

# ANCHORS AND ABSTRACTS

## SUSTAINING TELEVISION NEWS ARCHIVES

*Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant to study potential courses of action to improve the sustainability of existing and new television news archives*

### INTRODUCTION

This project brought together libraries and archives involved in maintaining television news archives to consider the long term sustainability of their programs. The main activity of the grant was a two-day workshop held at Vanderbilt University to share knowledge about the challenges and potential avenues of collaboration for preserving television news. The workshop titled *Sustaining Television News for the Next Generation* took place on March 8-9, 2018 and included about thirty-five participants, representing university libraries, nonprofits, and digital cultural heritage groups. Informed by three expert speakers, the workshop participants gathered into working groups to discuss one of three topics: sustainability, legal issues, and technical infrastructure. As an ancillary activity, the grant also funded site visits to nationally significant archives of television news. These activities helped participants to envision ways in which existing television news archives might work together more effectively.

### SUSTAINING TELEVISION NEWS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

A key feature of the workshop was three reports and presentations by experts in the field of news archives, video metadata, and the legal issues facing news archives. Jill O'Neill from NISO discussed new trends in journalism and how they might impact generally accepted news sources. Stuart Myles from the Associated Press spoke about video metadata, specifically EBUcore and PBCore and the differences between embedded and sidecar metadata. Finally, Brandon Butler of the University of Virginia assessed the legal environment surrounding news archives and suggested ways to move into the next phase of archival work.

The reports are in Vanderbilt University's Institutional Repository

<https://bit.ly/2DH6PCS>

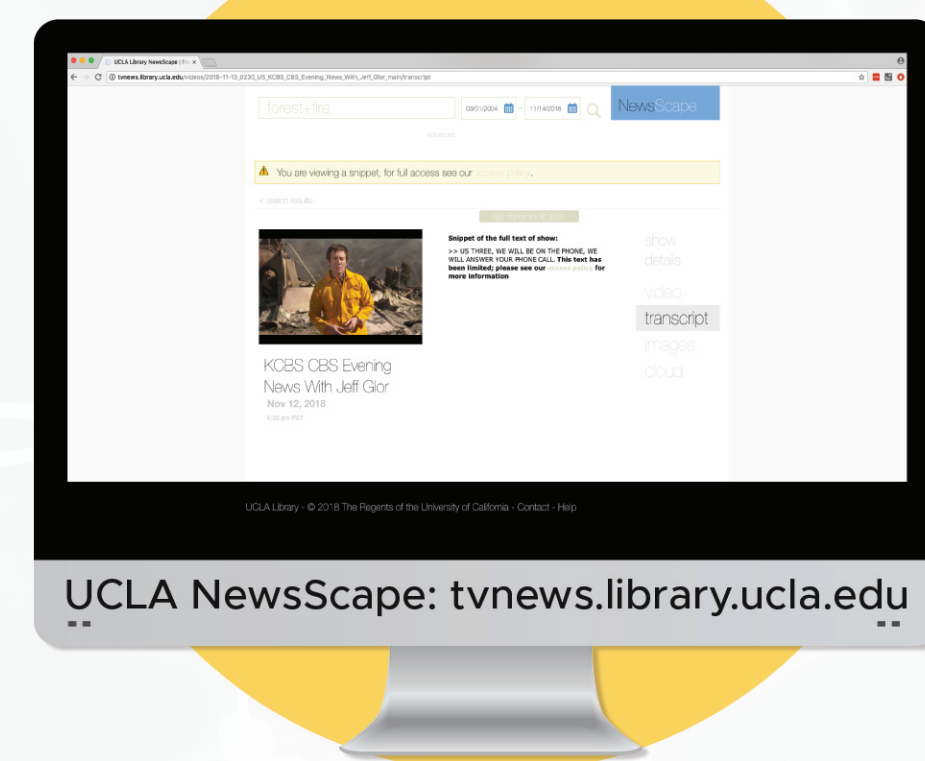


Sustaining Television News Archives workshop, March 8-9, 2018.  
Photos by Vanderbilt Photo Services.

### COMPARISON OF TELEVISION NEWS ARCHIVES

With site visits and ongoing conversations the team was able to compare the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, Internet Archive TV News Archive, and UCLA's NewsScape. While there most likely are other sources for television news, this summary demonstrates the differences and similarities between larger collections.

### COLLECTION SCOPES



UCLA actively includes content from forty-eight networks and the Internet Archive offers thirty-three networks in its search capabilities. VTNA has content from eighteen networks, but only actively captures from seven. VTNA focuses on evening news from the big three broadcast networks: NBC, ABC, and CBS, and big cable news stations CNN and Fox News Channel.

This content is also captured by UCLA and the Internet Archive. In addition to this content, UCLA captures international news and the

Internet Archive captures other news programs from the big three networks and a variety of cable or satellite channels.

There are nuanced differences in the programming captured at each institution, but overall there is lots of duplication; is it more sustainable to have duplicative operations or one cohesive operation for preserving the news?

### AUDIENCE AND INTENDED USES

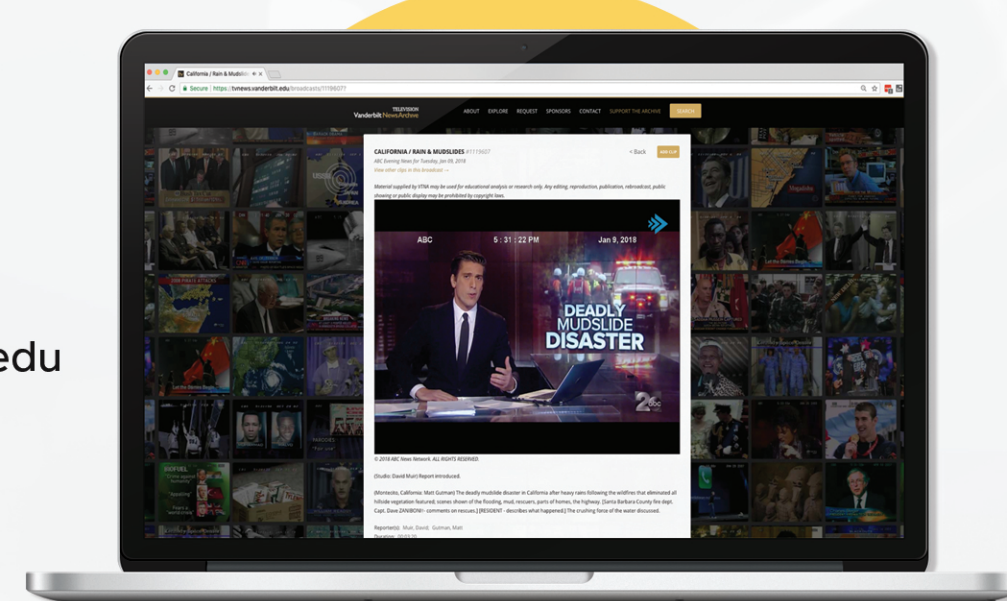
Under U.S. Code Title 17 Section 108(f)(3) television news archives must be made available to the public and all of the news archives included in this comparison are open for public use. Each institution built its collection, metadata, and websites for different types of users. VTNA's public access interface relies on a heavy emphasis on summarizing news content to make clip selection possible without viewing entire news shows.

The primary users of NewsScape are the Red Hen community of big data researchers. This community has access to the entire dataset for computational analysis. The general public have access to the public facing NewsScape website that primarily connects users to indexed voice-to-text or closed caption text datasets for discovery. Public users can stream sixty seconds of a news segments, unless they are using a UCLA library authenticated computer. This computational metadata is similar to the Internet Archive's but differs from VTNA's manually created metadata.

The Internet Archive Television News Archive audience falls somewhere between VTNA and NewsScape research complexity. The Internet Archive developed its own computational analysis of news content and published tools like the face-o-matic facial recognition, and fact-checked to offer public users computed metadata curated by the Internet Archive. This differs from VTNA where metadata is not computed but hand curated

UCLA's Red Hen community is perhaps the most sustainable as a service because of the number of projects and developers vested at Red Hen, where the Internet Archive and VTNA both rely solely on archive staff for metadata creation. VTNA's metadata/access model has proven sustainable but lacks the level of discovery available at UCLA and the Internet Archive.

Vanderbilt TV  
News Archive:  
tvnews.vanderbilt.edu



Internet Archive TV  
News Archive:  
archive.org/details/tv



### OVERVIEW COMPARISON OF TELEVISION NEWS ARCHIVES

	Start	Backlog	Active Capture	On Campus	Online	Dvd Loans	Big Data	Sponsors
AAPB	1930	●		n/a	●		●	
AP	1899	●	n/a	n/a	clips			
IA-TVN	2009		●	n/a	clips	●	●	
UCLA	2001	●	●	●	clips		●	
VTNA	1968	●	●	●		●	●	●

- ▶ AAPB: American Archive of Public Broadcasting
- ▶ AP: Associated Press Audiovisual Archive
- ▶ IA-TV: Internet Archive TV News Archive
- ▶ UCLA: NewsScape
- ▶ VTNA: Vanderbilt Television News Archive.

- ▶ Start: earliest content online
- ▶ Backlog: content not online
- ▶ Active: daily recordings of new content
- ▶ Big Data: computational tools for research
- ▶ Sponsors: access to others based on fees

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The workshop and site visits helped provide a better understanding of the legal and financial complexities surrounding television news archives. While many of the differences between the archives exist because of differing purposes and environments, there are some ways these groups can make changes or adopt new guidelines to improve the consistency of archiving television news programming.

#### 1 SHARING METADATA

By sharing metadata about the news programming they record, the archives could distribute the task of metadata description across several institutions. Pooling metadata from the various broadcast archives could also generate a "threat map" that defines, and illuminates the gaps in, the twentieth-century news broadcast corpus and identifies parts of the corpus that are at risk of loss or deterioration.

#### 2 TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A more ambitious form of collaboration would be to build shared infrastructure for the diverse television news archives. Currently, the major news archives rely on different systems for capturing, describing, preserving, and distributing news programming. If we could agree on which aspects of the acquisition process could be automated, we could potentially set up shared infrastructure to support those processes.

#### 3 TELEVISION NEWS CAPTURE STANDARDS AND OUTREACH

The concern of a lack of preservation of local news was a common topic both at the workshop and site-visits. The lack of preservation of international news was not discussed as much, but both UCLA and the Internet Archive are taking strides to capture some international network news. With more collaboration, and standardization of news archive best practices, the three main news archives could lend more insight for other libraries or archives interested in getting involved in news archiving.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the Andrew Mellon Foundation for their support of this project. They also thank Bernard Reilly and the Center for Research Libraries, Sharon Farb, Todd Grappone, Roger McDonald, Karen Cariani, Casey Davis Kaufman, Susan Grider and the Vanderbilt Television News Archive staff.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**CLIFFORD ANDERSON**

✉ clifford.anderson@vanderbilt.edu  
📧 @andersoncliffb

**JIM DURAN**

✉ james.d.duran@vanderbilt.edu  
📧 @JimDur8n