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# A Classroom Experiment: Using Shared Shelf to Archive and Share Student Video Film Reviews

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# A Classroom Experiment: Using Shared Shelf to Archive and Share Student Video Film Reviews

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## Project Description

This project consisted of three short videos (9 to 12 min.) created in the spring of 2017 by students in Dr. Lauren Janes' HIST 280: Modern Imperialism course. Organized into three groups, students viewed a film concerned with issues of imperialism and decolonization and then constructed a digital video review of the selected film. The assignment asked students to:

"... explore such questions as: How are the past and the present portrayed in the film? What can be learned about decolonization from the film? What context does one need to know to better understand the film? What issues are at play here? Does the filmmaker have a point of view? A political perspective? And, importantly, how accurate is the portrayal?" (Lauren Janes -- Collection Description)

The three films selected were *The Salt of This Sea* (*Milh Hadha al-Bahr*) (2008), *Gandhi* (1982), and *The Battle of Algiers* (*La battaglia di Algeri*) (1966).

Shared Shelf was selected for this course assignment because it provided a useful platform for students to upload, describe, and share their films with their instructor, their course members (through an in-class presentation), the Hope College community, and other interested parties.

"These reviews should be of use to students, teachers, and curious movie-watchers who want to learn more about the history behind these important stories." (Lauren Janes -- Collection Description)

Project: <https://goo.gl/VxqMok>

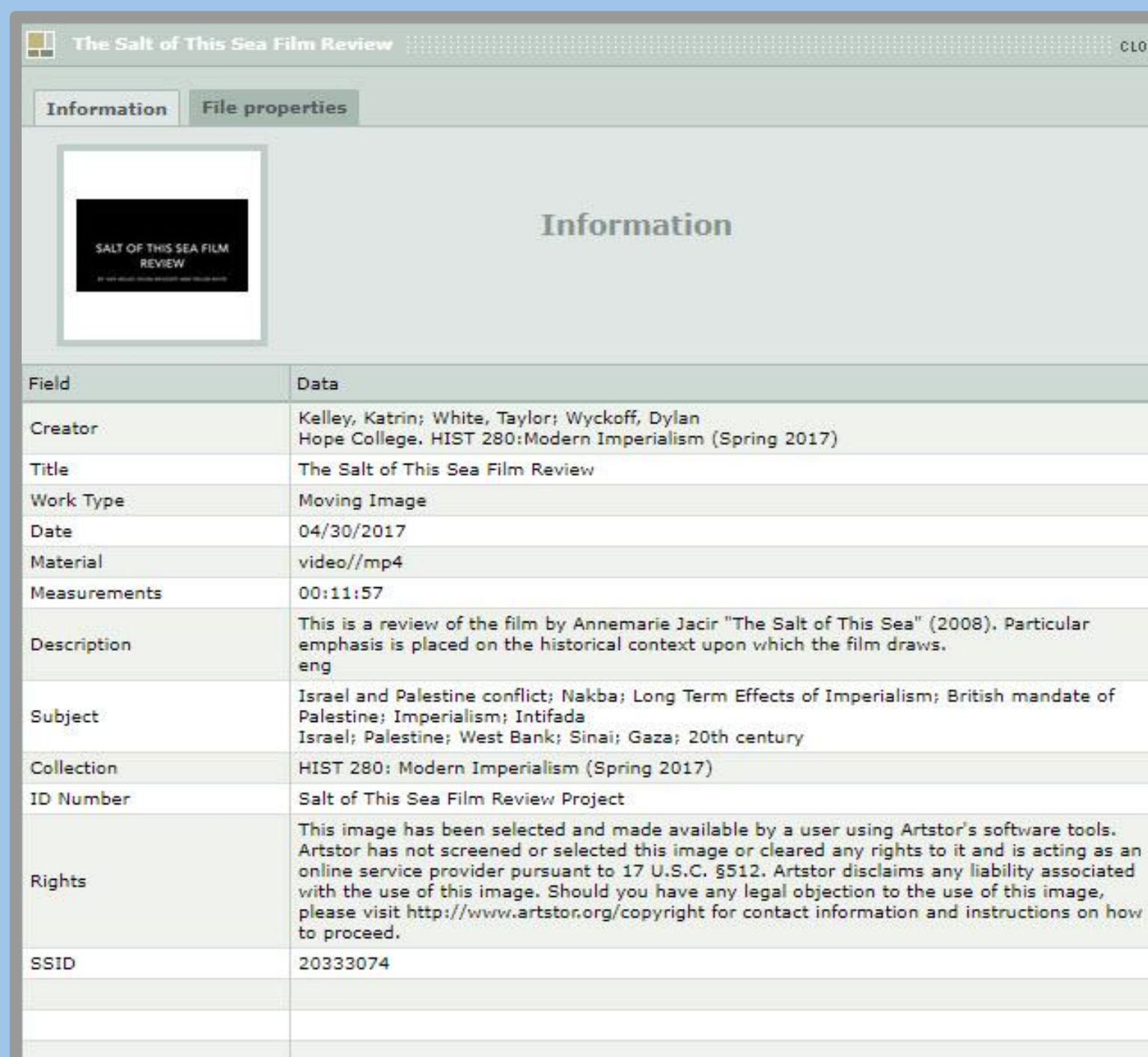
Hope College Library: <https://hope.edu/library/>

## Introduction

The Hope College Library, as a participant in the CIC Consortium on Digital Resources for Teaching and Research, sought to extend the usage of Shared Shelf beyond a repository for local archival and art collections to a platform for faculty and student scholarship and creative output. Working with Dr. Lauren Janes (Assistant Professor of History), Tori Longfield (Digital Liberal Arts Librarian) proposed testing Shared Shelf for student use in the final course project for HIST 280: Modern Imperialism (Spring 2017). In collaboration with Jeremy Barney (Metadata and Digital Collections Librarian), a workflow was established to facilitate communication between the library and Dr. Janes, generate a project space for students within Shared Shelf, and instruct students on using the system. Partnering with faculty on these types of course projects affords the Hope College Library with the opportunity to highlight Shared Shelf as a useful platform for sharing student work and introduce students to digital asset management systems and the importance of archiving and describing digital assets (metadata).

## Team Approach

Addressing the requirements of the course project with Shared Shelf was handled jointly by two members of the Hope College Library faculty, one from Research and Instruction and the other from Technical Services. Consultations with Dr. Janes and students on digital video editing tools, copyright, and navigating Shared Shelf for uploading and cataloging was undertaken by Tori Longfield. Jeremy Barney, as the Hope College Library's Shared Shelf administrator, established accounts and permissions, determined metadata to capture, created cataloging screens, and published the completed project to Shared Shelf Commons.



Field	Data
Creator	Kelley, Katrin; White, Taylor; Wyckoff, Dylan Hope College, HIST 280:Modern Imperialism (Spring 2017)
Title	The Salt of This Sea Film Review
Work Type	Moving Image
Date	04/30/2017
Material	video/mp4
Measurements	00:11:57
Description	This is a review of the film by Annemarie Jacir "The Salt of This Sea" (2008). Particular emphasis is placed on the historical context upon which the film draws. eng
Subject	Israel and Palestine conflict; Nakba; Long Term Effects of Imperialism; British mandate of Palestine; Imperialism; Intifada Israel; Palestine; West Bank; Sinai; Gaza; 20th century
Collection	HIST 280: Modern Imperialism (Spring 2017)
ID Number	Salt of This Sea Film Review Project
Rights	This image has been selected and made available by a user using Artstor's software tools. Artstor has not screened or selected this image or cleared any rights to it and is acting as an online service provider pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §512. Artstor disclaims any liability associated with the use of this image. Should you have any legal objection to the use of this image, please visit <a href="http://www.artstor.org/copyright">http://www.artstor.org/copyright</a> for contact information and instructions on how to proceed.
SSID	20333074



## Project Steps

For this initial student project, a series of questions were asked and steps considered to establish a workflow for testing and future implementation.

1. Consult with faculty member, define the project, and identify appropriate digital tool(s) to address the project's requirements. If Shared Shelf selected, then:
2. Determine the number of project participants: individuals or groups? Establish accounts and permissions.
3. Determine file types to be deposited and ensure they are supported
4. Suggest what types of information should be captured for each asset. Distribute metadata handout to students.
5. Determine the level of access the project assets should have -- public (Shared Shelf Commons), Artstor, or private?
6. Work with students on reviewing copyright issues, suggest and assist with video editing software, and provide direction on using Shared Shelf for uploading and cataloging assets
7. Publish project when all individual files completed

## Findings

This was the first use of Shared Shelf by the Hope College Library to support the needs of a course project. This being the case there were occasional communication issues between stakeholders and it was necessary to develop and implement a workflow "on-the-fly". Although provided with instructions on creating metadata for the digital video files, students cataloged inconsistently (e.g. incorrect or inconsistent date formats, MIME types, and names; thoroughness of subjects). Due to time constraints and the complexity of controlled vocabularies, students assigned their own keywords and phrases without the use of a controlled vocabulary. Further evaluation will be done on the types of metadata that should be captured for these types of student projects.

One additional complication was that some student groups waited until the very end of the project deadline to submit their files for publishing. Due to technical issues with Shared Shelf and slow publishing times there were concerns with the files being ready in Shared Shelf Commons for the in-class presentations.

Overall the project was a success. The class was able to show their videos from Shared Shelf in their classroom for their finals time and they were all able to successfully insert metadata and upload their projects. The professor was happy with the results and is encouraging other professors to consider projects.

## Next Steps

A further increase in Shared Shelf usage for course projects is desired in order to better test the usability of the cataloging system and public interface and to assess the value of the platform for Hope College. Additional course projects are already planned for 2017-2018, including podcasts.

- Evaluate and refine current workflow for Shared Shelf course projects and adapt to individual needs when necessary.
- Increase interactions with students, including in-class or individual/group instructional sessions on using Shared Shelf.
- Investigate the inclusion of controlled vocabularies within student-driven projects.
- Continue to pair faculty and students with Shared Shelf if it appropriately suits the needs of their project and further test the platform's user interface.