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Project DELFT Digitizing Ethnological Films - an Expedition from Analogue to Digital

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DELFT: The Film Collection Institut^{ML2}r Scientific Film IWF





- 11.500 film titles
- 33.000 film copies
- One of the world's largest collections of scientific films

ML2 Institute

Team TIB; 23/10/2018

DELFT: The Ethnological Films of the Encyclopaedia Cinematographica



- Founded in 1952 by Gotthard Wolf
- Natural Sciences, Technology, Life Science, Medicine, Cultural Studies, Psychology







DELFT: The Ethnological Films of the Encyclopaedia Cinematographica







DELFT: Film Stock





- 16mm Film copies (film base celluloseacetat, safetyfilm)
- black and white, colour
- silent films
- films with optical tracks
- SEPMAG, magnetic tape
- asynchronous audiotapes
- Digital Betacam
- additional material

DELFT: Project Goals



- Project Duration: October 2017-September 2019
- Digitization of ca. 2000 film titles, approx. 500 hours of film
- Cataloguing of the films
- Making the films available via TIB's AV-Portal
- Clarification of legal rights
- Digital Object Identifier DOI for each film
- Digital preservation

DELFT: Process



Step 1: Selection of the film copyStep 2: Choosing target formatStep 3: DigitizingStep 4: Quality controlStep 5: Digital preservation

Step 1: Film Copy Selection



Each digitizing project starts with the selection and description of the analogue object!



- Filminspector RTI Pulsar
- Selection of the film copy
- Recording data for each film:
 - Сору
 - Mechanical damage
 - Vinegar
 - Shrinkage
 - Colorfading

Step 2: Target Formats 16mm Film



Original Format:

16mm Films positive black/white or color

- Resolution: 2K
- Sampling rate 10 bit
- Color model and subsampling RGB 4:4:4
- Frame rate: comparable to the original (16/18/24FPS)
- Overscan

Target Format

- Container: Matroska (.mkv)
- VideoCodec: ffv1, Version 3 (GOP of 1, 16 Slices, CRC-Checksums per Slice)
- Audio-Codec: linear PCM 96 kHz / 24 bit

Derivative Copy

- Container: MPEG-4
- Video Codec: H.264, CRF 20
- Compression to 65%
- original scanning resolution without scaling
- 4:3 aspect ratio
- Audio Codec: AAC

Step 2: Target Formats Digital Betacam



Original format: Digital Betacam black/white or color

- Resolution: 720 x 576 Pixel
- Framerate comparable to the original
- Quantization/Bit: 10 bit
- Color Space: Y'CBCR
- Subsampling: 4:2:2
- Master Interlaced
- Derivative Progressive

Step 3: Digitizing

Scanner: MWA Nova Spinner S

- sprocketless and capstanless motion transport
- unlimited shrinkage, warped film
- large rollers for reduced stress on splices or brittle film
- stable filmtransport





Warped film in the scanner



Step 3: Digitizing







The scanner's diffuse light source reduces the effects of mechanical damage such as scratches etc.

Step 4: Quality Control



 \rightarrow 7 hours Film per Week \rightarrow 2TB SSD Harddrive

- Archival master ffv1/mkv
- Derivative copy H.264/mp4 and H.265/mp4
- Checksums framemd5
- Technical metadata
- 1. Correct name of the file
- 2. Content completeness: film title, film duration
- 3. Image quality (artifacts etc.)
- 4. Playability of the master
- 5. File format validation
- 6. Policy alignment
- 7. Checksum check

Step 5 Digital Preservation AV Material in the Digital Archive



Collection: Projectnumber xyz (x films)



DELFT Experiences: Quality ...an example: Digitizing 2007



- 1. Source material: 16mm but which copy?
- 2. Resolution: SD and HD but which film in which resolution?
- 3. Retouching, color correction no documentation!

 \rightarrow The digitization took place 20 years ago and we already have loss of information!

DELFT Experiences: Definition of quality



- 1. Sustainability in the choice of digitization parameters
- 2. Collecting of standardized metadata
- 3. Documentation of the source material
- 4. Preservation of the originals
- 5. Retaining the authenticity of the original material

DELFT Experiences: Retaining the authenticity of the original





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DELFT Experiences

Know your stuff !

The potential of a digital representation lies in the materiality of the analogue object; the technical possibilities help to transfer this potential.





DELFT Experiences





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MORE INFORMATION: www.tib.eu

TIB Digital Preservation: https://www.tib.eu/de/publizierenarchivieren/digitale-langzeitarchivierung/

Project DELFT:

https://projects.tib.eu/delft/

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TIB

