Maryland Memory
Mobilizing Community Media Preservation

June 15, 2018

Siobhan C. Hagan
MARMIA and DCPL MLN

Nathan Avant
RHP
Siobhan Hagan
President & CEO
siobhan@marmia.org
@ChrnclsOfMARMIA
Baltimore City Archives/
Maryland State Archives
WJZ-TV Collection: Baltimore Sites & Sounds
Maryland Media & Memory is Everywhere
Degralescence

["The Final Countdown" playing]
It’s a place.

An online resource

A series of programs.
Libguides.dclibrary.org/MemoryLab
First 2 weeks of opening

DCPL Lab Use

- Memory Lab: 39.5%
- 3 Other DCPL Labs: 60.5%
Case Study: Digitizing One In Ten People

Nathan Avant, Board Member and Archivist
Rainbow History Project
The Rainbow History Project

- Started in 2000 by five activists in order to record the oral history of DC’s LGBTQ community.
- By 2018: 12 board members, growing collection including manuscripts, personal papers, and digital objects.

**MISSION:**

“To collect, preserve, and promote an active knowledge of the history, arts, and culture relevant to sexually diverse communities in metropolitan Washington DC.”
One in Ten People

- Half hour monthly magazine-style show focusing on issues relevant to the Gay and Lesbian community.
- All volunteer cast and crew, operated on a budget of ~ $70 per episode.
One in Ten People

- 32 U-matic broadcast tapes (episode masters)
- 11 VHS tapes (source footage from other shows)
- 92 Hi8 camcorder tapes (raw footage)
Challenges

- Outsourcing cost prohibitive
- Lack of digitization equipment
- Extremely limited workforce (i.e. just me!)

Can we do this in-house? YES!
The Strategy

1 - Don’t reinvent the wheel!
2 - Don’t break the bank on equipment!
3 - Focus on open source/free software tools!
4 - Ask other institutions for help!
Don’t Reinvent the Wheel!

Minimum Viable Station Document (Ashley Blewer, NYPL)
[bit.ly/mindigit]

PRAVDA Build Documentation (Dorothea Salo, UW Madison)
[https://radd.dsalo.info/2018/02/proud-and-pravda-draft-documentation-posted/]

DCPL Memory Lab Equipment List (DCPL)
[http://libguides.dclibrary.org/memorylab/equipment]
Don’t break the bank on equipment!

Blackmagic Capture Device
$345

Consumer VHS Player
$0

Timebase Corrector
$239

Mac Mini + monitor
$300

Home office
$0

Repurposed Camera as Hi8 deck
$0

Total Cost $884
Focus on open source/free software tools!

Tape Inventory - Google Sheets ($0)
Video Capture - vrecord ($0)
Video Playback - VLC ($0)
QC digitized files - QC Tools ($0)
Secure data transfer - rsync ($0)
Trimming/Transcoding - ffmpeg ($0)
Searchable Online Access System - Internet Archive ($0)

Cons - Rarely intuitive or user friendly, no formal support.
Luckily, resources exist to help!
Focus on open source/free software tools!

AMIA Open Source GitHub Page
[https://github.com/amiaopensource/vrecord]

ffmprovisr
[https://amiaopensource.github.io/ffmprovisr/]

Codecademy command line tutorials
[https://www.codecademy.com]
Ask other institutions for help!

$790 grant from Brother Help Thyself
[www.brotherhelpthyself.com]
Ask other institutions for help!

U-matic deck loan from MARMIA!
The Results So Far

All 25 episodes of One In Ten People digitized from U-matic tape and accessible worldwide through the Internet Archive!  
https://archive.org/search.php?query=rainbow%20history&and[]=subject%3A%22Rainbow+History+Project%22
Questions?

Nathan Avant
nathan@rainbowhistory.org
@nathanavant

Rainbow History Project
Rainbowhistoryproject.com
info@rainbowhistory.org