“Use of AAPB in Humanities Research”

Jessica Hardin
Program Coordinator, BLC
jhardin@blc.org

Casey Davis Kaufman
Associate Director, WGBH Media
Library and Archives
Project Manager, AAPB
casey_davis-kaufman@wgbh.org

Mark Williams
Associate Professor
Department of Film and Media Studies
Dartmouth College
mark.j.williams@dartmouth.edu

Ingrid Ockert
Ph.D. Candidate
History of Science
Princeton University
ockert@princeton.edu
Mission:

To coordinate a national effort to preserve at-risk public media before its content is lost to posterity and provide a central web portal for access to the unique programming that public stations have aired over the past 60+ years.
Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation
Participating Organizations

Learn about the history, significant productions, and archive contributions of more than 120 public media stations and archives. View all participating organizations.
Goals

Coordinate a national effort to **preserve and make accessible** as much significant public broadcasting materials as possible.

Become a focal point for **discoverability**.

Provide **standards and best practices** for storing, processing, preserving, and making accessible historical content.

Facilitate the **use of archival content** by scholars, educators, students, journalists, media producers, researchers, and the public.

**Increase public awareness** of the significance of historical public media and the need to preserve it and make it accessible.
The AAPB Collection

www.americanarchive.org

More than 50,000 hours of digitized and born digital material from over 100 public broadcasting stations and organizations

Website launched October 2015

>31,000 streaming video and audio files in an Online Reading Room (36% of full collection)

Public access to the full collection of video and audio on-site at WGBH and the Library of Congress

>2.5 million inventory records from 120 stations
A Centralized Web Portal for Discovery

All AAPB digitized content discoverable through single searches

Direct links to public media on other sites (KUHT, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Minnesota Public Radio, WNYC)

One-stop shopping

Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) as a model

Helps solve the separate silos syndrome for search and discovery
Cultural heritage at stake

“I’ve long been frustrated…gaining access to the vast audiovisual record of my period.”

“Working to document recent American history without access to the pictures has been a real challenge.”

“Key historical moments and events are lost to us forever.”
## Access via the AAPB

### On Location Access
Available to researchers who visit WGBH and the Library of Congress

### Online Reading Room Access
Available within the U.S. for research, educational and informational purposes (download not authorized)

- Behind firewall subject to terms of use
- In a category approved by counsel as fair use

- Streaming only

- Subject to notice and takedown policy

- Certain materials not available online are accessible via password-protected two-week access for bona fide research purposes

### Other Access Points
- FIX IT, FIX IT+, and ROLL THE CREDITS
- All metadata available via an API
- Transcripts for materials in the Online Reading Room available via an API
- ORR harvested and accessible via the Digital Public Library of America
- Social media accounts often highlight collections, stations, or themes of interest
ORR totals more than 31,000 programs available to anyone in the United States.

Online access *in accordance with the copyright law* of the United States, including the legal doctrine of fair use.

Access for *research, educational, and informational purposes* only.

Inclusion in the ORR determined by analysis of types of programs and examination of individual series and programs.
How do scholars want to access and use a public media archive?

• Scholars committed to writing in print but are using digital resources

• Scholars who have desires to take things out of an archive system and recombine them into a new system

• Scholars who want to teach with them and their students

• Scholars who want to use the collection as a dataset for text mining, audio waveform analysis, image recognition, and machine learning
How can academic librarians support awareness and use of AAPB by scholars, researchers, and students?

- Adding AAPB to database/resource index
- Including AAPB in LibGuides
- Incorporating the AAPB in Library/Media Literacy classes
- Other ideas???
Suggested course LibGuides in which to include AAPB

• American history courses
• Public history
• Communications and journalism
• Film and media studies
• Law and public policy
• Political science
• Some libraries have included AAPB into LibGuides for courses such as:
  – Religion, Right Wing America, Music, English Literature, African American Studies, Women’s Studies
Suggested Resource Guides in which to Include AAPB

- Digital Collections and Archives
- News and Newspapers
- Broadcast News
- Multimedia/Audiovisual Resources
- Arts and Culture
Curated Exhibits

Curators contextualize digitized primary and secondary source public television and radio materials. Each curated set of selected recordings present a diversity of perspectives concerning the exhibit's focus.

http://americanarchive.org/exhibits
Special Collections

Access featured collections preserved in the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.
Collection Summary

The Eyes on the Prize I Interviews Collection consists of 127 raw interviews conducted with participants in the American Civil Rights movement, covering the years from the mid-1960s through to 1968. The interviews were recorded by Henry Hampton and the Blackside production company as part of the acclaimed documentary series Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965. The series originally aired on PBS in 1987, and was followed by a second series in 1990, Eyes on the Prize: II America at the Crossroads 1965-1985. The series garnered several Emmy awards, a Peabody, and an Academy Award nomination, and is considered the definitive documentary on the Civil Rights Movement. The recordings include cuts, incidental conversation, production notes, and segments with sound but no film; some interviews are sound only. The questions asked of interviewees are usually audible, and interviews range in length from ten minutes to two hours. The interviews were reconstructed and digitized from the original film materials by the Film & Media Archive at Washington University.

Collection Background

Founded in 1968 by filmmaker Henry Hampton (1940-1998), Blackside, Inc. has produced more than sixty major film and media public television projects with a focus on social justice. In addition to Eyes on the Prize, other award-winning productions from Hampton and Blackside include The Great Depression, Martin Luther King, Jr.: Make A Plain, America's War on Poverty, This Far by Faith, and I'll Make Me a World. Over the course of his career, Hampton was the recipient of over ten honorary degrees and several lifetime achievement awards. His papers and film archive are held by the Washington University Film and Media Archive in St. Louis, Missouri.

INTERVIEWER: I think the thing that we come across is a good deal of misconception about the Civil War. What kind of myths about the war do you find most common and most abhorrent to you?

FIELDS: I suppose the most abhorrent is the one that misses the point that the Civil War and all that it accomplished were the product of many people. They were the product of four million slaves, they were the product of all the men who served in both of the armies and they were the product of the people who remained behind at home. It isn't Lincoln's story, it isn't Grant's...
Other ways to access and use the collection

• Limited Research Access
• Embedding
• Metadata
• Transcripts
Limited Research Access

- Materials not available in the Online Reading Room can be made available through Limited Research Access for bona fide research purposes.

- Scholar contacts aapb_notification@wgbh.org to request access to specific items (up to 10) that are not available in the Online Reading Room.

- Scholar must agree to the Limited Research Access Rules of Use.

- AAPB Staff provide password-protected access to those digital files for a two (2) week period.
Embedding – taking things out of the archive and combining them into a new system

- Digitized video and audio files available in the AAPB Online Reading Room can be embedded into other websites
  - ex. Students’ digital history projects or web publications
- `<iframe src='http://americanarchive.org/embed/cpb-aacip_15-80ht7n4v' style='border: 0;'></iframe>`
**Metadata API – Text Mining and Analysis**

- All metadata in the AAPB is available in the public domain and can be accessed, downloaded, re-used, and incorporated into digital history/digital humanities projects.
- AAPB metadata is structured in PBCore XML and MODS.
- The OAI-PMH feed can be used to harvest records for items available in the Online Reading Room. Please note that only records for items in the Online Reading Room can be harvested this way. We don’t support all the verbs, or any formats beyond MODS.
  - OAI-PMH: /oai.xml?verb=ListRecords
- All AAPB metadata records, including records for all digitized content and content not digitized can be harvested using the PBCore API.
- If you just need one or a small number of records in machine-readable form, use the single-item API to get PBCore XML:
  - XML: /api/cpb-aacip_305-7312jttj.xml
Transcripts
Research Access – Text Mining and Analysis

- New service allowing scholars to harvest and download speech-to-text transcripts for content in the AAPB Online Reading Room

- If a record in the AAPB Online Reading Room has an associated JSON transcript you can use our single-item transcript API to retrieve it.

- Transcripts Research Access (TRA) credentials are required to access the full transcript and can be obtained by contacting us at aapb_notifications@wgbh.org.
  - /api/cpb-aacip_111-21ghx7d6/transcript
Collaboration with Media Ecology Project

- Content in the AAPB Online Reading Room will be available through the Media Ecology Project’s MediaThread platform, alongside digitized moving images from other archives
- Qualified users of the Media Ecology Project platform will be able to create time-based annotations to be provided back to the AAPB
- AAPB will incorporate scholar annotations into our metadata repository and public website for enhanced access and discoverability
AAPB can be of value for scholarship because of...

**Geographical breadth**
- to uncover ways that national and global processes played out on the local scene

**Chronological reach**
- to document change (or stasis) over time
THANK YOU!
#dissertationdays: researching collections at the AAPB & other public media archives

Ingrid Ockert
Princeton University
March 21, 2018
ockert@princeton.edu
Why the AAPB matters to me

• Audio-visual materials can reveal unwritten details.

• Audio-visual materials compliment and support the arguments in paper sources.

• Audio-visual materials engage scholarly audiences.

Materials: full access to original tapes of NOVA's early seasons.

Importance: Discovering NOVA's early years stood out because of inclusive and cutting-edge documentaries.
3-2-1 Contact @ Univ. of Maryland and Sesame Workshop

Materials: original tapes of the first season of 3-2-1 Contact!

Importance:

• Impossible to find more than clips of the show online
• Ancillary materials also helped piece together a full picture.
COSMOS @ The Library of Congress

Dr. Carl Sagan during an interview with Host Johnny Carson on September 16th 1976. Getty Images

Materials: original tapes from the Tonight show collection, prompt sheets, letters between Johnny Carson and Carl Sagan.

Importance:

Allowed me to literally watch how Sagan improved over time.
Concluding thoughts

• I could not have written my dissertation without the AAPB.

• More graduate students are realizing that A/V materials can help them understand their topics.
American Archive of Public Broadcasting
“Use of AAPB in Humanities Research”
Public Webinar
21 March 2018

Networked Interdisciplinary Research via Digital Tools:
Collaboration of AAPB with The Media Ecology Project

Mark J Williams • mark.j.williams@dartmouth.edu • @markj2
John Bell, MEP architect
The Media Ecology Project
Providing more and better scholarly access to historical media.

This site is dedicated to The Media Ecology Project (MEP), a digital resource at Dartmouth that will facilitate the awareness of and critical study of Media Ecology: the dynamic ecology of historical media in relation to the public sphere and public memory.

The Media Ecology Project provides online access to primary moving image research materials, and engages dynamic new forms of scholarly production and online publishing.
THE ARCLIGHT GUIDEBOOK TO MEDIA HISTORY AND THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES
• Realize a sustainability project regarding media history as public memory
• Develop networked scholarship in relation to online archival content
• Promote and augment the dynamic ecology of historical media
• Support the essential work of the archives in relation to the public sphere and public memory
• Engage primary research across disciplines
• Innovate dynamic new forms of scholarship and publication
• Adding value back to archives and libraries
• Realizing a virtuous cycle of access, scholarship, preservation
• Scholars and academics can make archive materials more searchable
• This work can also make materials searchable across select archives
• Scholars can even become part of archival work flow

   Best first users of the digitized materials will be provided access

   Can offer advice and advocacy about what to digitize next and why
The Civil Rights Newsfilm Collection Project (CRN)
The Civil Rights Newsfilm Collection Project (CRN): Mediatheory Interface
The Necklace (1909)

Synopsis: "Mrs. Kendrick borrows a jeweled necklace from a friend for an important social event. Afterwards it is stolen, and Mrs. Kendrick goes into debt to duplicate it. The thief discovers it’s costume jewelry, but Mrs. Kendrick never learns the truth, and struggles for years to pay off the huge debt."

Comment on this page

Related: At the Altar (1909), Goddess of Sagebrush Gulch (1912), With the Enemy’s Help (1912), A Baby’s Shoe (1909), The Restorers (1914)
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DC: Descriptive metadata and media ID

metaData

SKOS: Shared vocabularies

FOAF: Contributors

OA: Time-based open annotations

W3C

DC: Descriptive metadata and media ID

RDF: Encoding (XML and JSON)
• American Archive of Public Broadcasting
• Internet Archive
• University of Georgia (multiple stations)
• UCLA Film and Television Archive (station KTLA)
• Minnesota Historical Society (station WFAA)
• SMU Media Archive (station KSTP)
"Voices from the Southern Civil Rights Movement" presents educational and noncommercial radio programs from the 1950s and 1960s that offer historic testimonies — in interviews, speeches, and on-the-spot news reports — from many movement participants, both well-known and unknown. National leaders, local leaders, community organizers, students, clergy, lawyers, educators, academics, writers, and even a comedian and a documentary filmmaker relate often riveting stories that document a range of individual and group experiences and perspectives. The exhibit presents accounts from a variety of locales, each a distinct piece of the complex history of the struggle to integrate the segregated South and achieve full citizenship rights for African Americans.
Eyes on the Prize Interviews

Collection Summary

The Eyes on the Prize I Interviews Collection consists of 127 raw interviews conducted with participants in the American Civil Rights movement, covering the years from the mid-1950s through to 1965. The interviews were recorded by Henry Hampton and the Blackside production company as part of the acclaimed documentary series Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965. The series originally aired on PBS in 1987, and was followed by a second series in 1990, Eyes on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads 1965-1985. The series garnered several Emmy awards, a Peabody, and an Academy Award nomination, and is considered the definitive documentary on the Civil Rights Movement. The recordings include cuts, incidental conversation, production notes, and segments with sound but not film; some interviews are sound only. The questions asked of interviewees are usually audible, and interviews range in length from ten minutes to two hours. The interviews were reconstructed and digitized from the original film materials by the Film & Media Archive at Washington University.

Collection Background
• Engage scholars, students to create newly annotated collection of television newsfilm from multiple archives 1950-1980

• Research focus: civil rights and social justice

• Build upon important local-national model of American Archive of Public Broadcasting

• Collaborative, networked research via MEP

• Mediatthread, Onomy, and especially new NEH-funded Semantic Annotation Tool
A drop-in jQuery plugin for video annotation supporting collaborative analysis and accessibility.
The Civil Rights Newsfilm Collection Project (CRN): Semantic Annotation Tool
The Civil Rights Newsfilm Collection Project (CRN): Semantic Annotation Tool – Machine Vision Enabler
The Civil Rights Newsfilm Collection Project (CRN): Semantic Annotation Tool – Machine Vision Evaluator

Our algorithm has detected the selected keyword in the videos below. Click to view and give feedback to their accuracy.
Fugitive Histories: counter-memories and the untimely;
Archival content never yet remembered, let alone forgotten;
New unforeseen contingencies, radical post-ephemerality

Inter-medial approaches to historical chronotypes:
Bakhtin’s term for time-space configurations;
Utility for media history seems incontrovertible;
Accelerated temporal purchase of mediation in 21st C;
New capacities for access and interrogation of media past(s)
via digital tools and computational reading dialectics