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# Streaming the Archives: Repurposing Systems to Jumpstart a Media Digitization Program

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# STREAMING THE ARCHIVES

Repurposing Systems to Jumpstart a Media Digitization Program

## PROBLEM

**7,000+**

Hours of audio and video in deteriorating analog form at Central Washington University (CWU)'s library in need of digitization and dissemination online

## THE PLAN

- 1 Digitize content using equipment borrowed from Media Services at CWU
- 2 Upload files to MPX
- 3 Create metadata-only records in DC. Point to content in MPX
- 4 Harvest DC by Dublin Core Type, provide access to content in Primo

## PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

## AVAILABLE SYSTEMS:

- 1 **MediaAMP (MPX)**  
A cloud-based media management service developed by the University of Washington to stream videos for class instruction
- 2 **Digital Commons (DC)**  
An institutional repository developed by bepress to disseminate scholarly materials
- 3 **Primo**  
A web-based discovery platform designed by Ex Libris for federated searching of library materials

## ADVANTAGES

- 1 Unlimited storage space. No need to maintain server space in-house.
- 2 Outsourced design services. No need to design in-house.
- 3 Flexibility in metadata permitted by MPX and DC
- 4 Increased discoverability via Primo and DC as well as search engines like Google
- 5 Immediate access to an audience—bepress' network of IRs and MPX's participating instructors/academic departments
- 6 The ability to create complex stories in DC with primary files and associated materials
- 7 Increased usage of archival materials.

## DISADVANTAGES

- 1 Additional cost for hosted service
- 2 Limited ability to customize design, as neither DC nor MPX is open source. Unable to embed MPX's player in DC or redesign pages without incurring substantial fees.
- 3 Drawbacks in metadata schema, as neither DC nor MPX was initially designed for archival materials. Drawbacks include unwanted field requirements, unexposed metadata, and unstandardized use of schema by diverse clientele.
- 4 Usability problems in Primo post-harvest (broken subject headings, unclear wording, buried links).
- 5 Drawbacks in DC's compound record set-up. Associated files in DC do not have a full set of metadata, resulting in sparse descriptions and harvesting problems in Primo.
- 6 Time and effort required to manage content in three systems. Batch uploading is permitted but all systems introduce lags, especially during times of heavy usage.

## OUTCOMES

**473**

Hours of audiovisual content disseminated online in the first year of the media digitization program at CWU

**6,590**

Views to all media between January 1 and December 31, 2014

## NEXT STEPS

- 1 Explore alternative dissemination channels like YouTube, which would permit embedding
- 2 Weigh the advantages/disadvantages of disseminating via multiple channels
- 3 Embed content in coursework at CWU. Partner with reference librarians and instructors to match media materials to student needs.

## THANK YOU

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**BY**  
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