Making Your AV Accessible: Results of a Pilot Captioning Project

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Project Goals

- Comply with MIT-NAD agreement
- Provide equitable access to all AV (not just MIT content)
Selecting Files

- Chose 3 audio and 3 video files
- 1 video of really bad quality
Selecting Vendors

Considerations

- Quality
- Cost & turnaround time
- Payment terms
Sending Files
Reviewing Results

How do these services measure up?
Review Process

- Each team member used the captioning services' user interface to review the captions produced for accuracy of speaker identification, words, spelling, grammar, and flow.
- Also recorded general perceptions of the results and the interface.

- "John Jacob bastards," should be "John Jacob Astor,"
- "big evil number" should be something in Russian
- "14 COVID increase" should be "fourteen-fold increase"
3Play Media

- Average percentage of errors per total number of words: .5%
- Interface not super easy for review, especially among multiple people
- Interface is useful for fixing transcripts
- Found differing levels of errors depending on AV quality, subject matter, and captioner
Otter.ai

- Average percentage of errors per total number of words: 2.8%*
- *Does not include the many punctuation and grammar errors as it would have taken too long to record all of the problems
- Interface was easier for review among multiple people, and was easier to follow with active word highlighting
Next Steps

- Formally recommend a preferred vendor
- Finalize review policy
- Implement an interim way to provide access
Thank You!

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