

Video Recording Equipment Available in the IMC

Students, staff, and faculty of the University at Albany often have the need to record interviews, lectures, and performances. The Interactive Media Center has equipment that can be used to make video recordings. This document is an overview of that equipment and includes brief descriptions of the devices.

Most of the equipment is available for loan. You must have a Library account in good standing. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Visit our Web site at <http://library.albany.edu/imc/tools.htm> for the latest equipment list.

Flash Memory Camcorder – The Interactive Media Center has Canon FS300 flash memory camcorders available for loan. These compact devices record in standard definition onto SD/HC memory cards. Included in the kit are the camera, memory card, battery, battery charger, power adapter, USB cable, video/sound cable, and manual. Users may use their own memory card. In the mode most typically used the camera will record about two hours of video on the provided memory card.



Mini-DV Camcorder – IMC has several models of Mini-DV digital camcorders available. They record onto a Mini-DV tape which is available from the Library Circulation Desk. Typically, the camcorder will record about one hour of video onto a tape. Video must be transferred to a computer by a Firewire cable. Still photos can be transferred by USB. The kit includes the camcorder, battery, USB cable, battery charger, power adapter, video/sound cable. Borrowers must provide their own Mini-DV tape. Because there are several versions of Firewire connectors available on cables, please consult with our staff to get the right one for your application.



Advances Mini-DV Camcorder – The Canon Elura 90 is similar to the Mini-DV camcorders described above. However, this model has a shoe for mounting lighting equipment or microphone. It also has a jack for connecting an external mic. A wide angle lens adapter can be attached.



Professional Tripods (not pictured) – The Interactive Media Center has several models of professional-grade tripods available. They have either a fluid head or standard friction head. Also available are lightweight pro-grade still camera tripods that work well with camcorders where the camcorder will remain stationary and not be panned or tilted.

Multipositional Arm with Super Clamp - Illustrated on the right a Bogen/Manfrotto 2929 multipositional arm with a Super Clamp in use. It can be attached to a wide range of objects, including tables, counter tops, doors, pipes, and more. The adjustments allow the user to position a camera or camcorder in thousands of different ways. In the photo on the right the rig is attached to an office divider.



Shotgun-type Microphone with Camera Mount – This “zoom” microphone is a miniature shotgun-type mic with adjustable pickup. You can select from either a narrow or very narrow pattern. It has a camera mount that allows it to be connected to a camcorder with a microphone or lighting shoe and mic input. One main purpose of this microphone is to record speakers from a distance where a normal microphone, such as those built into a camcorder, would pick up background noise. This device radically reduces unwanted ambient sound. It is a powered mic and comes with a battery. NOTE: This *MUST* be used with a camcorder that has a mic input jack.



Cables and Adapter – The IMC has a wide range of specialty cables and adapters available. Included in the collection are Firewire cables with various pin configurations, USB cables, Y-connectors, mic adapters, and more. Consult with our technicians to determine which devices should work with your application.

Memory Card Reader – These handy devices allow you to transfer data directly from a memory card to a computer. It is not necessary to connect the camcorder to the computer. In some instances this eliminates the need to use special file transfer software. These readers accept a wide range of memory cards.



Miniature Tripod – This is a very small tripod that works well with lightweight cameras and camcorders. This can be used for tabletop photography and videography.



Portable Hard Drive – The IMC has several sizes of portable hard drives available for loan so that you can store or transport your video project.

Software and Equipment Available in the IMC Lab – The Interactive Media Center has computers and software available in our lab that allow patrons to edit videos, create DVDs and more. Both Macintosh and Window computers are equipped with video editing programs.

The IMC software collection includes:

- iMovie
- Windows Movie Maker
- Sony Vegas
- Final Cut
- Quicktime Pro

Please note that not all software is available on all computers. Configurations depend of the specifics of each computer such as the operating system, component setup and more. If you need a particular computer or program, consult with our staff regarding requirements.

The Interactive Media Center has several workstations with VHS tape machines. This allows the user to digitize VHS tapes into a computer. *It is important to note that users are bound by the rules and regulations of copyright law.*

Additional Notes: Using your own equipment, special formats, PAL, SECAM, and more – The IMC does not have 8mm or Hi-8 video equipment. However, you can bring in your own camcorder to transfer tapes into a computer. You should supply your own cables, if possible. We cannot guarantee that we have the necessary cables and adapters to connect the equipment.

In the IMC Listening Area we have DVD and VHS players that play international media that has been prepared in PAL and SECAM. We also have machines that will play media which has been recorded for all international regions in addition to North America.

In addition, the Interactive Media Center has LaserDisc players so that you can view material recorded in that format.