

Digitalização Viajante (Traveling Digitization) is a free, mobile digitization project for Super 8 and 8mm films, offering archival restoration services throughout Brazil. Essentially a non-profit initiative, its intention was to foster the creation of digital copies suitable for digital preservation and access. This project took place between October 2022 and January 2023, traveling through 6 different Brazilian cities (Brasília, Recife, João Pessoa, Teresina, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo) with a FilmFabriek Pictor Pro scanner and a portable workstation, and digitizing more than 300 films in different archives, houses and universities.

In 2022, before Digitalização Viajante, the Iniciativa de Digitalização de Filmes Brasileiros (IDFB, translation: Brazilian Films Digitization Initiative) was able to create new 4K and 2K copies of Brazilian films such as *A Entrevista* (1967), *Meio-dia* (1969), and *Santo e Jesus - Metalúrgicos* (1978). The efforts to digitize these films showed that there are very serious issues of geographic hyperconcentration in terms of opportunities for digitizing film materials in Brazil. Mainly concentrated in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, companies that carry out professional digitization are few, failing to meet the national demand; and they also have very high operating costs, which makes the service inaccessible to a broader group of individuals or institutions. In addition, it is very common for films considered “amateur” and/or “homemade” to be on the margins of the scarce public policies for the digitization of Brazilian cinema.

IDFB felt it was therefore necessary to organize an independent and civilian-oriented action to begin filling this gap, where the private sector and the government were not interested in acting. After acquiring a FilmFabriek Pictor Pro scanner, our initiative decided to travel with it in Brazil and visit places that lack a film digitization structure, such as small and not well-funded archives, private collections and even people’s houses, and provide a digitization service for free. To choose where to go and how to best plan our actions, we partnered with Associação Brasileira de Preservação Audiovisual (Brazilian Audiovisual Preservation Association) for logistics and references. Besides that, through a web form, we received several subscriptions from individuals and organizations that needed help with creating digital versions of their films.

Considering the large amount of “orphan”, “independent”, “amateur” and “homemade” films that could lie deep in places far from the eyes or funding from private or public sectors, we reflect on this experience highlighting its ability to join individuals in networks of decentralized work, providing the technological infrastructure and knowledge.