



## NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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615 Church Street | Nashville, TN | 37219

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **NPL Opens Free Media Digitization Studio at Donelson Branch**

*At Memory Lab, Nashvillians can turn precious moments stored on old media formats into high-resolution digital files — before they fade away*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Nashville Public Library (NPL) today launched its first-ever Memory Lab, an innovative, self-serve media digitization studio at the [Donelson Branch Library](#), located at 2714 Old Lebanon Pike.

Now, Nashvillians can transform old VHS tapes, photos, slides, negatives and other ephemera into high-resolution digital files before these old media formats break down and memories are potentially lost forever.

The lab is NPL's latest investment in digitization efforts, following the September 2025 launch of the [Nashville Neighborhood History & Culture Home Movie Project](#) to preserve everyday moments from across the city through the [Metro Archives](#), a division of NPL.

Plus, the Library offers free online access to [34 special digital collections](#), including oral histories, that provide a glimpse of wide-ranging moments in

history — everything from veterans' history and local yearbooks to the 2020 bombing in downtown Nashville and the Civil Rights Movement.

“Memory Lab is more than just technology — it’s a creative space where anyone can reconnect with their history and capture moments that otherwise might have been lost forever,” said Library Director Terri Luke. “We are pleased about the launch of Memory Lab, but the most rewarding part is yet to come — all of the stories, memories and history that will be given new life and preserved for the next generation.”

Memory Lab offers considerable cost savings over commercial digitization services, which can charge up to \$30 per tape and around \$1 each for photos and slides.

It’s also part of a growing national trend at public libraries (Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Brooklyn and others) working to [bridge the digital divide](#), and places NPL among a handful of libraries in the state offering free media digitization, including in Rutherford and Williamson counties.

### **How NPL’s Memory Lab Works**

The studio at Donelson Branch includes a computer with digitization software, a multi-functional scanner and a VHS-to-digital converter. Guests can [reserve a four-hour time slot](#) online. Each session includes side-by-side support from a trained staff member for the first hour.

### **Get Started with Memory Lab**

- [Reserve your session](#) at Memory Lab.
- Receive an email with instructions.
- Park free in the covered garage and take the elevator to 2.

- Go to the circulation desk and let staff know you have arrived.
- Bring an external hard drive to save your high-resolution files.

### **About Nashville Public Library**

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from — plus exceptional programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills — NPL is Nashville’s gateway to some of the best resources Nashville has to offer. Every year, across 21 locations, thousands of visitors discover how NPL lives up to our philosophy: books are only half the story.

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