

GeoTIFF Format

Extension: .TIF

An industry-wide standard for specifying cartographic information in TIFF tags, referred to as "GeoTIFF," has been developed by several organizations in the GIS community. These organizations include SPOT Image Corporation, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Intergraph Corporation, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), and the USGS, among others. Geographic information is embedded in the TIFF data file in the form of descriptive tags. For detailed information about TIFF, GeoTIFF, and PackBits compression, refer to the [TIFF 6.0 Specification](#) (in .PDF format - to acquire a reader go to <http://www.adobe.com/acrobat/>) and the GeoTIFF Specification in [Text](#) format or [.PDF](#) format.. The most recent versions of TIFF and GeoTIFF specifications are available via World Wide Web at <http://mcmcweb.er.usgs.gov/>.

Also often bundled with GeoTIFF files are World Files (.TFW). These files reside with their associated image files. World files contain the following information:

- x resolution
- amount of translation
- amount of rotation
- negative of the y resolution
- x ground coordinate of pixel 1,1 (upper left)
- y ground coordinate of pixel 1,1 (upper left)

Many software packages are capable of displaying TIFF files without georeferencing the data. For example, when displayed using graphics arts software, a DRG is a simple picture on a computer screen. For a free DRG viewer from the USGS, go to <http://mcmcweb.er.usgs.gov/drc/dlgv32pro/>.

Above excerpt is from <http://wgiac.state.wy.us/html/format.asp>