Sharing MLTI Moving Image Projects: Issues and Ideas

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Outline

- Example of a digital video archive: Open Video Project
- Archiving MLTI moving image projects
- Issues and ideas for making it happen
The Open Video Project

- Late 1999: Web site offered 120 videos in MPEG-1 format
- Segments from 8 different video programs
- Sources: U.S. government agencies - National Archives and NASA
- Expected primary audience: Digital video researchers needing content for research
The Open Video Project

- **2000:** Substantial contributions build content to 222 videos, 40 hours
  - CMU’s Informedia Project
  - Rick Prelinger’s ephemeral film collection

- **2001:** More contributions from previous and new contributors build collection
  - 1500 videos
  - MPEG-1, MPEG-2, and MPEG-4 formats
The Open Video Project

- Current status of the OV digital library

  - 2004: Broad range of topics, format, style, time periods
  - Currently about 2100 videos, half a terabyte
  - Target audience: Researchers, educators, multimedia artists, students, general Web users looking for entertainment
The Open Video Project

- Project goals include both:
  - Conducting research on range of issues associated with information seeking interfaces and digital libraries
  - Developing and managing a publicly accessible digital library of digital video

Open Video Research
- Interfaces for digital video
- Issues in shared DLs
- DL info-seeking interfaces
- Multimedia indexing issues
- Training ground for students

Open Video Web Site
- Service for contributors
- Service for end users
- Proving ground for research
- Publicize OV research
- Testbed for OV user studies

Research findings, ideas, etc.

Data from transactions, surveys, etc.
The Open Video Project

Quick search or browse

Quick access to special collections

Rotating highlighted special collection

News headlines reflecting latest site changes

Direct access to newest and most popular video

Main Page - Gathering Video
The Open Video Project

Search Results - Sifting Video

- Easy modification of current search criteria
- Visual preview and most important metadata
- Customize visual format of results
- Change ordering of results and size of result display
The Open Video Project

Quick access to re-gather video

Direct access to video related by keywords

Link to view or download

Choice of preview surrogates

Link to other video from same title

Textual metadata

Details - Evaluating Video
The Open Video Project

Special Collections

Digital Himalaya Project

Digital Himalaya is a pilot project to develop digital collection, archiving and distribution strategies for multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region. Based at Cornell and Cambridge Universities, the project began in December 2000. The initial phase involves digitizing a set of existing ethnographic archives comprised of photographs, films, sound recordings, fieldnotes and texts collected by anthropologists and travelers in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalayas from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. One of the primary archives consists of 130 hours of 16mm ethnographic film shot by Christoph von Sievernich, Professor of Asian Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and a grandfather of Himalayan anthropology. Another collection held in the Open Video Project is that of Frederick Williamson, a British Political Officer stationed in Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet in the 1930s. The project has three long-term objectives: (a) to preserve a digital medium valuable ethnographic materials that are degenerating in their current forms; (b) to make these resources available in a searchable digital format to scholars and the Himalayan communities from which the materials were collected; and (c) to develop a template for collaborative digital cataloguing that will allow users to contribute documentation to existing collections and eventually add their own collections to the system, creating a dynamic tool for comparative research.
Sharing MLTI Moving Image Projects

Why share moving image projects?

For students completing projects:

- Provides permanent home for project
- Gives student work life beyond classroom
- Enables student to point or link to completed work
- Enables work to reach a much broader audience
- Extra motivation for doing good work
Sharing MLTI Moving Image Projects

Why share moving image projects?

- For *students starting projects*:
  - Provides easily accessible examples of good projects
    - Teachers could point to examples to suggest possibilities
  - Provides ideas for project topics
  - Could provide readily-available source material (pros and cons)
    - Rights issues
    - Practical issues of working with footage
Sharing MLTI Moving Image Projects

Why share moving image projects?

For those interested in demonstrating MLTI value:

- Enables interested parties within Maine educational community easier access to MLTI-related student work
  - For example, a teacher could easily send someone the URL of a class project to look at

- Disseminates student work beyond Maine - publicity for MLTI

- Promotes value of MLTI to others – the Maine example as a model
Creating a MLTI Moving Image Archive

- Critical issues in creating an archive of student moving image projects:
  - Interest on the part of students to archive their projects
  - Approval of MLTI-related administrators, teachers
  - Central archive to host projects
    - Storage of video and associated metadata
    - Integration of video and metadata into a usable interface for searching, browsing, and retrieving
Creating a MLTI Moving Image Archive

- Critical issues in creating an archive of student moving image projects:
  - Way for students to generate and submit metadata for their project
  - Standalone tool to generate metadata to a file - example, Metadata Hootenanny - student sends file to archive

**Metadata Hootenanny cataloging interface**
Creating a MLTI Moving Image Archive

- Web-based metadata cataloging form - archive sets up dedicated Web page containing form for student project submission

- Either way, need to establish critical set of metadata that is simple enough to be quick and easy for students but still enables project to be adequately identified and categorized for robust searching and browsing

- Controlled vocabularies, authority lists of schools, counties

Open Video contribution form
Creating a MLTI Moving Image Archive

Critical issues in creating an archive of student moving image projects:

- As part of metadata, need to clearly present students with range of choices for rights usage of their project
  - Freely available for any purpose?
  - Free to use for education or research purposes?
  - Free to watch but no other purposes?
Creating a MLTI Moving Image Archive

As first step, one option is to create MLTI as an Open Video special collection:

- Add a handful of completed MLTI video projects to the OV archive
- Create a general description of the MLTI initiative for a Special Collection page
- Projects completed in the future are added to the OV archive and MLTI special collection
More Information About Open Video

- Open Video Web Site: www.open-video.org
- Research publications: www.open-video.org/project_publications.php
- Gary Geisler - geisler@simmons.edu