

Robert Anen
Metadata
Rebecca Guenther
3/7/2016
Assignment #1

Website: Northeast Historic Film: <http://oldfilm.org/collection/>

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

It wasn't easy to find what I was looking for on this website. I didn't see any documentation on how to search. This site gives you a very basic search bar to enter your query but it then lists the collections and films. I have to search through every result to find "long island." It is not convenient. My search wasn't highlighted in any of the results. The search delineates which collections and films my result shows up in but doesn't show me where that is. The site allows you to search by subject but I could not find the term "long island" by browsing through the subjects available on the site. I searched for a person, Hiram Percy Maxim, this site lists his films in one of the collections so this was a prosperous search. The user also has the ability to browse for people by clicking on the "People and Organizations" button on the search page. When I searched for "16mm film" many results were given.

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

There are several simple ways of searching. You can individually search for keywords on the basic search page but if you want to search by other things such as subject, genre, place, exhibit you cannot. When you click on genre, it lists the genres which you can click on and browse through; the same applies to people, subjects, decades, exhibits, and collections.

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

No, the search interface is poorly designed and browse was supported but only in specific areas. This site has a lousy search function. The user still has a lot of work to do once they hit "search."

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

No, I didn't get the results I was looking for. Having used Google for years, I have become a jaded searcher. I am used to entering something in a field, hitting "search" and having the answer right in front of me. I expect to be done searching once to hit "search."

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.

I could not tell which metadata standard was being used but there is a very basic structure to the description of films on this site. Identifier, can descriptions, rights, and the amount of copies and which format each copy of the film are the only things that appear in the description of a film. There is no documentation about the metadata even after I combed through the entire page, up and down. I can't determine which standard is being used.

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

I don't think the metadata given for the films supported finding what I was looking for.

7. 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?

The search results were not displayed in a meaningful way. The results I was given after every search were shown alphabetically. It wasn't easy trying to find the terms I searched for.

Website #2: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/media/collections/peabody/>

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

I used the same search term "long island" for this site as well. The specific records that contained those words came up immediately but I then had to search within a record to find where those words were. I ran into the same problem with the previous site. Search engines should do all of the work for you. The user shouldn't have to search the fine print in a record to find what they are looking for. Though I will say that this site offered up more metadata with the initial results you get which helped me find what I was looking for. I searched for the same person in this site as I did previously and it yielded no results. Searching for "16mm film" as a material yielded many results as it did with the first site I searched. I searched the term "poverty" and it yielded almost a thousand results; more results than "16mm film."

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

There are multiple ways of searching on this site. They offer "more search options." Here, you can "search the database" which is much more precise way to search for what you are looking for. You can search by title, year, subject, etc.

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

Yes, the search interface is easy to use. Both browse and search are supported. This site has more advanced search options than the first one I examined.

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

I did get the results I expected. I got them more easily than in the first site. There's less manual searching I had to do here but it depends on what you are searching for.

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.

I would say PBcore is being used in terms of a metadata standard but I do not see any documentation in. Many of the identifying terms reference broadcasting.

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

The metadata helped a considerable amount and even more so when it came to discovering additional information regarding what I was searching for.

7. 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?

Similar to what I said about the first website, this site does not show exactly where in each film where my search result appears. First, it gives you the titles of the films and then supplies on with some additional metadata. Clicking on the link allows for even more metadata.