



Wisconsin Public Television

AAPB National Digital Stewardship Residency
Wisconsin Public Television Final Report

Date: July 6, 2017

Grant period: August 2016-June 2017

Host Mentor: Ann Wilkens **Resident:** Adam Lott

Original Project

WPT has an impressive track record of creating, curating and providing access to award-winning content on important issues. Preserving this content and making it accessible to the state and beyond is a high priority. Our original proposal was ambitious.

Our goals for the AAPB NDSR grant were segmented into three parts. Part one was reformatting analog tapes into files using AJA Control Room software. This included conducting quality control of the finished files, troubleshooting, and solving any problems with the technology and equipment with WPT Engineering. Part two involved updating metadata in our Access database for the newly created files and assessing the workflow to identify and improve inefficiencies, and ultimately create a diagram that clearly displays the updated workflow. The resident was also to formulate a plan and a data map to aggregate metadata to the existing WPT Access database. Part three was testing the migration of legacy metadata into our current Access database and research how WPT could migrate to LTO7 including factors like costs, methodology, and best practices in the archival field.

Significant Changes

Adam and I met several times with stakeholders on a plan to move from LTO5 to LTO7 as was outlined in our original grant proposal. We considered several factors: age of our current robot and LTO5 tapes; cost of tapes and drives if we migrated to LTO7; cost of waiting a generation and migrating to LTO8; having a vendor do the migration from one generation to the next; and the higher cost of LTO7 initially. We concluded that fiscally it would make more sense to wait and get more life out of our current tapes and robot.



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The second change to the original plan was having Adam work to replace our Access database with the Archival Management System (AMS). Our internal database was flat, inflexible, and incompatible with PBCore 2.0. In our original grant proposal, finding a replacement data management tool wasn't a primary concern. However, it became clear with the quantity of metadata and the relationships being created between analog and digital assets, we needed a better way to handle these complexities. I asked Adam to explore alternative data management solutions. After considering the options he laid out in a written report, we went with the AMS. It took several months to develop and work out the bugs. Adam created a metadata map from Access to AMS (PBCore 2.0) and did extensive testing on importing metadata. He relied on Python to normalize and aggregate our legacy metadata, getting it to a place where the AMS would accept an import. Adam worked with Mike Kedzie, our network administrator and the person with the most PHP knowledge. It took several attempts to import the metadata. Adam continued to trouble-shoot and develop work-arounds until the metadata looked beautiful in the AMS.

Part of the AMS work included creating technical metadata with MediaInfo. We would import that metadata into AMS and link proxy files to the asset records. This part of the project, which was not in the original deliverables, was not completed due to three factors: Adam working off-site in June made this work problematic, Mike Kedzie left for another job and wasn't able to provide the necessary assistance we needed, and we simply ran out of time.

Milestones and Deliverables

Making the AMS operational and importing over 18,000 records with over 18,000 instantiations was the most significant milestone. Adam created a crosswalk between Access and PBCore (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1rl0PlI7QJKyn8_RLK3fBJNK5l36pkgXVQpmIcPSvMig) and wrote a document of the AMS workflows (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1uXdRyfB-ZDKnkXUrOWNevFm5TOfy44q08G5KOCTLaRA>) so WPT could continue to import metadata and develop the technical metadata component the AMS offered.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1p42yfnoq6HzlDe_BL362nfhSllu4wGaFy5GRL4uSg

Adam created a document outlining our preservation workflow.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B4a5d6BFMSX7R2J5eFpkMHBqZTA> He worked with our digital media specialist to identified and implement file transition points that could be automated.



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During the first phase of analog reformatting, Adam digitized 108 hours of content for our website <http://wpt.org/archives/main>. He worked with WPT engineers to learn about analog equipment repair, scopes, waveform monitors, and routing signals in a complex production environment.

Adam submitted a report that helped WPT decide that the AMS would be a better tool to organize and present metadata.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxcTwJyKZBtaQ1ctb3htVm5NYXM>

Impact and Outcomes

Station

WPT benefited greatly from having AAPB NDSR resident. Adam was smart, proactive, and dedicated. He had a vested interest in learning and making a difference at the station. In addition he had a perfect combination of archival, technical, and people skills required to be successful. Adam made it possible to share even more of our archival content with the public, a vital activity in the 100th year of Wisconsin Public Broadcasting.

WPT already had a strong preservation program. Adam made it stronger by taking on the heavy responsibility of implementing the AMS and wrangling complex and messy metadata using Python and XML. He shared the preservation workload and had technical skills I didn't. His talent and passion were invaluable.

Profession

The moving image archivist profession benefits from having new professionals with hands on training in the day to day practicalities of digital preservation. Residents experience the different pressures that exist in a real work environment. They feel the responsibility of deadlines. The cohort of seven establishes a collaborative working environment with future colleagues that they will use for their entire careers. They create relevant work products that can be used by anyone. The AAPB NDSR connects residents with AMIA leaders to develop long-term mentoring relationships.