EUscreen: Examining An Aggregator’s Role in Digital Preservation

Samantha Losben
Digital Preservation - Final Project
December 15, 2010
The EUscreen project aims to promote the use of television content to explore Europe's rich and diverse cultural history.

Will provide online access to over 30,000 items of program content and information.
Video Active

- Predecessor to EUscreen
- Aim: Create access to television archives across Europe
  - Provide access to previously predominately closed archives for educational & academic purposes
- Funded as part of the European Commission’s eContentplus program
- 10,000 items of television archive content
  - Content selected reflects cultural & historical similarities and differences across Europe
  - 10 Languages supported: English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian, Catalan, Danish and Swedish
- Project finished in 2009, integrated into Europeana

VideoActive
Europeana
[European Collection]

“A single access point to Europe’s cultural heritage”

• European Digital Library
• Guides users to the digitized collections of European libraries, archives, and museums across Europe.
• Result of the digital libraries initiative, which is part of the EU Commission’s Digital Agenda for Europe
  – Aims: “To make all Europe’s cultural resources and scientific records – books, journals, films, maps, photographs, music, etc. – accessible to all, and preserve it for future generations.”

• Approx. 13 million objects
  – 29 countries
  – 23 languages
• 28 Data Aggregators
  – national, regional or thematic online initiatives
  – Ex. AV Aggregators - EUscreen & European Film Gateway
• Coordinator of project is Utrecht University in The Netherlands
• A Best Practice Network under eContentplus (funded by the European Commission)
• Budget: 4.3 million Euros
• 3 Year Project - started in October 2009
• Content Aggregator for Europeana
• “dark aggregator”
• Consists of 27 partners (audiovisual archives, research institutions, technology providers and Europeana) from 19 European countries
Partners
Objectives

• To stimulate the use of television archive content
• To promote more active engagement with the cultural memory of Europe at both a national and European level
• Integrate European A/V heritage with European cultural heritage through synergy with Europeana
• To be a highly interoperable digitised collection of television material
Content

• Historical Topics
  – 14 Topics include Arts & Culture, Disasters, Education, Health, Media, Politics & Economics, Religion & Belief, Wars, etc
  – 70% of Content

• Comparative Virtual Exhibitions
  – Ex. East European television versus West European television
  – 10%

• Content Provider Virtual Exhibitions
  – 20%

• Genre: 7 main headings
  – News, Drama/Fiction, Entertainment & performing arts, Factual programming, Advertisements, interstitials and trailers, and Sport

• The content is supported by a range of contextual information (including still images, documentation & text)

• Uploaded using Content Upload tool
  – EUscreen transcoding rules - H.264 video files
  – Providers choose to use EUscreen streaming server or their server to overcome local IPR issue
Content
Target/Intended Users

• Academic Users
  – Primary
  – Secondary
  – Higher Education

• Cultural Heritage Institutions

• Media Professionals

• General Public
Metadata

• Based on EBUcore schema

• Mandatory information:
  – Identifier
  – Material type
  – Item Type
  – Title
  – Title in English
  – Summary
  – Summary in English
  – Thesaurus terms
  – Genre
  – Broadcast date
  – Production year
  – Item duration
  – IPR restrictions
  – Rights terms & conditions
  – Provider
  – Original identifier
  – Video file name
  – Topic
• Functionality
  - Simple and Advanced Search features
  - Faceted browsing
  - User tagging and tag clouds
  - Video Playout
  - Related Content
Set to Launch in January 2011
Future of EUscreen

- Prior to this project access to a/v archival material, particularly television, remains fractured & scattered
- EUscreen set standards for providing multilingual and multicultural access to television heritage
- By building on EBUcore and open web standards - create standards and technical solutions for interoperability between the audiovisual collections of Europe themselves and with Europeana in particular
- Develop long-term solutions to rights issues
- Result of EUscreen will be a highly interoperable platform that will provide access to television heritage and help advance the European Digital Library