**Tool #13: Free Tools Library**

*Free downloadable tools for managing and preserving digital assets.*

* **MediaInfo**: a convenient unified display of the most relevant technical and tag data for video and audio files. <http://mediaarea.net/en/MediaInfo>
* **VLC**: a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols. <http://www.videolan.org/vlc/index.html>
* **FFMpeg**: multimedia framework, able to decode**,** encode**,** transcode**,** mux**,** demux**,** stream**,** filter and play many formats.<https://www.ffmpeg.org/about.html>
* **ExifTool**: a platform-independent Perl library plus a command-line application for reading, writing and editing meta information in a wide variety of files. <http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/>
* **Hashdeep**: a program to compute, match, and audit hashsets. <http://md5deep.sourceforge.net/>
* **Better File Renamer**: file renaming utility <http://www.publicspace.net/ABetterFinderRename/>
* **IsoBuster**: Data recovery software; can recover data from some unreadable discs and drives <http://www.isobuster.com/>

**Glossary**

* **checksum**: ( or hash sum or hash value) is a unique code (the digital “fingerprint”) created from running an algorithm off of data. Since alterations to data will change the code, it’s used for the purpose of [detecting errors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Error_detection) which may have been introduced during its [transmission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunication) or [storage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_storage).
* **metadata**: “data about data,” which can be used to describe either content, or technical and structural aspects of the way the content is held
* **fixity**: the property of a digital file being fixed, or unchanged. Fixity checking is the process of verifying that a digital object has not been altered or corrupted, often with use of checksums.
* **migration**: transferring data to a new format or carrier to ensure content preservation and accessibility. This process can introduce data loss.