

Monday, October 1, 2012

To: Campus Community

Fr: George H. Michaels, Executive Director  
Instructional Development

Re: **Decommissioning Obsolete Classroom Technologies**

This memorandum is to alert you to the upcoming elimination of support for certain obsolete classroom display technologies. Although we have provided support for these technologies up to now, the combination of a drastic decline in demand for them, the inability to acquire replacement parts or expendable components, the need to provide a continued high level of support for a much larger installed base of newer technologies and budget reductions, requires that we discontinue support or distribution. In the last ten years, we have phased out support for open reel audio tape, Betamax video tapes, 3/4" U-Matic video tapes, and laser disc players.

The 2012-2013 academic year will be our last for 16mm film projection and 35 mm slide projection support due to parts shortages and the costs associated with training technicians and operators. Effective January 1, 2013, all remaining 16mm film projectors will be removed from any general assignment classrooms where they are currently installed. Also effective January 1, 2013, all 35 mm slide projectors will be removed from general assignment classrooms. Manufacturers of slide projectors ceased production in 2004, and, as of 2009, they ceased stocking parts and lamps for them. For a period of one year after January 1, 2013, we will maintain a small number of slide projectors on a self-pickup basis for check-out from Media Equipment.

Compact audio cassette and VHS video tape support will cease after the 2013-2014 academic year. Effective January 1, 2014 all audio cassette tape decks will be removed, with the exception of two decks in Sound Recording to enable conversion to digital audio format. Effective January 1, 2015 all VHS video tape decks will be removed from the general assignment classrooms. For a period of one year after that, we will maintain a small number of VHS players, on a self-pickup basis, for check-out from Media Equipment. Stand-alone VHS decks have not been manufactured since the October 2008, and distribution of video on VHS tape ended in December of that year. Most existing VHS tape material will be only marginally usable due to problems with the degrading magnetic oxide format that causes jams, tape breakage and head clogs. Video display in the general assignment classrooms will still be available in DVD format, and, increasingly, digital formats streamed online.

Instructional Development remains available to assist with content conversion or replacement in an alternate format. Please don't hesitate to contact either Media Equipment, 893-4216, or Film and Video Ordering, 893-3518, in Instructional Development with questions about the use of these, or other media formats, in instruction.