MIAP Metadata, Fall 2014 | Metadata for Searching Within Moving Image Collections

Dylan Lorenz - dylan.lorenz@gmail.com

For the metadata for searching moving image collections assignment, I chose <u>EU</u>

<u>Screen</u> and <u>Film Archives Online</u> as my sources. I've never used them and I decided to search the terms 'Lumiere Brothers', 'Auguste Lumiere', 'Louis Lumiere' and just the word 'Lumiere'. I sought for films from the Lumiere brothers or any also film and television clips about or containing the Lumiere brothers.

Under the search box for EU Screen, there is a small text "Tip" which indicates that using search operators will lead to better results. There is also a drop-down menu that lets you choose whether to search All Fields, Titles, Contributors or Keywords & Thesaurus. When clicking on the Advanced Search, available on the home screen, options for filtering your search by Genre, Topic, Country of Production, Provider, Publisher/Broadcaster, Geographical Coverage, Decade or specific time period, Language or where the item is color of black and white are made available.

The Filmarchives Online site has a very simple search field on its homepage and a more customizable search on a Search tab. This tab has multiple fields for Title, Person, Person Depicted, Production, Content, Keyword and Place that can be placed with the AND, OR, NOT modifiers. The Filmarchives Online also allows for search within specific time period, archive and using certain audio visual technical attributes such as format, film base, aspect ratio and 'type of copy' available.

The Filmarchives site did not offer any browse function and the Search tab functionality felt much more like a library interface. This could make the search process easy for users accustomed to doing research in libraries. For the general web user or

those just looking for a quick search, the simple search field with a toggle checkbox for licensable material is available. The EU Screen site does have a nice Explore feature that brings up over 40,000 results (I'm not sure how they chose to organize these results). It allows you to use its available filters or click on a series of tags provided to narrow your results. The Explore feature functions as a way to explore the collection and their search features. The EU Screen's search function is definitely a more friendly web interface which allows you to filter just a portion of options in the search window - with the a more granular search through advanced search if desired.

The search results in the Filmarchives online provided a list with information such as the country of origin, year of production and the copies available. When I searched for "Lumiere", 30 results returned. About half of the results were either Lumiere films or direct references to the Lumiere Brothers. Other results were just involving 'lumiere' as a translation of the French for 'lumiere' as 'light' with no relevance to the Lumiere Brothers. Searching 'Lumiere Brothers' directly yielded only 4 results; 'Louis Lumiere' yielded 161 results; and 'Auguste Lumiere' yielded 39 results.

Searching for 'Lumiere' in the EU Screen search field with no modifiers yields 24 results, only two related to the Lumiere Brothers. The other results, again seemed to be due to the translation the French word 'lumiere' as light with no relevance to them French film pioneers. Using search operators didn't narrow the results. Using 'Lumiere Brothers', 'Auguste Lumiere' or 'Louis Lumiere' only gave more results, but none more relevant to the Lumiere Brothers.

I essentially did find what I was looking for even if the EU archive didn't yield many results. On that site I was curious as to whether the television interview with Auguste Lumiere might be in their collection of archives - the site claims to have footage

from as early as 1900 and that interview was broadcast in 1952. I wasn't surprised that an accessible streaming version of that interview had not been made available. Within the Filmarchives Online, I did find out of the various holdings of some Lumiere films including it seems some footage of Louis Lumiere visiting the Netherlands in 1926.

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The <u>About</u> section of Filmarchives Online indicates that it is the result of the development of the project MIDAS and it lists multiple metadata schemes and standards on its <u>Links page</u> including Dublin Core and METS. The records that returned from my searches do have the feel of coming from a FIAF/ FIAT records because it allows for the use of multiple versions for one title and the 'country of origin' as a field. Unlike the EU Screen website, most of the Filmarchives Online does not always offer a streaming clip of the material (though the it does have a a link to that material when available). This gives it much more of an experience of going through finding aids with the material I was looking for. Sometimes my search term would be deep in a listing a page long rather than an authority field or keyword.

The EU Screen site indicates that it is following EBUCore metadata standard in the <u>About section of its blog</u>. With all the content coming from European broadcasters this makes sense and the specific filter of Provider reflects this. In this case it is the archive providing the footage, as opposed to the Country of production or the Publisher/Broadcaster who owns the content.

The metadata did support what I was looking for. In both the Filmarchives and the EUScreen search, the results picked up on 'Lumiere' in the title and in the description of content. Using the first name of each brother or the word "brothers" was

helpful in letting me know that I wasn't going to get narrower results with those terms - each search just provided more results from the use of the new words.

The search results really didn't seem to be sorted in any particularly helpful way.

This is likely due to both the common nature of the word 'lumiere' and the age of the material. The Lumiere Brothers films were made before specific titles of director or cameraperson were necessary attributed and the films are short and often of mundane subjects. So there may not be a lot of metadata to make one clip result particularly more relevant than another.

However, I did like the way the Filmarchvies Online Presented the data results because there was more data to help you choose which link to click on. The EU Screen site did offer a search return view where you could see a description along with a thumbnail for a video. This was much more useful than the screen with more results in just thumbnail videos.