

# The Future of Video Indexing in the BBC

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Archives

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# Outline of presentation

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- Why the BBC needs video indexing
- Why the BBC Archive needs video indexing
- Media Asset Management
- Automation - The Future Of Indexing?
- Conclusion

# Why The BBC Needs Video Indexing

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- 700 hours of TV programmes transmitted per week on BBC1 & BBC2
- New digital channels
  - BBC3
  - BBC4
  - Cbeebies
  - CBBC
- Plus Interactive TV

# Why The BBC Needs Video Indexing

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- Historical/heritage value
- Source of information for research
- Repeats/re-versioning
- Re-use of extracts - including externally
- Legal cases/programme complaints
- Charter obligation

# Why The BBC Archive Needs Video Indexing

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- 750,000 hours of television programmes in the archive
- The TV Archives receive over 2000 enquiries each week
- We loan 45,000 items per month
- The catalogues are online
- We aim to provide desktop access to all content

# Types of enquiries

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- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?

# Who?

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- “Matthew Parris House of Commons report”
- “Terry Wogan doing bloomers”
- “John Nicolson interview with Tony Blair”
- “Programmes on Buffalo Bill”
- “Gordon Brown at desk inside Treasury Building”

# What?

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- “Programmes on Islamic Week”
- “The bombing of BBC Broadcasting House”
- “Troops leaving Southampton for Suez”
- “State of emergency in Zambia”
- “Earl Spencer’s speech at Diana’s funeral”
- “Foul weather conditions over Scotland”



# Where?

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- “Shots of trains in Lime Street station”
- “Ireland images”
- “Sydney Harbour”
- “Folly in grounds of Althorp”
- “Greek restaurants in Britain”

# When?

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- “Clay Cooper fight of 1963”
- “Cookery programmes from 2001”
- “Mobile phones being used in the 1980s”
- “The collapse of the Berlin in November 1989”
- “Interesting programmes from 40s & 50s”

# The TV Catalogue

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PANORAMA:FRANKENSTEIN FOODS

ANCE598N TX 17/05/99

ex VT PROG 040m00s / m s in

C:

More than half the processed food consumed in Britain is made with gm crops.  
Steve BRADSHAW investigates claims that there are no adequate long term tests  
to guarantee our health or the countryside, and that food labelling is v.poor  
> Sp s vt

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IND ACTY:OIL SEED RAPE:Cs oil seed rape held in hand (2.21-2.25) cs oil seed  
rape growing (2.33-2.38) (2.55-2.58) (26.07-26.11) las field of oil seed  
rape? (25.58-26.05) las along oil seed rape? (26.05-26.07) Cs oil seed rape  
(32.31-32.36) MAIZE:las gm maize growing pan r-l factory in bkgd  
(30.57-31.11) cs maize growing trav s along maize (31.11-31.29) cs pan r-l  
maize growing (36.47-37.08)  
SUPERMARKET:las pple's feet in supermarket (5.27-5.34) las feet and trolleys  
in supermarket (6.25-6.32) var las feet and trolleys in supermarket  
(37.31-37.59)

---BBC Information and Archives----- 1 / 12

# Indexing

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ANCE598N 17/05/99 PANORAMA:FRANKENSTEIN FOODS

CL LJA

R BRADSHAW, Steve

N BRITTAIN-CATLIN, Daniel (PRD)

N HORROCKS, Peter (SED)

N MINHAS, Rabinder (PRD)

PG T11

DOCUMENTARIES (PROGRAMME FORMAT)

PG T22

CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES (GENRE)

LO R42:611.986:658.871

LOW ANGLE/FEET/SUPERMARKETS

LO R42:685.513.2:64.033:658.871

LOW ANGLE/TROLLEYS (BASKETS)/SHOPPING/SUPERMARKETS

PI 301.153.2:575.8:641

CONTROVERSY OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

PI 575.8:633:641.002.1

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS/PROCESSED FOOD

# Search interface

The screenshot shows the 'Research.Gateway - Home Page' in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser's address bar displays the URL: <http://research.gateway.bbc.co.uk/research.gateway.live/main.asp>. The page features a navigation bar with buttons for HOME, BOOKS, CELEBRITY INFO, EVENTS & ANNIVERSARIES, MUSIC, NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS, PRONUNCIATION, REFERENCE COLLECTION, STILLS, and TV & RADIO. A search engine section titled 'The research.gateway search engine' includes a search box and a 'Go' button. Below this is a 'Website Directory' with categories such as Archive Sources, International Affairs, Politics and Government, Arts and Entertainment, Internet and IT, and Reference. A 'Topical Issues' sidebar on the right lists current events like '23 Apr', 'Topical pronunciations', 'New film releases', and 'BBC News Analysis & Research'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, system tray, and open applications including Adobe Photoshop and the Research Gateway browser window.

# Media Asset Management

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- Moving the Archive upstream
- Working more closely with content providers
- Point of creation information management
- Metadata written once & read by many

# Automation - The Future Of Indexing?

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- Key frame extraction
- Linguistic analysis technology to categorise text against taxonomies
- Federated searching across multiple databases
- Rapid processing of large volumes of content
- High level of consistency

# Research Projects in the Archive

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- EC projects
  - Birth
    - » aims to build a web site on early television content for 3 user groups (public, academic, media professionals)
    - » Partners: Joanneum Research (Austria), Noterik (Netherlands), BBC (UK), ORF (Austria), SWR (Germany), RTBF (Belgium), Beeld en Geluid (Netherlands)
  - Presto Space
    - » preservation, restoration and access to audio-visual collections
    - » Main partners: BBC (UK), INA (France), RAI (Italy), Beeld en Geluid (Netherlands), Joanneum Research (Austria), Sheffield University (UK), ORF (Austria)



# Conclusion

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- Lots of video content
- Use of automation to index
- Information management skills are important
- “Our vision is to make every computer in the BBC a gateway to our archives.”

# Contact details

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