

## Archiving Media from the “Occupy” Movement:

Methods for Archives trying to manage large amounts of user-generated audiovisual media

Howard Besser, NYU

<http://besser.tsoa.nyu.edu/howard>

<http://activist-archivists.org/>

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

1

**Archiving Media from the “Occupy” Movement:**  
Methods for Archives trying to manage large amounts of user-generated audiovisual media

- Why look at Occupy?
- Projects from Activist Archivists
- Projects from NYU’s Tamiment Library/Archive

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

2

## What’s interesting/important about Occupy?

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

3

## March 24, 2012 Flickr stats

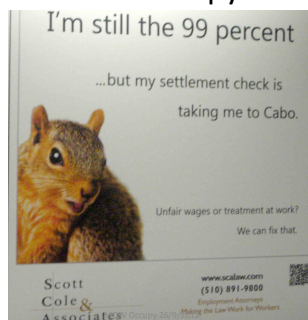
(just 6 months after start of movement)

- “#Occupy” 632,089
- “Occupy Wall Street” 164,304
- “Occupy Protest” 179,454
- “Occupy Movement” 40,572
- “#OWS” 113,904
- “Occupy Oakland” 27,202
- “Zucotti Park” 9,164

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

4

## What’s interesting/important about Occupy?



5

## How Occupy material resembles what we'll be facing in the future

- Vast quantity of user-contributed material
- No easy way to control for quality, file format, metadata
  - no enforcing guidelines as with organizational records
  - no semi-consistency as in a single individual's personal records
- Much of the material can most easily be found on Social Networks
- Need to find smart ways to harvest metadata and analyze files, as well as to influence behavior of potential contributors

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

6

## How this material may (or may not) be different

- Huge suspicion of conventional organizations (incl universities and libraries)
- DIY mentality—want to control own story
- Reluctance to sanction turning over material to an institution
- Consensus Process becomes more difficult when each meeting attracts a different set of people

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

7

## OWS Archives Working Group

### Archives Working Group

Posted on January 5, 2012

Occupy Wall Street: Archive Mission Statement

The Occupy Wall Street Archive is an institutionally-independent collection of historical material created and distributed in and around Liberty Plaza of ephemera, signs, and audiovisual materials.

Occupy Wall Street Archives Working Group is created to ensure that the Occupy Wall Street movement will own its past. Its mission is to keep OWS historically self-conscious, and guarantee that our history will be accessible to the public.

Occupy Wall Street Archives Working Group is a collecting initiative, which preserves, safeguards, and makes accessible the records of OWS. It is the repository of the legacy which we will leave for the future generations.

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

8

## What I know from my prior work

- InterPARES—If we hope to preserve electronic records, archivists need to be involved early in the life-cycle of that record, long before the record enters the archive
- Preserving Digital Public Television—Pushing metadata gathering upstream into the production cycle

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

9

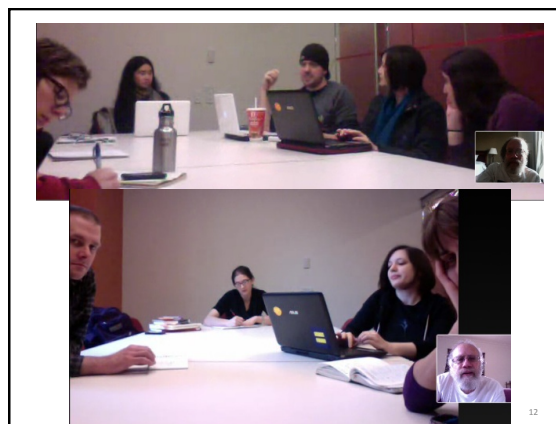
## Activist Archivists

<http://activist-archivists.org/>

- MIAP students and grads originally working on archiving media from the Occupy movement
- Guidelines for recorders to make their works more easily preservable: make notes, turn on GPS, upload to service that doesn't strip out metadata, keep raw footage, don't compress
- For meeting recordings, have them read a script at start of the recording

Besser, Metadata in Media Projects, 9/24/12

## Activist Archivist Website

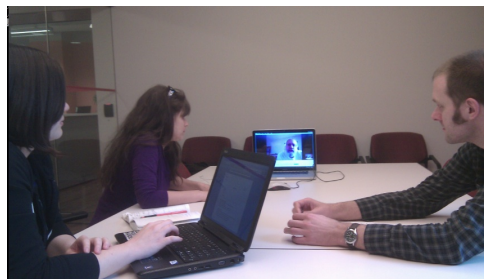


12



MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

13



MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

14

## Activist Archivists Projects-

- “Why Archive” postcard & video
- 7 Tips to Ensure Your Video Is Usable in the Long Term
- Study of metadata loss through uploading to services
- Best Practices for Creators/Collectors
- “Toolkit” for Occupy archiving
- Coordinating discussions among various groups archiving different parts of Occupy
- Exploring methods for obscuring identities

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

15

## “Why Archive” video



MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

16

## “Why Archive” postcard

- **ACCOUNTABILITY.** Archives collect evidence that can hold those in power accountable.
- **SELF-DETERMINATION.** We define our own movement. We need to create and maintain our own historical record.
- **SHARE.** Archives are a point of entry to our movement’s rich record. We can use them to ensure transparency, generate discussion, and enable direct action.
- **EDUCATE.** Today’s videos, flyers, web-pages, and signs are material for tomorrow’s skill-shares, classes, and mobilizations.
- **CONTINUITY.** Just as past movements inspire us, new activists will learn from the experiences we document.
- **RECORD & COLLECT** what’s happening around you.
- **PRESERVE** the record.

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

17

## Why Archive Postcard

WHY ARCHIVE?	
<b>ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	Archives collect evidence that can hold those in power accountable.
<b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	Archives make the rich record of our movements accessible. We can use them to ensure transparency, generate discussion, and enable direct action.
<b>SELF-DETERMINATION</b>	We define our own movements. We need to create and maintain our own historical record.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Today’s videos, flyers, web-pages, and signs are material for tomorrow’s skill-shares, classes, and mobilizations.
<b>CONTINUITY</b>	Just as past movements inspire us, new activists will learn from the experiences we document.
Created by Activist Archivists in collaboration with the OWS archives working group. activist-archives.org	

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

18

## 7 Tips to Ensure Your Video Is Usable in the Long Term

- Collect details while filming
- Keep your original raw footage, unaltered
- Make your video discoverable
- Contextualize it
- Make it verifiable
- Allow others to collect and archive
- Or archive it yourself

MOW Occupancy 26/9/2017

19

## Study of metadata loss through uploading to services

[illegible]

MOU Occupy 26/9/2012

## Best Practices for Content Collectors

- Security
  - Sensitive material
  - Scraping for content
- Content Search
  - Internet Archive, Archive-It, YouTube, Vimeo, Bit-Torrent
- Receiving Content
- Metadata Extraction
- Copyright

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

21

## Best Practices for Content Creators

- Security
  - Hidden camera laws, parties' consent laws
- Capturing Content
  - Highest quality, set date and time-stamps, note location
- Offloading Content
  - Raw files directly onto computer, keep material organized
- Uploading Content
  - Importance of tagging, review of diff services
- Depositing with an Archive
- Copyright

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

## Occupy Archiving Kit

- Why Archive?
- What is an “archive”? How do I create an archive?
- Creating archiving-friendly content
- How can I collect materials for the archive?
- What should I save?
- How should I organize my materials? How do I get it into the archive?
- Description/Metadata
- Media Management
- Storage & Preservation
- Access
- Exhibition and Presentation/Outreach
- Rights and Re-Use

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

23

Self-help activities:

# Workshop: OWS Archive Share Day

**View** **Reports**

Event Type: **talks**  
Start Date: **May 31, 2012**  
Hours: **3PM-6PM**  
Cost: **free**  
Venue: **Evylabam**

0 **books**   
[View more](#)




Gallery by [Tayseon Choi](#)

At this free event, the public will be invited to explore and archive the many views of democracy. Anyone wishing to present their work in art and activism can sign up for a short time slot. Email [OWS Archives](mailto:Tayseon[at]evylabam[sd]org</a> to reserve your slot now.</p><p>OWS Archive Share Day is presented in collaboration with <a href=) members Anna Perriello and Christine O'Hairon, in conjunction with ["Speakers' Corner"](#), an exhibition by [Tayseon Choi](#) [archive-on-view.blogspot.com](#) [MAY 26-30, 2012](#)

Self-help activities:

## OWS Archive Share Day used variety of tools

Bulk in just over 1 minute



25

Self-help activities:

## Bulk

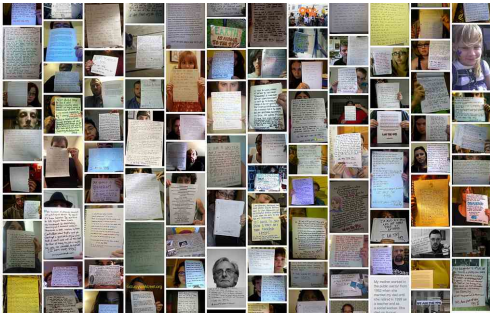
- Batch download from FLICKR
- Set selection filters (#OWS, Creative Commons)
- Set what elements you want to grab (essence, EXIF metadata, tagged-text metadata)

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

26

Self-help activities:

## Downloaded FLICKR image



MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

27

Self-help activities:

## Downloaded EXIF metadata

```

Flickr Photo Metadata
Created by Bulky, on Mar 31, 2012
http://clipyourphotos.com/bulky/

=====
| INFO |
=====
Photographer : bulky908
Photo URL : http://www.flickr.com/photos/bulky908/6209035566/
License : Creative Commons (http://creativecommons.org/licenses)
Taken Date : Mon Oct 3 15:13:08 GMT-0400 2011
Upload Date : Mon Oct 3 22:13:08 GMT-0400 2011
Geotag Info : Latitude:40.786206, Longitude:-74.009520
Vines : 0
Comments : 0
=====
| TITLE |
=====
WallpaperForThePercent
=====
| DESCRIPTION |
=====
A New Desktop Wallpaper for the 5K
as href="http://anotherpercent.tumblr.com/archive"
rel="nofollow">anotherpercent.tumblr.com/archive/4a
as href="http://bulky908.com/" rel="nofollow">bulky908.com/4a
=====
| TAGS |
=====
occupy occupantlist occupantliststreet occupantliststreet weatherthepercent
weatherthepercent "50% percent" 10 unemployment poverty hunger inequality
tumblr wallpaper ows sleeping posters signs bulky908 kashells
MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

```

28

Self-help activities:

## Other Archive Share-Day and Hackathon activities

- Re-mixing of older footage
- Creating a visual timeline
- Mining material for data (eg. number of co-locations of an officer's name with "pepper spray")

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

29

## Creative Commons Guidance

- Creative Commons lets you mix-and-match four different conditions:
  - Attribution: You let others copy, re-use and distribute your video, but they must credit you.
  - Share-Alike: You let others copy, re-use and distribute your video, only if they do the same with the work they create.
  - Non-Commercial: You let others copy, re-use and distribute your video for non-commercial purposes only.
  - No Derivative Works: You let others copy and distribute your video, but not to create new works using it.
- You can use these conditions in different combinations to share your work in a controlled way. Creative Commons licenses are legal tools that depend on pre-existing copyright laws. Having a Creative Commons license on your work may give you legal recourse, but it may not actually prevent people from downloading and re-using your video illegally.

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

30

## Marking Creative Commons licenses

- There are a few ways to mark your video with a Creative Commons license. One way is to include a Creative Commons “bumper” or text card in your video. Creative Commons has created some with graphics that you can download from their website. This method is useful if your video is going to be shared offline (e.g. on DVD, live screenings), as the license information is attached to the video itself.
- Another way to mark your video with a Creative Commons license is to publish your video on platforms that are Creative Commons-enabled, such as YouTube, Vimeo, or Internet Archive. These platforms allow you to easily select a license during the upload process. This method is useful because the license is machine-readable. A search engine, for example, can detect the license.

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

31

## Promoting ObscuraCam

- “ObscuraCam is a visual privacy app for photo and video, that gives you the power to better protect the identity of those captures in your photos, before you post them online”
- Developed by Guardian Project in conjunction w/Human Rights group WITNESS-

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

32

## ObscuraCam



MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

33

## Activist Archivist Collaborations-

- With Occupy Wall Street groups
  - Helping store and manage Media Working Group’s media streams
- With Tamiment Collection
  - Methods for extracting metadata from recordings
  - Methods for collaborative selection of YouTube videos

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

34

## Occupy’s Media Working Group— Streaming Services (1/3)

- livestream, ustream—almost impossible to hack into downloads
- One of Occupy Oakland’s streamers uses the streaming service as his fileserver.
  - does no recording onto local media (to avoid confiscation of equipment)
  - when he wants to edit, he downloads from streaming service, edits, then uploads it back
  - trusts the streaming service, and thinks that it will be around forever

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

35

## Occupy’s Media Working Group— Streaming Services (2/3)

- OWS keeps masters for their streams and other media locally, and as numbers grow, they’re having trouble with managing the files and storage and want a DAM, but...
  - Activist Archivists (AA) brokered a deal to put copies of their content on a reliable archival service
  - AA helped them select open source tool to use for cataloging (Omeka), and AA volunteer is currently cataloging their mini DV collection of footage from all General Assemblies and Spokes Councils from September 17th to date--

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

36









## Tamiment YouTube Cataloging

Task	Owner	Category	Status	Updated	Description
Task 1: Set up the AWS VPC	John Doe	Network	Completed	2023-10-01	Set up the AWS VPC with a public subnet and a private subnet.
Task 2: Create the EC2 instance	Jane Smith	Compute	In Progress	2023-10-02	Create the EC2 instance with the required configuration.
Task 3: Configure the S3 bucket	Mike Johnson	Storage	Pending Review	2023-10-03	Configure the S3 bucket with the required permissions.
Task 4: Set up the IAM roles	Sarah Lee	Security	Completed	2023-10-04	Set up the IAM roles for the EC2 instance and S3 bucket.
Task 5: Deploy the application	David Kim	Deployment	In Progress	2023-10-05	Deploy the application to the EC2 instance.
Task 6: Monitor the application	Emily White	Monitoring	Pending Review	2023-10-06	Monitor the application for any issues.
Task 7: Optimize the application	Chris Brown	Optimization	Completed	2023-10-07	Optimize the application for better performance.
Task 8: Backup the data	Alex Green	Backup	In Progress	2023-10-08	Backup the data to the S3 bucket.
Task 9: Test the application	Mia Black	Testing	Pending Review	2023-10-09	Test the application for any bugs.
Task 10: Deploy the application	Noah Gray	Deployment	Completed	2023-10-10	Deploy the application to the production environment.
Task 11: Monitor the application	Olivia Blue	Monitoring	In Progress	2023-10-11	Monitor the application for any issues.
Task 12: Optimize the application	Liam Red	Optimization	Pending Review	2023-10-12	Optimize the application for better performance.
Task 13: Backup the data	Sophia Purple	Backup	Completed	2023-10-13	Backup the data to the S3 bucket.
Task 14: Test the application	Benjamin Yellow	Testing	In Progress	2023-10-14	Test the application for any bugs.
Task 15: Deploy the application	Charlotte Orange	Deployment	Pending Review	2023-10-15	Deploy the application to the production environment.
Task 16: Monitor the application	Lucas Green	Monitoring	Completed	2023-10-16	Monitor the application for any issues.
Task 17: Optimize the application	Hannah Blue	Optimization	In Progress	2023-10-17	Optimize the application for better performance.
Task 18: Backup the data	Ethan Red	Backup	Pending Review	2023-10-18	Backup the data to the S3 bucket.
Task 19: Test the application	Ava Purple	Testing	Completed	2023-10-19	Test the application for any bugs.
Task 20: Deploy the application	Michael Yellow	Deployment	In Progress	2023-10-20	Deploy the application to the production environment.

MOW Occupy 26/9/2013

49

But this won't scale!

MDW Occupy 26/9/2012

50

## March 24, 2012 YouTube stats

(just 6 months after start of movement)

- “#Occupy” 169,000
- “Occupy Wall Street” 98,400
- “Occupy Protest” 70,500
- “Occupy Movement” 54,800
- “#OWS” 50,300
- “Occupy Oakland” 13,400
- “Zucotti Park” 6,690

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

51

## Alternative approach to YouTube Selection process

- Develop categories of important YouTube videos
  - Celebrity visits, Internal workings (library, kitchen, media), Confrontations with police, Labor, Housing, etc.
- Have Occupiers fill in an online form listing the 5 most important videos in each category

MOW Occupy 26/9/2017

52

## Advantages of YouTube Collaborative Filtering Selection Process

- Scalable and manageable
- Consistent with Occupy ideas of inclusiveness and of managing own story
- Tamiment can still choose to be selective in collecting only a portion of what is voted in, but the total set for review is a manageable scale

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

53

## Social Networks starting to police their “Terms of Use”

[News](#) > [Technology](#) > [Facebook](#)

## Facebook privacy chief fires warning shot at bosses who demand access

Social networking site warns against employers who ask for the passwords of job applicants, saying legal action is possible

Dominic Rushe in New York



guardian.co.uk, Friday 23 March 2012 15:56 EDT

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

50

## YouTube User Agreement

- 5B “You shall not download any Content unless you see a ‘download’ or similar link displayed by YouTube on the Service for that Content.”

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

55

But even 1916 Public Domain material on Creative Commons YouTube Channel don't have “download” button

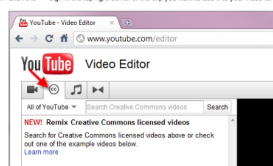


56

## YouTube sees Creative Commons as only for Re-Mix, not archiving

How do I use a Creative Commons video?

1. Enter the YouTube Video Editor (accessible by clicking your username in the top right corner of any page, selecting My Videos from the drop-down menu, and selecting Video Editor from the options at top).
2. Click the CC tab located under the YouTube logo.
3. Either enter the URL of the video you wish to use in the search bar, or enter keywords to search through Creative Commons.
4. Click the “+” sign in the top right corner of the clip you want to add it to your video for editing.



Please note: Only videos that have been tagged Creative Commons will display in the search results. Additionally, advertisements may be displayed on videos created using the YouTube Video Editor.

Things you should know

- The ability to mark uploaded videos with a Creative Commons license is only available to users whose account is in good standing. You must check the status of your account at [www.youtube.com/advancedsettings](http://www.youtube.com/advancedsettings) to ensure it is in good standing.

57

But using YouTube's video editor to view and “Re-Mix” exact copies is probably legal

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

58

## “Preservation Week” event

### THE ACTIVIST ARCHIVISTS

COMMUNITY ARCHIVING  
and the  
OCCUPY WALL STREET MOVEMENT

What will happen to all of the audio, video and physical  
our efforts, alongside the Occupy Wall Street Archives Working Group.  
How will we ensure that it is preserved for future generations?

#### JOIN THE DISCUSSION

and come learn about some of the initiatives currently underway  
In association with the American Library Association's Preservation Week initiative,  
Activist Archivists\* will host a presentation and panel discussion focused on pre-enting  
our efforts, alongside the Occupy Wall Street Archives Working Group,  
to archive and preserve materials related to the movement.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
APRIL 24, 6 PM  
NYU MICHELSON THEATER  
721 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, ROOM 648

59

## Archiving Media from the “Occupy” Movement:

Methods for Archives trying to manage large amounts of user-generated audiovisual media

Howard Besser, NYU

<http://besser.tsoa.nyu.edu/howard/Talks>

<http://activist-archivists.org/>

MOW Occupy 26/9/2012

60