

Making Your AV Accessible: Results of a Pilot Captioning Project

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Abstract

This presentation will report on the outcomes of a pilot captioning/transcription project completed by staff at the MIT Libraries in 2023. The pilot is a crucial first step for determining how to caption digitized and born-digital audiovisual content at a larger scale so that open content can be made available online in compliance with MIT's accessibility standards. Staff will describe how they selected a sample of both audio and video recordings from MIT's archival collections, submitted the recordings to three different captioning services, and compared the results to determine if there is a best service overall or if a certain service works best for particular situations. Presenters will share the details of their workflow for completing this project, as well as their methods for assessing the results. This presentation will be relevant for organizations considering how they will support accessibility for their own born-digital materials and for on-demand or mass AV digitization efforts.

About the authors:

Joe Carrano (he/him) is the Digital Archivist in the Department of Distinctive Collections at the MIT Libraries, where he works to process, preserve, and make accessible the Institute's unique archival records in digital formats. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and graduated from the University of Maryland with both an MLS specializing in archives, records, and information management and a master's degree in history with a focus on the interconnected histories of race relations and the use of public recreational space in the United States. Previously, he was a National Digital Stewardship Resident at Georgetown University.

Jenn Morris (she/her) is the Digital Imaging Manager in the Technical Services Department at the MIT Libraries, where she leads the reformatting of analog materials (print and audiovisual). She supervises imaging of paper materials onsite in the Imaging Lab and coordinates outsourcing of print and AV materials to qualified vendors. Jenn also contributes to planning and workflow creation for reformatting. She has been in this position since 2006 and previously worked in the publishing and commercial photography sectors.

Rachel Van Unen (she/her) is the Archival Processing Manager in the Department of Distinctive Collections at the MIT Libraries, where she directs and advances accessioning, processing, description, management, and discovery of archival collections in all formats. Rachel previously worked at Princeton University's Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library and New York University's Tamiment Library & Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives.