

OHMS: Oral History Metadata Synchronizer

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I will be talking about the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), and how it can increase access and discoverability for audio-visual digital collections

OHMS in Audio Visual Digital Collections

OHMS: A web application

Metadata management in OHMS

- Adding keywords to describe interview segments
- Keywords thesaurus
- Item-level and Segment-level metadata entry

A little bit about OHMS: The Oral History Metadata Synchronizer was developed under the leadership of Doug Boyd at the University of Kentucky Libraries as an open-source web application for increasing access to oral history digital collections.

While the program is currently applied to oral history digital collections, it can certainly be used for any audio or video digital collection with streaming content.

The digital tool is an effective metadata management application that can be embedded into standard digital content management systems such as CONTENTdm and Omeka.

This short presentation will focus on how to add keywords for recording segments, adding a Keywords thesaurus for the collection, and recording item-level and segment-level metadata in OHMS.

For audio-visual collections the more access points you can create the better, so if making collection content discoverable is your goal, then this is a tool to know about.



SAA Oral History Project Digital Collection

First a look at a sample oral history digital collection using OHMS.

The SAA Oral History Project digital collection was completed in August 2016. I was the project intern from January-August 2016 to create the digital collection and add metadata for each of the 19 video interviews.

1/3 of my work on the project involved creating metadata for each interview using the Dublin Core metadata schema. This project involved creating metadata with a high level of granularity, which was by creating item-level AND segment-level metadata. Quite frankly, this was made possible because of OHMS.

This particular digital collection was created using CONTENTdm, for those of you know are familiar with the content management system. I'd like to show you a sample record with OHMS embedded into it.

The live keyword search I just performed was made possible partly due to the keywords here. What is even more fascinating is that you can add a Keyword thesaurus to the collection so that terms auto-populate when you're adding keywords to a

segment.

Creating Metadata using OHMS

The image displays two screenshots from the OHMS web application. The left screenshot shows 'Item level metadata' for an oral history interview. The right screenshot shows 'Segment level metadata' for a specific segment within that interview.

Item level metadata:

Title	Oral History Interview with Cynthia Pease Miller, August 25,
Interviewee	Miller, Cynthia (Cynthia Pease)
Interviewer	Freeman, Nancy A., 1962-
Description	Cynthia Pease Miller discusses her career as an archivist of Section, publication of the SAA manual Managing Congress
Subject (LCSH)	Archivists; Archives--Administration Archival institutes and workshops Archives--Access control
Genre	oral histories
Place	Chicago, Illinois
Language	eng
Original Collection	Society of American Archivists Records, 1935-2014
Original Item Location	UWM Manuscript Collection 172
Finding Aid	http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/vl/archives.uwm-mil-uv
Repository	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, Archives Depa
Rights	Copyright jointly held by the Society of American Archivists
Digital Collection	Society of American Archivists Oral History Project

Segment level metadata:

Tag Data

* Indicates a required field.

Interview: Oral History Interview with Thomas Wisted, August

Timestamp: 00:10:09

eng

Segment Title: * Reasons to pursue a position outside the United States, and landing a job at the Alexander Turnbull Library in New Zealand

Current Thesaurus: None

Partial Transcript:

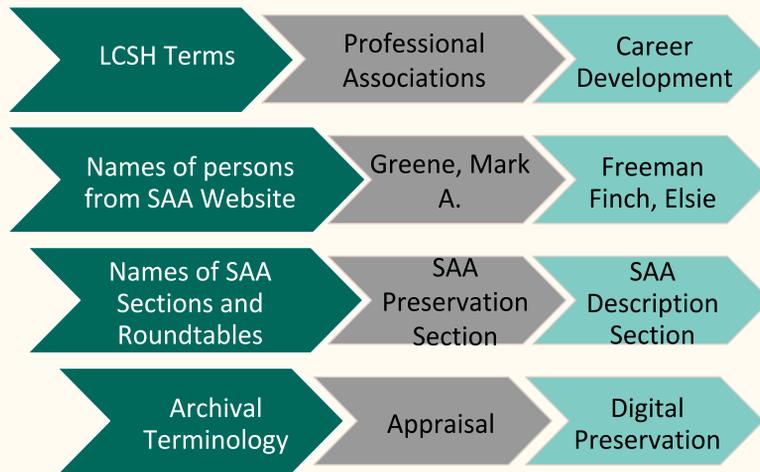
Keywords: Personal life; Education; Career; Professional experience; Colleagues; Libraries; Rare books; Manuscript collections

Keywords should be separated by a semi-colon.
Current Thesaurus: SAA keywords

The image on your left is an example of record-level metadata with elements and field values set to meet institutional guidelines and standards.

On the right is the form for segment-level metadata entry in OHMS. What is unique about this function is that you can add a segment title, keywords, synopsis here for more discoverability. Again, this shows the high level of granularity in metadata that can be accomplished by using the OHMS web application in audio visual collections

“Keywords” Thesaurus



Speaking of Keyword thesaurus: here's how you would add one to OHMS. You would compile terms one after the other in a CSV file, and upload into Thesaurus Manager.

Here are some examples from the Keywords thesaurus. The entire thesaurus has 350+ terms, which includes names of persons from the LC subject heading terms, names in the style of the LC Name Authority File, SAA Sections and Roundtables, and Archival Terminology.

Since this was a professional collection, I expected the collection's user base to be familiar with established vocabularies like Library of Congress Subject Headings and the SAA Glossary for archival terminology.

Takeaways

Broader terms as keyword terms

Ideal for non-scripted audio visual collections

NO one-size-fits-all method for incorporating OHMS into digital collections

OHMS works well for small-scale projects with minimal metadata

Opting for broader terms as keyword terms, because the collection was very small

- Keyword thesaurus should be representative of the collection without getting too specific.

Segment-level titles and keywords ideal for increased access to audio-visual content

- e.g. You may have a 50-minute digitized file of a student recording, and being able to mark segments will save your patrons some work. It will certainly add more work to your plate though.

There's no one-size-fits-all method for using OHMS in audio-visual digital collections.

- Depends on your institutional resources such as time, personnel, funding, dependence on free web sources vs. subscription platforms

Ideal for small-scale projects with minimal metadata

- Depends on end use of digital collection: special projects vs. continual content addition

THANK YOU!

Want to learn more about OHMS?

**Tell Me Your Digital Story: Using OHMS in Oral History
— Digital Collections**

Friday, February 24, 4:30pm-4:55pm

(Slides will be available via MLA website)