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

Victoria Longfield
Hope College, longfield@hope.edu

C. Jeremy Barney
Hope College, barneycj@hope.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/faculty_presentations

Part of the History Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.hope.edu/faculty_presentations/186
September 8, 2017.
A Classroom Experiment:  
Using Shared Shelf to Archive and Share Student Video Film Reviews

Victoria Longfield  
Digital Liberal Arts Librarian, Assistant Professor  
Van Wylen Library, Hope College  
longfield@hope.edu

Jeremy Barney  
Metadata & Digital Collections Librarian, Assistant Professor  
Van Wylen Library, Hope College  
barneyjc@hope.edu

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 (Mihl Hasha 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)

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.

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 tools 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.

Project: https://goo.gl/VzQ2Mk  
Hope College Library: https://hope.edu/library/