatenating clips from Camera Cards



IFIscripts

github.com/kieranjol/IFIscripts

ifiscripts.readthedocs.io



We have already used this project as an example of our work in a number of teaching scenarios including a Masters level digital preservation module in partnership with the University of Maynooth and will continue to use it in future for example in the FIAT/IFTA training module which took place in November 2018

Outcomes

- Preserved this important collection, being published in mid April on IFI Player.
- Raised awareness of the importance of Digital Preservation (public, vendor, funder, management, educational level)
- Innovative tools & workflows already adopted by peer organisations.
- Act in an advisory capacity & partner with others to protect moving image heritage.
- Influenced national guidelines for digital preservation .
- Encouraged other archives to empower themselves & be brave.
- Example of what can be achieved with few resources but passion & commitment.

Next steps

- Expand IFIscripts to include other AV & non moving image formats.
- Continued upskilling of archive staff and R’n’D.
- Wave the flag for Digital Preservation through more high profile projects.
- Work with other Irish organisations to advise & assist in Digital Preservation.
- Consolidate International partnerships.
- Fund open source software development to ensure availability of affordable & sustainable solutions.
- Continue to teach digital preservation & open source tools at third level.
- Complete current DPAS and write the next one in 2020.

That's all folks, any questions?