

May 14, 2009

MOD Committee Mtg

Dave, Kevin, Stan, Brian, ?, Richard, Jimmy, Paul, Paula, Mindy, Nancy, ?, Sarah, Juan, Cory, Helen

Media Accessibility Committee (handle FF&R funds, requests): Paul

Main mission is dealing with physical accessibility issues, but they are also overseeing “intellectual” accessibility; are looking at the U’s websites now. Videos hosted by Student Affairs were not captioned – that’s part of how this started. Project to see how accessible the U is online: Accessible U. New separate committee for online/web/media stuff. They came to Media Solutions and began discussing the requirement for not only captioning but descriptive video services too. Paul suggested that a couple of MOD Committee members and library representatives on their committee to advise them, keep them in the loop. The committee wants to create Best Practices, and how to fund them. There are many examples, laws, etc., that we could follow, but we need to figure out what the U wants to do (does it need to get to a policy level?). How do we get it out to people? See the MOD wiki for the accessibility resources page & links. Paul would like a few people to go – Stan is interested, Cory should maybe go.

Media transcoding: Dave

A future goal for a campus tool is to have a “Youtube in a Box” self-service option. It would allow the user to choose the end output, i.e., podcast, iTunesU feed, playable in VLC, etc. Commercial tools like this don’t include a transcoding piece. Our transcoding infrastructure would let us tie into existing tools and repositories around campus plus the self-service tool to distribute content. The idea would be to have a standards-based, agnostic, “can-play-on-anything” tool for mpeg.4, high quality H.264, iTunes, Flash and video codec encoding. Dave has been reviewing the commercial tools: Telestream, Rosette, Adobe. Rosette has been under evaluation for about 3 weeks now, and Health Sciences, Law, and TACC have also been involved. Everyone has liked it. The trial runs out in 2 weeks.

Product trials: Dave, Cory

- RealEyes – demo is tomorrow. You can attend from your desk (it’s web-based) or join Dave and Paul in the Media Solutions Conference Room in EBC.
- Ensemble Video – interested MOD Comm members can come to the meeting on Thursday May 21, 2009. Dave sent the invite to the list. You’ll get an account to try at that meeting. Test it out and then Dave will schedule a follow-up meeting with the vendor.
- Equella – UEN, TACC and OIT have arranged for a 12 month pilot to trial the product. We have 500 content provider licenses to try. If you know of someone who would like one, let Cory know. Equella is integrated with Blackboard, Moodle, so faculty can log in and click “Contribute” and upload content. Equella lets the contributor control the output format, the distribution point, the permissions, the time to be accessible, etc. Access would be through UOnline/Blackboard/Moodle, but there would also be a direct way to get to the Equella website.

The access control is impressive: IPs, ACLs, authentication, meta-data, time range, pretty much anything you can think of.

This pilot is to see if faculty will “get” it, and if the federated model will work for us. Questions from the committee included whether or not the public repository is searchable by web crawlers and harvesting or federating to under-utilized library databases (Sarah). There would be several licensing options down the road if we end up going with this, but there are a number of USHE institutions interested in Equella right now, so the timing is good.