

# Adding sound to a web page

Monroe Library – Loyola University New Orleans

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## What kind of sounds can I use?

Sound must be in a digital format and the browser must have software to play the sound. One way to create sound is to use a microphone with your computer and the right software. Windows Sound Recorder will record up to 60 seconds of sound. Sound Forge, Audigy and many other programs record, edit and convert sound. WAV files are the simplest format to use, but WMA, AU, AIFF, Ogg Vorbis, and MP3 are other formats you can use. It is possible to take analog sound, from a cassette tape, for example, and convert it into a digital format, but the library has no equipment to do this. We do have sound recorders that save sound in a digital format.

## Copyright

You must have permission to use sound files. The safest thing is to use sounds you create.

## Method 1: Link to sound – play once

Just create a link as you usually would, but select a sound file, not a web page, as the file to be loaded. The viewer clicks on the link and hears the sound, if their browser is set up to work with the type of sound. Their browser may already be set up or they may have to tell the browser what program to use to play the sound.

## Method 2: Have a sound play in the background

You can also use the tag: `<embed src="sound.wav" autostart="true" hidden="true">`  
The “hidden” part means that the user won’t see player controls. If you change that to “false,” or omit “hidden=,” then the user will see player controls. Change “sound.wav” to the file name for your sound.

With either method, add the tag at the bottom of the page, so it loads last. More information is available at [http://www.htmlcodetutorial.com/embeddedobjects/\\_EMBED.html](http://www.htmlcodetutorial.com/embeddedobjects/_EMBED.html). Remember to publish the sound clip with the page.

Remember copyright! Free sounds:

<http://www.stonewashed.net/sfx.html> (pointers to many sites)

<http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/pir/PIRsfx.html>

<http://www.pacdv.com/sounds/index.html>

<http://www.a1freesoundeffects.com/noflash.htm>

These and other helpful sites for web design:

<http://www.loyno.edu/~hobbs/webpages/index.html>