Living Archives

Preserving a Mobilized Culture
Team

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Problem

Citizen media creators are not only making history, but are also recording it on their mobile phones.

*Digital Archivists* find it difficult to connect with these citizens and collect their historical records for long term preservation and access.
Vision

To help *archivists* collect, preserve, and amplify *citizen digital documentation* in the new media landscape.
Problem Space

Citizen Media Makers
- Little control of media after posting it online

Digital Archives
- No direct link between archivists and citizens
- Lack of Awareness

Mobile Phones
- Proliferation
- No Mobile based solution
- Lack of funding

Participatory Practices
- Best practices are still emerging
- Lack of Tools
Goal

Engage

Citizen Media Makers

Preserve

Mobile Phones

Collaborate

Digital Archives

Create

Participatory Practices
Citizens

Are the first responders of History

Media is often marginalized, particularly human rights documentation

Mobile Media

Authentication

Preservation & Access

Evidentiary Value

Digital Archives

Long Term Preservation

Wide Accessibility
The Disconnect: Citizen Media Creator Practices

The lifecycle of the citizen created digital media often ends on social media platforms, not committed to preservation.

Social media sites strip or change valuable metadata from media files.
The Disconnect: Current Archiving Practices

Archivists now create collections by scraping the web and receiving donations from individuals or institutions, long after the media is recorded.

A participatory approach is needed
User Needs Analysis

Findings
- Don’t engage with archives
- Mobile data entry is tedious
- Have IP & privacy concerns
- Difficult to authenticate
- Metadata is lost
- Need metadata for contextualization
- Need consent of media donor

Opportunities
- Facilitate archive discovery
- Automate mobile data entry
- Digital rights management
- Authenticate directly on mobile device
- Capture metadata
- Preserve metadata for mobile media
- Ingest IP automatically

Evidence Sources
- Literature Review
- Surveys
- Interviews
Reimagining the Process

Introducing recollectiv.es

A mobile application to facilitate a deeper connection between citizens and archives.
Reimagining the Process

Citizens -> Mobile Media

Mobile App

Digital Archives

-> Wide Accessibility

-> Long Term Preservation
Design Principles

Provide tools for citizens to *discover* relevant archives

Allow users to *layer* contextual *information* to their digital media in an *unobstructed* manner

Respect media creator’s *privacy* and *intellectual property*
User Flow

Record

User recorded some media, which she thinks is worth preserving

Describe

User selects and describes the media

Find Archives

recollectiv.es suggests relevant archives for the user media. User selects the desired archive(s)

Upload

User media is uploaded to the selected archives with relevant metadata, copyright and privacy information
Design Iterations

Paper Prototype

Balsamiq

Axure
Demo
Proposed Architecture
For the Users:

When launched for the first time:

recollectiv.es

Collects

User Name

Interested themes

Default privacy and copyright settings

Upload Settings
The Application connects content to archives using a bidirectional approach between activists & users.
Process: Citizen Media → Archive

User Description → Archive Selection → Background Process

- Embedded Metadata
- User Descriptions
- Privacy Info
- Copyright Info

Meta-Out File

{  
"copyright": "public domain",
"embedded_metadata": {
  "create_date": "2013-05-16",
  "file_format": "mov"
 },
"privacy": {
  "identity": "na",
  "identity_source": "na",
  "privacy_flag": "anonymous",
  "pseudonym": "Occuppier49"
 },
"user_description": {
  "description_tags": [
    "OWS",
    "Occupy",
    "Oakland",
    "May16",
    "Police",
    "Beating"
  ],
  "title": "Occupy Oakland Police Action"
}  

On Clicking Upload → Media File + Meta-Out File → Selected Archive Destination
Organizer defines Preset Metadata
Sets a Destination Archive

Distribute QR Code with preset Metadata info
User attending the event scan the QR Code to fire up the App

Easy Archival Process
Metadata preloaded in the App as it fires up
Archive Destination preloaded
Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria: Successful completion of an end to end flow from selecting media to describing it to posting it to an archive.

What Worked?
- Users able to navigate the flow
- Media selection process is intuitive

Unexpected Outcomes
- Combining ownership and anonymity – user expects intelligent response
- User looked for a showcase of existing materials in an archive

User Challenges
- Some users didn’t recognize the three panels in Add Details screen
- ‘All’ vs. ‘Describe Individually’ option was not intuitive
Thank You