Sonorising and visualizing archive records

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fanny cochrane smith

In 1900 and 1901 at Mount Field, near Hobart, Tasmania, Australian Aborigines of the Royal Society of Tasmania were recorded as the earliest known recordings in Australia and the only known recordings of any of the Aborigines' Australian languages. In 1899, a cylinder in Fanny's hand was held in Hobart.
Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)
Collection metrics

1,084 languages
99 countries
384 collections
15,299 items (11,137 online)
144,400 files
6,837 hours audio
323 hours video
21 TB of files

10 TB of audio files
2 TB of video files
785 GB of image files
915 MB of text files

http://paradisec.org.au
PARADISEC collection

- Audio records date from the 1950s
- Textual data from the 1800s
- May be the only record in a language
Legacy collections with little metadata
Solomon Islands Museum: > 600 tapes, most include oral tradition in local languages. 2014 – Endangered Archives Programme funding to digitise 200 tapes
How to represent audio

• 7,000 hours of media
• Needs textual metadata to allow navigation
• Ideally has textual transcripts to index its contents
How do archives present audio files?

- **ELAR:** wav files - download whole file, unable to seek to points in file
How do archives present audio files?

- AILLA: Download the file
How do archives present audio files?

- DoBeS/TLA: Download audio, files are many clicks deep
How do archives present audio files?

- PARADISEC: wav and mp3 for all files
- Old view is unsatisfactory - can’t seek to time points
How do archives present audio files?

- PARADISEC: New view — seek to timepoints, present transcript or IGT if it is available

http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/viewer/#/NT1/98007
Making thatch, Efate, South (erk); Vanuatu

Media Player

Making thatch, 2011-02-15 00:00:00 UTC

Depositor: Nick Thieberger
Recorded on: 2011-02-15 00:00:00 UTC
Description:
Copyright:
License: CC-AU-NC-BY-SA
Private Yaho
Download: N/A-Take as Thatch-Virtuosa.mp3

Embed code:

Edit media item metadata

Making thatch, 2000-03-31 00:00:00 UTC

Participants: speaker: Tsukenau Tukau

http://eopas.org
Augmented Reality

- EOPAS as single interactive pages
- Capture each page as video
- Use a trigger still image to call the video
Augmented Reality

- Devices capture a trigger image
- Play curated media extracted from the collection
Sonorising the collection with VR

- Automated snipping of an audio file from each of 7125 items in the collection
- 5 minutes into a file, snip 20 seconds, save as mp3 named as per the original
- Maintains metadata references (esp. geography)
- Audition results to ensure relevance and avoid duplication per language
- ‘Sampling’, resulted in 212 files
AC1-004-A  Banyata, Solomon Islands, recorded 1960

CLV1-227-A  Warkai, Sawi, Indonesia, recorded 1970-05-01

TD1-P154-A  Rossel Is. (Yele), PNG recorded 1972-01-04
DomeLab

Partners
The University of New South Wales; Western Sydney University; University of Tasmania; University of Western Australia; RMIT; University of Canberra; City University of Hong Kong; Australian National Maritime Museum; Museum Victoria; National Museum of Australia; The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Image by Sarah Kenderdine, from *Look Up, Mumbai* exhibition, via *The Guardian* 2/2/2016
Virtual Reality
PARADISEC visualisation, pseudo-3D
PARADISEC visualisation in the Dome
Visualisation and research

This is all very cute, but .... there is a real research use for presentation of this information

• Museums increasingly looking for indigenous language content
• More exposure will lead to relevant people finding the resources (especially speakers and their descendants)
• This will lead to enriched descriptions of the objects in the collection