The Future of Video Indexing in the BBC

Joanne Evans, BBC Information & Archives

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Outline of presentation

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Who?

- “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?

- “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?

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

When?

- “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

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

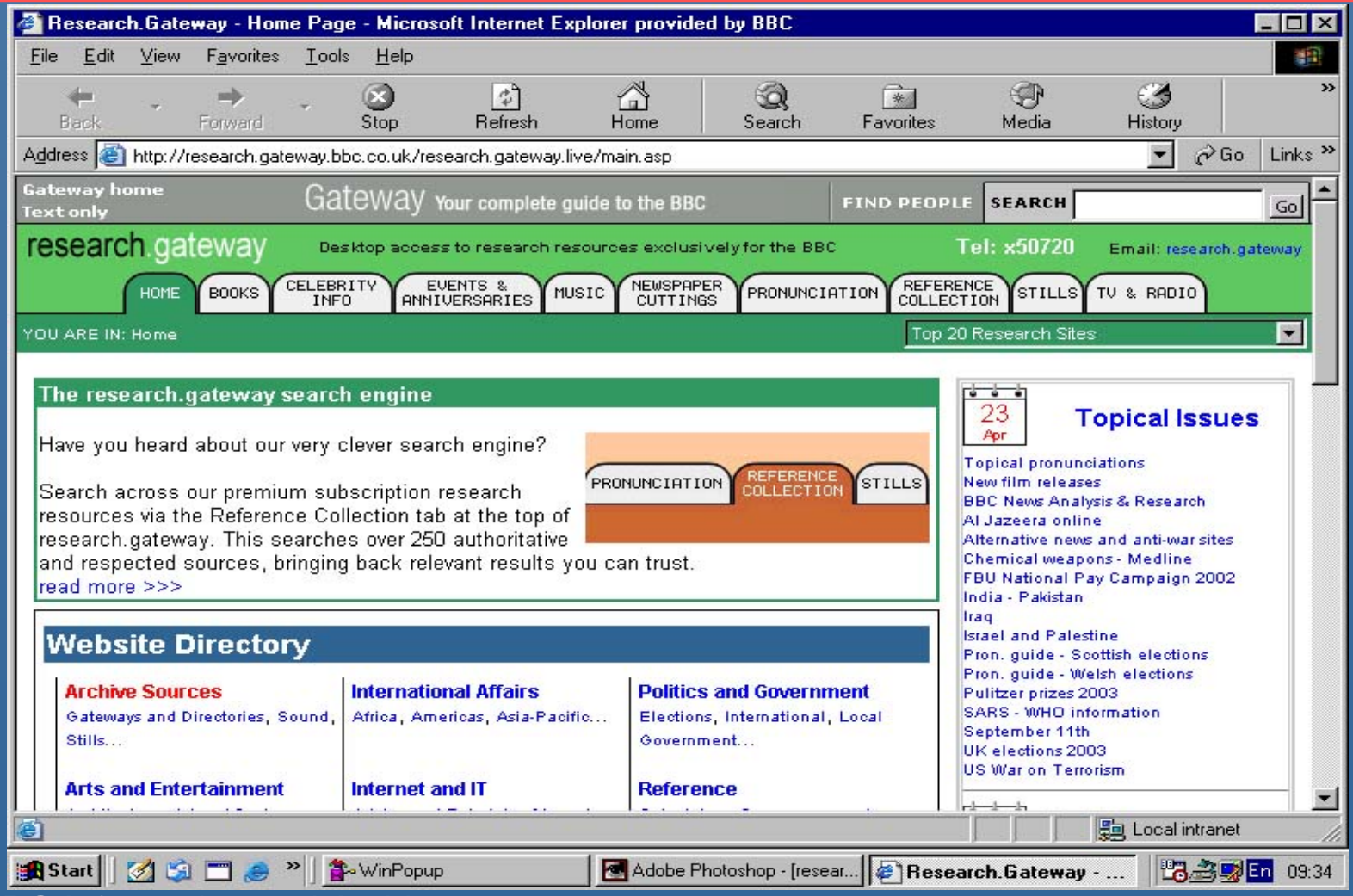
IND ACTY:OIL SEED RAPE:Cs oil seed rape held in hand (2.21-2.25) cs oil seed rape growing (2.33-2.38) (2.55-2.58) (26.07-26.11) las field of oil seed rape? (25.58-26.05) las along oil seed rape? (26.05-26.07) Cs oil seed rape (32.31-32.36) MAIZE:las gm maize growing pan r-l factory in bkgd (30.57-31.11) 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)

Indexing

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



Media Asset Management

- 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?

- 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

- 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

- 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

Joanne Evans
Senior Media Asset Specialist
BBC Information & Archives
E-mail: joanne.evans@bbc.co.uk