

The Vagabond Puppeteer Collection Video Reformatting Project Report

Class: Video Preservation 1

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The process of digitizing the Vagabond Puppeteers Collection was for the most part carried out as planned by our group, Group 1. We were able to successfully transfer the seven ¾" U-matics assigned to us, create access/mezzanine copies, create preservation metadata through BagIt, and copy the digitized files and related metadata to the NAS (network attached storage) and a 2TB external hard drive.

We did not run into many problems that we could not handle, and the main difficulties that we did encounter were issues with equipment. We were initially instructed on and had practiced with the U-matic BVU-950 deck in Rack 2, but that deck began to return service errors on the day we were to begin digitizing. Consequently, we had to change to a VO-9600 unit before we began the process. To use the replacement machine we needed to reroute our signal path, which resulted in some delays to our process.

The audio monitors on the VO-9600 are for input only, so it was necessary to route the deck to the external monitors on the rack in the MIAP lab for calibration. We also encountered a problem with the TBC we were using, a DPS-295, when a cooling fan began to malfunction while we were digitizing a tape. We were able to complete the initial capture rather than aborting midway through because we were already most of the way through the tape; the DPS-295 did not show signs of overheating, and it was deemed safe to continue for the five additional minutes or so that was required. We were able to use the other TBC on Rack-2, a DPS-290, to complete the subsequent tapes.

During our attempt to connect the Macs that we used to transfer files to the NAS, we had to troubleshoot from the written instructions provided by the lab. The provided web server address (<http://169.254.100.100:8080>) was inaccurate so we instead used the address that flashes on the screen of the NAS. Once we successfully logged in, we mounted the student work folder to the server under the network MIAPNAS (SMB).

In addition to technical problem-solving, we revised our file directories in order to conform to the same naming standards as Group 2. Rather than divide the folders between preservation, mezzanine, and access, the collection manager, Ms. Jimenez, requested that they be organized within one folder based on tape identifier (ie VPC_01, VPC_02). Within this folder, Ms. Jimenez requested the addition of an Access folder, so that access copies can be easily

identified and separated in the future. Additionally, we created a data folder that contains all video files in order to comply with Bag-it's requirements (See Figure 1 and Figure 2 below).

Figure 1: Original subdirectory before Ms. Jimenez's revisions

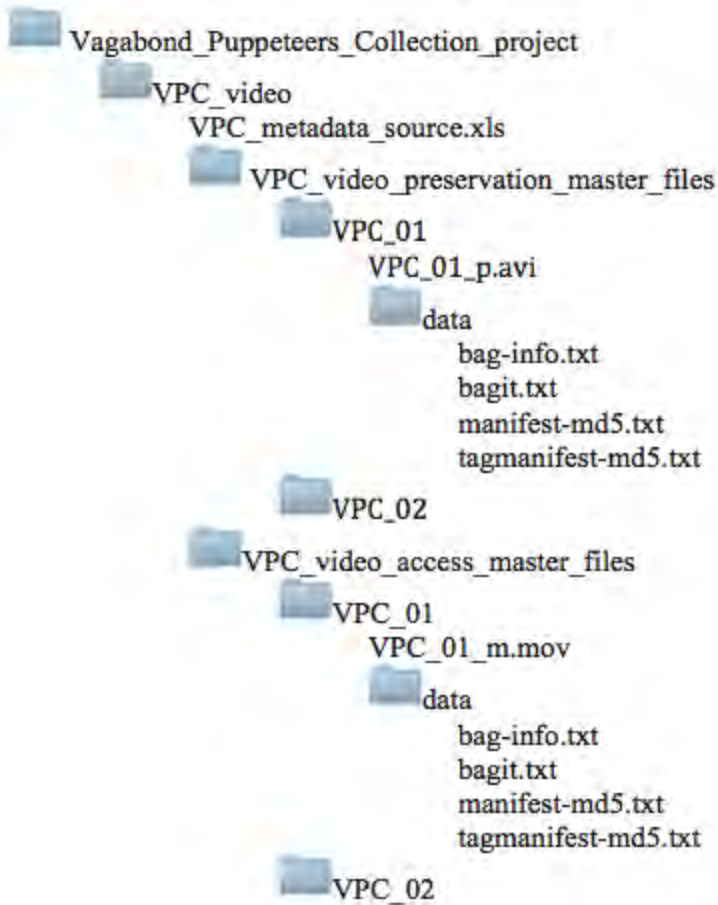
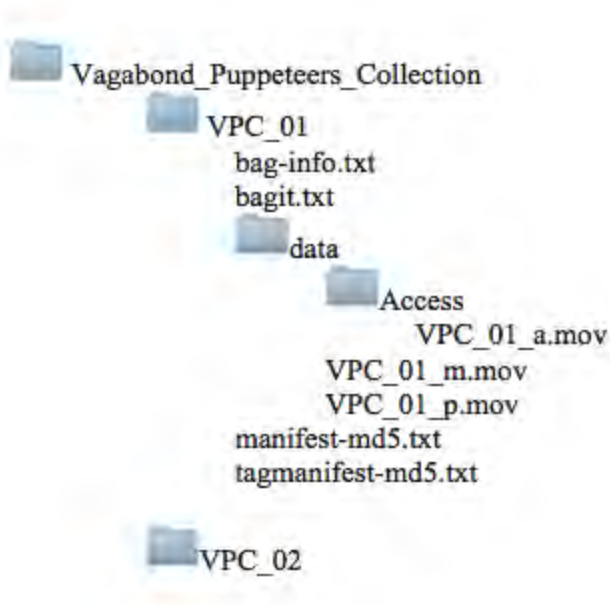


Figure 2: Updated subdirectory according to Ms. Jimenez's requests



The final alteration from our designated plan occurred when attempting to verify bags that were copied to the NAS. We followed the instructions we were given to verify the bag and received the following error message: “(error) Payload file data/._DS_Store not found in any payload manifest”. We attempted to troubleshoot this problem but were unable to satisfactorily resolve the issue. After speaking with Ms. Jimenez, we ultimately decided to transfer the original files from the Mac desktop to the external hard drive without validating if their transfer was successful or not.