



NJVid DV Production & Upload Training Workgroup Conference Call

9/15/08 – 10AM

MINUTES

Present: Greg Mattison, Isaiah Beard, Matthew Conforth, Sandie Miller, Tom Nemeth, Brian Richards

Update on initial Video Uploads:

Isaiah has received approximately 15 videos, almost all on VHS, S-VHS or DVD – The UMDNJ titles have dropouts in places – By 9/16/08, all of the videos will be placed onto a demonstration web page. The Metadata workgroup will then be able to reconvene and catalog the videos – Isaiah is ready to accept more videos.

Training and Advocacy:

Create a knowledge base

Metadata Guidelines

Collection Assessment Guidelines

Presentation Format Guidelines

Best practices for video capture – lighting, simple background for small video clips, etc.

Brian asked what about Cross-coding? E.g. WMV doesn't go well into flash or QT – DVD behind it makes it better.

The group should teach institutions how to triage their moving image collections according to physical condition, content relevancy, state of existing metadata, etc. Need to train them how to ingest content into Fedora repository.

Prior to the conference call, Isaiah emailed the group a document detailing the video codec specifications by which NJVid will encode its videos. Greg proposed having the NJVid web site offer presets for Episode and similar file encoding software that end-users could download and load into the systems to easily ensure any files they create match up to the NJVid video file technical specifications presented in Isaiah's document. Isaiah thought it might be a good idea to offer presets for multiple packages so that all users would be accounted for and to avoid giving off the impression that NJVid endorses one file encoding package over another. These include Episode, Adobe Premiere and Final Cut Pro – Can we recommend using a software package for transcoding to Flash video? Premiere, Final Cut and QuickTime Pro all support Flash.

Flash 9 support of H.264 Codec:

The reason we don't want to offer solely Flash video, and instead want to accommodate QuickTime as well, is that Flash is downloadable, even for files that incorporate the H.264 codec. Flash video is never truly streaming. Flash with H.264 would only come in handy later on if we decide to build in support for mobile devices.

QuickTime is sufficient because it provides high level security. Rutgers can randomize the stream so that users cannot guess the file location. QT tends to be of a higher quality than Flash, but streaming H.264 QT files present bandwidth issues for institutions with small downstream capability. NJVid can stream at a low bit rate if need be – The group can develop guidelines for choosing a file format (MOV or FLV) by stating the pros and cons of each. Perhaps the pros and cons could be information displayed at the time of entering the rights metadata.

In discussing commercial video, FMG (now called Films on Demand) currently sends QT at 300KB/sec. Will we have access to the original uncompressed file or just the QT? Preference of file formats from Commercial video. a) uncompressed AVI b) DV file c) ?

Ingestion into Fedora:

Occurs after metadata has been added for the video – Can track status of file ingestion process by logging into the Workflow Management System – Born-digital objects are quicker for Isaiah and his students to handle because they are already digital and do not need to be encoded, just transcoded from one file format to another – Rutgers would like to test out the ingestion workflow on some born-digital videos. NJEDGE has some. Tom will follow-up with them to see if they can offer any.

Matthew will be recording some guest speakers soon. He has three forms – one for faculty, one for students 18+ years old, and one for minors' parents – that will be used as permission forms for NJVid's purposes. Only the video participants need to sign the forms, not the University (one guest will be speaking at Rutgers, but the University itself does not need to sign off on the recording for digital means).

Video Delivery and File Preference:

If contributing born-digital videos, Isaiah could possibly set up an FTP transfer for delivery from the institution to Rutgers – Video content contributors should attempt to acquire and provide for NJVid the highest quality source file they can. Uncompressed files. Streamable digital video files are ok, as are DVDs. DVDs are easy for Isaiah to use. For born-digital files, contributors need to ensure they have streaming rights and also the right to transcode the files.

Next conference call to be scheduled after the initial phase of Alpha Implementer video uploads has been completed.

ADJOURNED.