

NECS Pre-Conference Workshop:
Taking Care of Audiovisual Research Data and Collections

Time and Place: June 13th, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, University of Oslo (Blindern Campus)

How do you take care of, manage and share research data in the field of film and media studies? And what are current approaches and platforms for publishing and analyzing audiovisual research data in scholarly and archival contexts? In an effort to reflect on and offer concrete solutions to these questions, the NECS pre-conference workshop "**Taking Care of Audiovisual Research Data and Collections,**" organized by the "**Digital Methods**" workgroup in collaboration with the **National Library of Norway**, presents and critically evaluates a range of workflows and infrastructures used in recent film and media research projects and institutions, inviting scholars of all levels of technical expertise and academic backgrounds to join.

Scholars in the field of film and media studies have traditionally engaged in a broad range of practices that produce and involve different types of research data and personal databases. For decades, the annotation and segmentation of media items for formal and content analysis, the creation of filmographies as well as databases pertaining to distribution and reception of media have been integral to research in our fields. In recent years, such practices have gained prominence with the digitization of legacy data that form the basis for digital scholarship (Long, 2016; Drucker, 2021), or born-digital collections that are analyzed with digital methods at different scales, allowing for alternating between ‘close’ and ‘distant’ reading or viewing (Acland and Hoyt 2016; Arnold and Tilton 2019).

This development raises several questions and challenges as to how to take care of research data, both during and after a research project. For instance, the creation of such datasets involves the enrichment of audiovisual and textual items with various types of data, that could potentially also be used by other researchers (Melgar Estrada et al. 2017; van Noord et al. 2021), raising the question of how to publish and share research data with peers, which technologies to rely on, and the tricky problem of how to host and maintain ‘living’ datasets that are constantly updated and enriched. Likewise, the analysis of datasets consisting of data from legacy as well as born-digital sources requires a source critical mindset, and for allowing others to check and reuse data

mindful of changing approaches and discursive underpinnings of data creation over time. For the institutions hosting such data – audiovisual collections and libraries - such questions are also becoming increasingly pressing, and in recent years especially the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) have gained prominence as a reference frame for research and collection data management (Wilkinson et al. 2016).

Addressing this development, the NECS pre-conference workshop “Taking Care of Audiovisual Research Data and Collections” provides a platform for different approaches and perspectives from the academic and archival environment. In the workshop’s first part, a number of short presentations will demonstrate examples of workflows and infrastructures used in recent film and media research projects and institutions, including both perspectives of how to publish one’s data in a way that facilitates their discovery and reuse by peers, and how to access and make use of what is available thanks to the work of GLAM institutions. These presentations are followed by a hands-on session in which participants can themselves explore the approaches discussed, and, where relevant, work with their own dataset. Finally, the workshop is concluded with a discussion and evaluation of the proposed workflows and hands-on exercises.

Updates on this event will be made available here:

<https://digital-methods-necs-workgroup.github.io/>

References

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