

36 – Preserving the Scholarly Events

Action Item Template Response

General Action Item Information

Lead Division/Office: Communication and Support

Action Item Number: 36

Action Item Short Name: Preserving the Scholarly Events

Dependencies with other EP Action Items: 34, Creation of a Teaching and Learning Resource Utility and 37, Preservation of Creative Works

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I. DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ACTION.

IU has historically been considered a leader in its use of audiovisual materials for research and education. Its impressive number of media holdings bear witness to that. The IUB Media Preservation Study Report found that units on the Bloomington campus reported holding a total of 569,148 analog and/or physical digital audio, visual or film files. These files are spread over 80 departments in a wide variety of formats, accessibility and quality. The Survey Task Force found that “preservation issues and reformat items using international standards and best practices is essential if IU content is to survive.”^[1][#_ftn1](#)

IU will create a sustainable university-wide approach to developing, distributing, preserving and accessing content and media of the events that enrich the scholarly life. Implementation of this plan will require a significant collaborative effort across the campuses, schools departments and partners across IU that create, store, and use media that record events representing IU’s rich cultural heritage, such as symposia, speeches, presentations, celebrations and ceremonies. This new approach to preserving media includes organization, process and technological solutions to enable abundant storage, ease of access and use, permissions/rights management, and convenient retrieval, all based on industry standards. The research, development, technology and expertise required to provide robust media handling services are costly and require significant periodic refresh. This must be taken into account to ensure the sustainability of ongoing capture and storage in the face of evolving technologies.

Implementation planning will focus on:

- Digitizing legacy audio and video recordings of events
- Capturing new events
- Implementing new and emerging media and multimedia technologies and formats to create archival-quality content and preservation

- Creating appropriate preservation storage utilities
- Ensuring easy discovery and access to digitized resources.

This action item requires a significant research and discovery effort into existing services, technologies and partners. With various commercial devices and platforms (e.g. Flip camera, YouTube) now allowing easy capture and publication of video recordings, the IU community increasingly looks for convenient, “good enough” technology, often creating immediate solutions to meet imminent needs. The procedures and technology used by faculty, staff and students to capture and publish recordings of events must meet the new demands of convenience and immediacy. Technologies exist to support this workflow, allowing the IU community to create, host, and ingest multiple format files and place them in multiple environments.

However, this can be a complex process. Systems and procedures need to be developed or acquired to provide users with the ability to upload captured video, enter archival "metadata" about the content, provide a choice of publication method (e.g. podcast? Video-on-demand?) then publish the content, all in a seamless manner, with the fewest clicks possible. YouTube provides a useful analogy. This will be positioned to support both end-user-created productions and professionally produced content.

IU will have the necessary personnel and equipment available to capture the wide gamut of events that happen every day on the various IU campuses. Some events require significant planning and complex capture while others may be more ad hoc. These events are common and rarely merit the deployment of a full production crew. Current processes have been implemented to assist at many events by utilizing rooms with videoconferencing equipment or loaning equipment to end users, but the approach is far from ideal. Creation of a simple equipment kit that could be taken on-site for capture/live stream has potential in the commoditization of capture services and helps to truly empower members of the IU community. There are inherent challenges in this approach that must be addressed as well, such as periodic equipment refresh and obsolescence.

In addition to collaboration across IU, Action Item 36 calls for significant involvement within UITS including:

- Podcast Portal Development Team
- Communications and Media
- Video Infrastructure
- Digital Libraries
- Research Technologies.

[1] Indiana University Bloomington Media Preservation Survey, http://research.iu.edu/resources/media_preservation/

II. WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR PLANS?

Invaluable presentation content is being lost on a daily basis because of an inability to easily capture and store it (and later, search/retrieve). While Podcast.iu.edu is an important existing tool IU must be diligent in its research and development of innovative approaches

as online video technology continues to evolve, and as bandwidth increases. Combined with overall ease of usability, and the potential to open up the entire video capture/presentation/retrieval process, the potential for use expands exponentially.

Concerns about copyright and other intellectual property rights may need to be addressed. Technology exists today to control access and rights; however we have not implemented such systems on the streaming servers. Attention should be directed toward developing standards for the life duration of the content based on agreed-upon criteria such as student registration status, distribution scope, student privacy, copyright, and intellectual property rights. Additionally, we will need to develop strategies to make the automatic (or with minimal human intervention) conversion of the raw data files as accessible as possible to individuals with disabling conditions, and for those who seek an alternate delivery method.

III. IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS.

Students, faculty, staff, and others in the broad IU community, including the public.