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Handling New Media
Assignment 2: CD-Rom Analysis
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Criterion Goes to the Movies: A Buyer's Guide

10/12/2004
CD-Rom played on a Macintosh G3
OS 8.5.1

Narrative:
After inserting the CD-Rom into the drive and clicking on the Criterion's Movies icon, **six** individual icons appeared: Criterion's Movies, READ ME!, QuickTime, Optional Installations, CGTTM Fonts and Hyper Card 2.1. Assuming that the READ ME! was of some importance, I clicked on that first. Essentially, it had to do with the choice of color display. Checking at what the computer was set at (256 colors), and following the advice of the READ ME! and Optional Installations, chose the CGTTM and 8-bit cover. Having completed this, I then attempted to play the CD-Rom directly. However, I got a pop-up window that informed me that "Criterion Goes to the Movies cannot run from the CD. Copy the file "Criterion's Movies" onto your hard drive." Completing this task and double-clicking on the file, another window popped up that informed me that "Palex and Voyager are not installed. Things will look ugly until they are." I tried to find Palex and Voyager, but did not want to put anything on the hard drive of a public computer (not that I could really find the applications anyway). I went ahead and looked at it anyway.

Features:
Criterion Goes to the Movies includes approximately 100 titles. It is searchable by language, person, Academy Award (nominated and/or won), the features on the discs, stats about discs, and by title (A-D, E-K, L-R and S-Z).
When choosing a title, there are several features available (though not always for every title). These features are a clip (approximately 30 seconds), cast with photo, film credits, features on the disc, essay and a list of chapters on the disc.

Source Information:
Criterion's Movies
Voyager Quick-Time CD-Rom
Kind: HYPERCARD document
Size: 1.8MB on disk (1,872,532 bytes)
Where: Hard Disk
Created: Wed July 22, 1992, 9:17 am
Modified: Tue Oct 12, 2004, 6:34 pm
Version: 1.01 © 1993 The Voyager Co.

256 Colors
800x600 60 Hz

Problems:
• When clips are played, the image is extremely pixilated.
⇒When I began "fiddling" with the settings, decreasing and increasing the size of display and replayed the CD-Rom, the clips became much less pixilated and looked better when increasing the dpi, but the image became significantly smaller as well.
• Certain features are not complete. For example, the essays for each title are never complete. Whether this is a deliberate problem so that there is more reason to purchase each laser disc or whether it is a fault of the programming is unclear.

10/13/2004
Digital Studio
Mac CPU & Diamondtron NF monitor
OS 9.2

Narrative:
Once again, I was unable to play the CD-Rom directly and instead had to copy it onto the Hard Drive. I got several pop-up windows when trying to play it from the HD. For instance, "Please check that HyperCard has at least 3500K available. (See documentation for instructions)" and "There is no bkgnd field number 0" with Debug, Script and Cancel options. I chose cancel and it played! However, when I went to play a clip I got several more pop-up windows: "No such card or bkgnd" again with the 3 options. I went through debugging and scripting options. It would not play the clip outright after each option. I could, however, see the other text-based options (essays, cast, etc.). When I went from one title to *Swing Time*, it froze the computer and I had to reboot. After rebooting, I did not have any problem going from one title to another. I went to the special features on the disk and was able to play the theatrical trailer, after hitting cancel (when once again getting debug, script and cancel options). After watching a few clips, however, I got a window that informed me that "HyperCard does not have enough memory to continue" and it closed the CD-Rom entirely.

Source Information:

Computer automatically set at
Millions of Colors
1025x768, 85Hz

Problems:
• Not being able to play the CD-Rom for an extended length of time.
• Presumably, from the number of debug/script windows that came up time and again, there might be a programming incompatibility problem.

10/31/2004
Mac Library Computer Lab
Mac Monitor & CPU

OS 10.2.8

Narrative:
After inserting the CD-Rom, I clicked on the icon and through a pop-up window was told that "There is no default application specified to open the document "Criterion's Movies" and was given the choice of either selecting an application or closing. When I tried to copy the CD-Rom, and then open it through the hard drive (as I was able to do the previous two times), I got another pop-up which informed me that "The item "Criterion's Movies" could not be moved because Macintosh HD cannot be modified." [Whether this is because the hard drive has been configured to be shared and therefore has specific restrictions that the older computers do not, or if this occurred because of the fact that it was being played on an OS X is beyond my capabilities to determine at this time]. Since one of the components of the CD-Rom is a QuickTime, I chose that application as the default to open the document. However, I was informed that the file could not be opened "because it is not a file that QuickTime understands." Since I had chosen QuickTime as the default, I was unable to try and open it with another application. When I attempted to import it to iMovies, I was unable to because "QuickTime couldn't parse it (-43)" [whatever the heck that means]. In the end, I was unable to play the CD-Rom at all.

Source Information:
Processor: 733MHz Power PC G4
Criterion's Movies
Kind: Volume
Where: MC08
Created: Tue, Sep. 7, 1993, 12:00pm
Modified: Tue, Sep. 7, 1993, 4:00pm
Format: Mac OC Standard
Capacity: 649.9 MB
Available: 42MB
Used: 607.9MB on disk (637,475,328 bytes)

Preservation Considerations:
• **Physical**: As with all things, environmental factors are important to consider. In Fred R. Byers' *Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs*, he mentions that little information on life expectancy of CD-ROMS is available.[1] However, the figures that he mentions-20 to 100 years for ROMS compared to a life expectancy between 100-200 years for CD-R, DVD+R and DVD-Rs are quite disparate. He therefore advises for ROM discs to be kept in a dry and cool environment.[2]
  ⇒ These environmental are being met as the CD-ROM is housed in the Avery Fischer Center in Bobst Library. While the exact temperature and humidity are unknown (and despite recent fluctuations of temperature due to HVAC repairs, etc. in the past few weeks), the disc is stored in a dry and cool environment. Added to this, it is kept in a case inside a larger container. This helps protect it from not only dust and debris, but from sunlight as well. In fact the only

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[1] Fred R. Byers, The Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs, 4."How Long Can You Store CDs and DVDs and Use Them Again?" Website. http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub121/sec4.html. Accessed 10/20/2004.
[2] Byers, 4.1 "CD-ROM, DVD-ROM Discs (audio, video, inter-active games, +graphics, computer applications)." Website.

detriment of the physical environment of the disc is that the outer container was fairly dirty/dust on its top.

• **Data**: It seems quite clear that without backward compatible software, **Criterion Goes to the Movies** will not play on Mac Operating Systems beyond (at the very least) 9.2. And even at this level, there were difficulties encountered.

⇒   Either a migration or emulation preservation process would need to be implemented. If possibly, the images and date would need either to be migrated from probably a Mac OS 8 to OS 9 to OS X. This, however, seems unnecessarily complicated because so many different applications are involved—QuickTime and HyperCard in particular. Problems with the achieving the proper image, as experienced when viewing the clips on OS 8.5 (which was not perfect, being pixilated) and OS 9.2 (less pixilated but smaller image) are likely to be indicative of image problems that would be exacerbated by moving the data to a higher and higher system. As for emulation—this possibility seems more realistic, but again, there is little information to go on and would likely need to be evaluated on a case by case basis. The one possibility that seems to offer the least data problems is to maintain an older Mac system, as Avery Fischer does. Though this offers other problems (what, if for instance the collection has ONE CD-Rom that can only be properly played on an older system—is it worth it to maintain an older system for that single CD-Rom?), it is the best I can come up with at the moment.