Metadata for Moving Image Collections

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"Search Comparisons"

The two websites I used to conduct my search comparison were the Peabody Awards Collection (http://www.libs.uga.edu/media/collections/peabody/) and the WGBH Open Vault (http://openvault.wgbh.org/). The Peabody Awards Collection is a University of Georgia-managed database for researchers to find and access television and radio media that have received the George Foster Peabody Award. The WGBH Open Vault is a general database listing programs that have been shown on PBS station WGBH in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Peabody Collection had a strong hierarchy for searching: Basic, Precision, and Browse, with a guide on how to best utilize each. While the basic and precision searches allowed searching by year, broadcast network, etc., one of the four searches I conducted yielded no results. After trying several alternatives to just typing in the title, I concluded that it was not in the collection, even though the broadcast in question had won a Peabody Award. It does not state anywhere on the collection's site as to the availability of materials. WGBH's search methodology, comparatively, was not as rigorous as the Peabodys. It gave you a search that could be filtered by relevance, title, and year, with an option to select media only. Aside from breaking down the results of the search by Video, Program, and Series, the search mechanism was not particularly advanced.

The search interfaces were easy to use on both sides, though browse and search were only supported on the Peabody site. WGBH's site only allowed for search, and did not use keywords

outside of what you type into the search bar. Out of four searches I conducted on the Peabody site, I found results for three. One search for a title that received the award did not appear to be in the collection, or at least in the collection's database. I found an exact result for three of the four searches conducted on WGBH Open Vault; the other three brought up results where the terms I typed in matched terms within each entry. For example, 'mr. rogers' yielded anything that used that specific term, even if it didn't pertain to Mr. Rogers or his program.

WGBH Open Vault did not have a recognizable metadata standard in their public records, though I presume they have some internal standard to create the records, as we discussed in class. The records only consisted of a title, basic description, and if it was part of a specific series broadcast by WGBH. The Peabody site's standard had no documentation accompanying it as far as I could see. Upon comparing the elements with the standard we went over, it appears to be Dublin Core with EBU Core appendages. The Peabody website struck me as being more of an out-and-out archive catalog than WGBH's, since they had pertinent information to addition to researchers and scholars, as opposed to just general visitors.

The search results were displayed in a broad but refined manner on the Peabody site, listing not only the title of the program, but also the specific episode that won the award, and which year. WGBH's search results were more akin to a general aggregate, which I do not feel is of particular use to researchers outside of saying how much of what is in a given collection. The search results didn't list essential personnel outside of any names typed in the search engine, nor they list nay associated personnel or awards in the record. Overall, I found the Peabody site to be superior to WGBH Open Vault since it strove to include the most relevant and comprehensive metadata for its users.