

# PDF Formats and TIFF: Brief Comparison

	PDF	PDF/A	PDF/E (proposed)	TIFF
Owner	Adobe – published, proprietary format	ISO/AIIM – published open standard	ISO/AIIM – published open standard	Adobe – published, proprietary format
Primary Uses	Present original layout/type	Long-term preservation; paper replacement	Self-contained exchange format for engineering documentation	Raster image format best suited for images and scans
Platform	Device/sw/os independent	Device/sw/os independent; s/w must save as PDF/A	Device/sw/os independent; s/w must save as PDF/E	Device/sw/os independent; tags may hinder viewers
Searchability	Yes: allows for OCR and including metadata	Yes: allows for OCR and recommends use of metadata	Yes: allows for OCR and recommends use of metadata	TIFF images must be converted using OCR
Accessibility	Can include tags	Can include tags	Can include tags; not primarily focused on accessibility	No standard or common schema for tagging
Longevity	All past references of PDF published; flexibility may limit preservation	Sole purpose is long-term preservation	May be sufficient for long-term preservation	Can be used for preservation with limitations
Other Issues				Lacks support for advanced imaging functions