

# Be Kind, Rewind

Why it's time to abandon VHS

User Support Services  
Rhode Island College

If you have much of your curriculum in the VHS video format, then it's time to make a change! VHS is long past its prime. We suggest that you consider the following factors regarding VHS:

- ◆ The last major Hollywood release on VHS was "The History of Violence" in 2006.
- ◆ The last VHS tapes were manufactured in 2008.
- ◆ The last VHS machines were manufactured in 2016.

Once RIC's current VHS decks break, there are no replacements. *User Support Services* will continue to maintain our current inventory in classrooms but inevitably they will fade away. Ideally, we need to prepare for that transition in advance.

If the VHS tapes that you use in your courses contain feature films then the easiest (and cheapest) solution, by far, is to purchase DVD copies. You may even consider purchasing used copies. You can convert these into digital files. *User Support Services* can offer training in this process.

If the VHS tapes that you use are recordings that you made yourself, then contact the Help Desk to request help in converting your VHS tapes to digital files (not DVD's).

We suggest that converting VHS to a DVD is just kicking the can down the road. Since DVD is poised to be replaced, just as VHS was replaced by DVD, moving to a digital format offers the most flexibility for current and future distribution.

As part of the Blackboard Learning Management system Rhode Island College offers an add-on called Kaltura. It's the best method to add video to your Blackboard courses. It's also a convenient way to display video during class time. There is no more lugging tapes and DVD's around.

Should you require assistance in converting your old media, please contact the Help Desk to schedule a consultation.