How to digitise 10,000 films from 10 archives in 5 years and live to tell the story…

Stephen McConnachie, Head of Data
Helen Edmunds, Collections Manager
BFI
FIAF Congress, 11 – 18 April 2015
Aggregated unlocking of UK film heritage by mass digitisation, metadata and access workflows
Why?
Why?

BFI Film Forever
Strategic Priority 3

‘Much of our film heritage is inaccessible. As the cinema industry completes the transition to digital, a significant part of this heritage will become stranded in the analogue domain.

Our goal is to digitise and make accessible to the public all of our screen heritage.

We will invest in digitisation capability - both equipment and skills - and build a digital preservation infrastructure.’
What?
What?

Unlocking Film Heritage

- National Lottery funded
- 5 year project, to 2017
- 5,000 films from BFI collection
- 5,000 films from partners
- Preservation storage
- Access online and in cinemas
Unlocking Film Heritage

- Selection
- Rights analysis / clearance
- Digitisation
- Metadata
- Access

How?
Selection
Themes

- Curatorial advisory panel (BFI and partner archives)
- Published to bidders
- Used in funding applications
- Carried through to BFI Player

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Themes

Selected by individual archives based on fitness for theme and available materials
- Submitted to review panel
- Passed into digitisation workflows, including...

Films

Selection
Rights analysis

Complex path to rights clearance

Backdrop of copyright reform in the UK

LABYRINTH (1986) Directed by Jim Henson ©Labyrinth Enterprises

The WINSLOW BOY (1948) Directed by Anthony Asquith. © STUDiocanal
## The Rights

- Digitisation
- Publication on BFI Player (other BFI VOD platforms, e.g. BFI You Tube channel)
- Educational Rights (e.g. BFI Mediatheques)
- Footage Sales (Britain on Film titles)

- Promotional Use – Extracts (3 minutes max.)
- UK and Ireland Only – for up to 10 years
- Rights are Non-Exclusive

### TOP LEVEL OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL*</th>
<th>COPYRIGHT CHECK</th>
<th>NOT IN ©</th>
<th>BFI © OWNED</th>
<th>ORPHAN</th>
<th>3rd PARTY OWNED</th>
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<td>4723</td>
<td>2479</td>
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2,887 titles = © unlocked

*Total (Selections & Submissions) as of March 2015
## Copyright / Rights Status

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- ‘Diligent Search’/EU Scheme
- Contract Negotiation / Permissions Letter & 3rd Party Rights…

*Total (Selections & Submissions) as of March 2015
Digitisation (Helen)
Create records in advance for all file outcomes.
Use the record identifier in the filenaming.
Automate connection between files and metadata.

CID records:
- N-123456
- N-234567
- N-345678

File naming:
- N-123456_01of01.mov
- N-234567_01of01.mov
- N-345678_01of01.mov

Relationships:
Files joined to records automatically.
Templates

- Supply a template to creators of descriptive metadata
- Validate data with controlled lists and lookups
- Streamline import to create records in database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Title Language</th>
<th>Title Type</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The</td>
<td>Red Shoes</td>
<td>Original</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pink Shoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Original, Alternative or Archive*

Original: Title of a moving image work when first released or broadcast in the country of origin.

Alternative: aka - any title by which a moving image work is also known.

Archive: use for assigned or 'made up' titles eg News inserts, extracts.
### Templates

- Supply a template to creators of descriptive metadata
- **Validate** data with controlled lists and lookups
- **Streamline** import to create records in database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>N</th>
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<th>P</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Fiction / Non Fiction</td>
<td>Silent / Sound / Mute</td>
<td>Language 1</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Language 2</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Date Start</td>
<td>Date Type</td>
<td>Predakos</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Non Fiction</td>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Dialogue (original)</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Subtitles</td>
<td>1984-05-22</td>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Circa</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date**

Date in ISO format - **YYYY-MM-DD** — e.g. 2013-06-01.

Enter full date where known. Where only year and month is known, default to 1st of month (YYYY-MM-DD, e.g. 1983-08-01).

Where only year is known, default to 1st of January (YYYY-01-01, e.g. 1955-01-01).
Standards

- Create tool to check database for required fields
- Supply results to creators of metadata
- Repeat until data meets minimum requirements

### Metadata

| BFI | Park Circus | 2386 | 150000009 | Comedians and Jov (Original) / Famous (Original) | English | 1934 (Release) | Film | Fiction | United Kingdom | Laja (Comfort and Joy Ltd.) / Laja Film Productions / Film Makers Entertainment / Scottish TV | Bill Forsyth / Bill Paterson / Allan Duffety / Bill Brand / Filmmakers / A. / Alex / Robert / Bernard / Mr. / McColl / George Ross / Brown / Peter Keat / Paddy / Billy McIntyre / Renato. | Comedy | Disc jockeys / Ice cream |
| BFI | 12447 | 150000059 | A Man a Woman (Original) | English | 1990 (Release) | Film | Non Fiction | United Kingdom | Basic Films | Fried Moe / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty | Documentary | Mobile libraries / Hertfordshire |
| BFI | 12493 | 150000075 | London's Fells (Original) | empty | 1934 (Release) | Film | Non Fiction | United Kingdom | empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / Lake District / Coniston, Samuel Taylor (1772-1834) / Wordsworth / William (1770-1850) / English poetry / London Midland Scottish Railway | THE LIVES OF THE LAKE POETS AND THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY LIVED AND WORKED. |
| BFI | 12528 | 150000149 | Country Currents (Original) | empty | 1938 (Release) | Film | Non Fiction | United Kingdom | empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / empty / Country / Distribution of electricity / Generation of electricity / Electricity / Tariff | INTEREST, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION - showing how a public supply of electricity in rural areas can be. |
| BFI | 12570 | 150000182 | Southern Uplands (Original) | empty | 1937 (Release) | Film | Non Fiction | United Kingdom | Dumont-Buch - Instructional | empty / empty / empty / Documentary | Agricultural / Scotland | Documentary on the agriculture and sheep farming of the Scottish hills, with other occupations. | THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FARMING IN THE SOUTHERN UPLANDS OF SCOTLAND - THE WOOL AND TWEEDE INDUSTRIES. |
• Create tool to check database for required fields
• Supply results to creators of metadata
• Repeat until data meets minimum requirements

Standards

Metadata
Access

How Things Do Develop 1914
Access

• Mix of free and pay-to-view films
• Geoblocked to UK
• Selection themes offered as ‘Collections’
• Curatorial interpretation adds value
Access

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- Selection themes offered as ‘Collections’
- Curatorial interpretation adds value
Cinema

- DCPs created from some feature film selections
- Special event screenings in unusual locations
- Film clubs and local cinema networks

Access

Jodrell Bank Observatory

The British Museum
Lessons learned

Special Parade of St Matthews Pupils and Special March Past of St Joseph's Scholars 1900
Lessons learned

Themes
• Selecting to themes makes it difficult to scale
• Variety in formats, contexts, rights: adds complexity
• Limits ability to create factory-like process
• Next time: collections-based digitisation, not theme?

File movement
• Moving image filesize and bitrate cause problems
• Network bandwidth is a critical factor
• Next time: include network bottlenecks in planning. Fat pipes…

Helen?
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helen.edmunds@bfi.org.uk, Collections Manager, BFI

For information on rights:
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