

The National Gallery of the Spoken Word: A Digital Library Initiative 2 project

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Chicago Historical Society

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Goal: Develop the Potential of Digital Libraries to Preserve and Deliver Aural Resources

Research Challenges:

1. Identify Best Practices in Digital Sound Recording and Digitization
2. Development of a Digital Archive Structure for AV Materials
3. Selection of a Robust Metadata Format
4. Searching and Sorting Strategies/Alternatives
5. Development of Alternative Delivery Interfaces to Facilitate Diverse Users and Needs
6. Building Interoperable Trans-Institutional Resources

Strategies

- A. Conceptualizing a Digital Archive Infrastructure for Long-term Preservation and Flexible Access: The Value of OAIS
 1. Methodology for creating an information ingestion, storage, and retrieval system
 2. Facilitates discussion between institutions on audience, preservation techniques, and dissemination
 3. An agreement between institutions that facilitates the sharing of information/files
- B. Choosing a Metadata Structure to Facilitate Long-term Preservation, Varied Access, and Interoperability: Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard (METS, <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/>)
 1. Standard but flexible XML metadata schema
 2. Affords the ability to share information between archives and institutions
 3. Allows for the integration of legacy metadata as well as addition of new data for any

object

C. Developing Varied Delivery Interfaces for Diverse User Groups

1. Archival: Search, Browse, Sort
2. Galleries: Content-Based Groupings
3. Exhibits: Structured Presentations
4. Educational Classrooms

D. Developing Strategies for Sorting and Searching Audio

1. Linking Transcriptions to sound files
2. Automating Creation of “Dirty” Transcripts
3. Keyword Spotting

E. Developing Methods for User-Generated Metadata to Increase Functionality of the Archive Over Time

1. Commentary
2. Supporting Material
3. Usage Information
4. Collateral Links

Collections: Early next year, the NGSW will begin to bring together a wide variety of audio collections on line in an online repository, *Historical Voices*, at www.historicalvoices.org

The first collections include:

1. [History and Politics Online](http://www.hpol.org/): Political Speeches from the 1960s and 1970s

<http://www.hpol.org/>

2. [The World of Studs Terkel](#): Selections of Terkel’s interviews for *Hard Times* and *The Good War* from the Chicago Historical Society collection.
3. [The Earliest Voices of the Vincent Voice Library](#): Selections from the earliest recordings from the Vincent Voice Library, Michigan State University.
4. [American Voices](#): One hundred and fifty of the most famous orators in American history.
5. [The Flint Sit-Down Strikes](#): A gallery of oral history from the Flint sit-down strike.
6. [Native American Quilters](#): Recordings of Native American Quilters from the Michigan State University Museum.
7. [The Struggle Against Apartheid](#): Oral Histories of the South African Resistance to Apartheid from the United States and South Africa.
8. [Oral History On-line](#): Best Practices and Samples of Doing Oral History in the Digital Age.