Podcasting with Audacity

Coffee & Code, March 21, 2019

Link to the slides:

https://github.com/BCDigSchol/coffee-code

What makes a recording a podcast?

-Episodic

-Downloadable

-Has a niche

Podcast styles

-Interview

-Solo

-Panel

-Conversational/co-hosted

-Narrative

-Hybrid

Script writing

-Listen to podcasts you like, and take note of the structure of the session.

-Consider your podcast style. An interview can't be scripted, so craft questions carefully. A narrative podcast will need to have a script for storytelling- have a beginning, middle and end. A solo podcast script will need to be well thought out, so that your message is clear and not rambling.

-Even if you have a very conversational, unscripted style, a basic outline can help time your podcast, and prevent your speakers from talking over each other and becoming hard to hear.

Recording- Setting yourself up for success

-Record in a quiet place with no background noise and few interruptions.

-Calibrate your recording device. Whether it is an external microphone or the one that is built into your laptop, make some test recordings to find a good distance between the device and the speaker.

-If you are using your phone to record, check what file type you are making. The standard voice memo app on an iPhone produces an obscure file type that will need to be converted before you can work with it- you might want to look for another app that will use a more standard file type such as .mp3.

Why Audacity?

-It's Open Source, and the documentation is awesome.

-It's available for both Mac and PC.

-It's a powerful tool, yet pretty simple to use.

Cons:

-It requires some configuration to work to its best ability. External libraries may need to be downloaded in order to use the full functionality. Audacity will prompt you if you need to take this step, and will link you to the documentation on their wiki.

Hosting

-In order to share your podcast, it will need to be hosted somewhere on the web, similarly to how you need to have a host for a personal website.

There are many sites that offer audio hosting specifically. We are going to use SoundCloud. The hosting for SoundCloud gives users 3 hours of uploads per month.

Sound Clips

If you are using sound effects or clips in your project that have been recorded by other people, it is important to make sure you are not violating their copyright. Here are some sites where you can find music and sounds that are Creative Commons licensed, and free to use.

-Free Music Archive

-Wikimedia Commons

Release forms

If you are using a voice other than your own in your podcast, you should use a release form to gain explicit permission from the speaker to use their recording in your podcast.

There are many templates for these forms to be found online that you can use as a guide.

If you are an educator who needs release forms for your students to submit podcasts as a class project, the Digital Scholarship group can help you put together a form.

BC Podcasts to check out:

-Art in Focus (McMullen Museum)

-Encore (School of Theology and Ministry)

-BC Athletics Podcast