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Metadata for Moving Image Collection

Assignment 1

The two websites I chose is UCLA Film and Television Archive, and Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA).

1. How easy was it to find what you were looking for? Was there good documentation about how to search?

On the index page of UCLA's library catalog, they provide detail instructions for the users in terms of how to conduct a search and the terminology users might consider using. They also offer a more comprehensive PDF file on UCLA webpage (<https://www.cinema.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/Quickstartguide.pdf>). It's not difficult to find a title, but it is a bit confusing. Take their 1972 acquisition, Jack Benny Television Collection for example, they have a sample PDF file listing part of the available titles, but the users can't find any records related to this collection in their online catalog. The detail info about this collection and how to arrange onsite viewing is on a separate page under exploring collections on UCLA website.

It is easy to find desired records on BAM/PFA online catalog, and they don't have any documentation about how to construct a basic and an advance Boolean search. I believe that it is not necessary to provide any instructions since their search page is very easy to use and they don't offer complicated options to do cross searchings in various fields.

2. Were there multiple ways of searching (e.g. simple and advanced)?

UCLA provide both simple and advance searches. On top of that, they have recommended searches, where users can chose to conduct searches within a specific field. Comparing to UCLA catalog, BAM/PFA's searching construction is simpler. Their expert (advance) search only provides 4 search options – keywords, titles, authors, and subjects.

3. Was the search interface easy to use? Was both browse and search supported?

Users can't browse UCLA's entire holdings, but they can browse the collection under specific subjects. It is not very intuitive to do a search on UCLA's website and the library catalog. First of all, catalog bottom is aligned with "tickets", "visit", and a search bar, which can be used to search UCLA website. My first instinct is to use the search bar or go to "collections" in main menu. Even I did find a link directing me to their library catalog under collection, it is not very clear to the users. Second, if user conducts the same keyword search on UCLA webpage and its library catalogue, they might have similar but essentially different results. When I use "Becky Sharp" to do a keyword search, UCLA site has a record of UCLA's restoration version with descriptions, but this version doesn't show up in the catalog. Last, if users click library catalog on top left, it won't take users back to the catalog page; if they click on film and TV archive, it will bring users back to UCLA's website.

BAM/PFA's search interface might be less fancy but is easier to use. It supports both search and browse. Users can get a better understanding about PFA's

collection by browsing the entire catalogue without entering any keywords, and they can also browse PFA's holdings under a specific subject. Unlike UCLA, if user wants to conduct another search, clicking on "search again" or "PFA catalogs home page" will bring them back to the catalog search page.

4. Did you get the results you were expecting? Did you get what you were looking for?

On UCLA catalog, I did get the result I was looking for, but I also felt confused when they showed me multiple matched records. On BAM/PFA, I can also find the title I want, and similar to UCLA, I might have multiple matched records. For both sites, the differences between multiple matched records are not obvious unless users put them side-by-side to make a comparison.

5. Could you tell what metadata standard was used and if so which one? Is there documentation about the metadata? Make sure you look around the site to see if there is any documentation. If it doesn't say see if you can determine which.

UCLA catalog uses MARC. When user is on the record page, they can choose to read the metadata in brief view or staff MARC view. However, there is no separate documentation about their metadata standard. Same as BAM/PFA, they use MARC, and users can view records in MARC format (however, the record format doesn't show up in MARC under MARC view). And, there is no documentation of their metadata standard.

6. How granular were the metadata elements/search fields?

Metadata element in UCLA catalog is very granular with not only detail info of the title such as uniform title, casts and credits, but notes, subjects, versions, and genres. Even BAM/PFA uses the same metadata standard (MARC), I think their metadata element is more granular than UCLA and their layout is easier to read. BAM/PFA includes alternative titles, call numbers, country and dates of release (UCLA has country and dates of release under credit), and content notes, physical description and condition notes (UCLA put these three under notes).

7. How well did you think the metadata supported finding what you were looking for?

On both sites, because their metadata elements are granular enough that it supports finding pretty well. For example, I can not only find a film record, but the related records such as different versions, different subtitles distributed in foreign countries, and a film festival campaign.

8. After doing a search were the search results displayed in a meaningful way? Could you tell how they were ordered and was it easy to sort through them?

I personally think that search result on UCLA catalog is displayed in a more meaningful way than BAM/PFA. The top three results from UCLA catalog are the most relevant records, and users can sort the result by title and release dates. Furthermore, users can print, export or email selected records. On the contrary, I can not identify the sorting principles used on BAM/PFA base on the search results. Every record doesn't show up with its associated dates, and users can't sort the results. Users can go to each individual record page, tag the records, and

store the tagged records temporarily in briefcase. User either can't or need be a member to manipulate the selected records. In my opinion, BAM/PFA doesn't seem to offer the same flexibility to their users as UCLA does.