

Who We Are

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's (WHOI) Data Library and Archives (DLA), part of a joint library with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.



Funding Opportunity

Recordings at Risk (RAR) is a regranting program administered by Council on Library & Information Resources (CLIR) and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It supports the preservation of high scholarly value media through digital reformatting.



Preserving Historical HOV Alvin Video Data for Science and Society

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MBLWHOI Library, WHOI Data Library and Archives

Human-Operated Vehicle Alvin submersible has participated in significant scientific discoveries that have transformed our understanding of life on Earth since 1964.

WHOI was awarded over \$47K beginning in June 2021 to participate in RAR. WHOI DLA contracted with an experienced historical film specialist to assess, repair, and digitize these early films documenting the building and testing of Alvin as well as early historic dives.

The project will conclude in April of 2022 resulting in the digitization and description of over 400 items from the WHOI Archives.



Project Data Rescued:

- 📺 Search for the lost hydrogen bomb (1966)
- 📺 Project FAMOUS (1971-1974)
- 📺 Discovery and exploration of hydrothermal vents (1977-1979)

Top Left, Bottom Right: Underwater scenes from the Galapagos hydrothermal vents
Top right: Alvin being lifted onto the WHOI dock in Woods Hole, MA

- Most of the dive footage has never been digitized. The rescued data will provide a wealth of new underwater footage capturing ocean environments that were and are still intensely studied in all areas of oceanography.
- Formats included 16mm, 8mm, Super 8mm, ½ inch magnetic, VHS, and Umatic.
- Contact Lisa Raymond, Audrey Mickle, and Karen Urbec at dla@whoi.edu for more information.