



ENGL 4400: Opening the Archive

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Introduction to Podcasting with Audacity

Key Terms

- **Track:** a single audio channel or stream.
- **Multi-track:** an audio recording or channel with more than one track or recording of sound. Another term for this is “multimedia.”
- **Clipping:** splitting audio into separate sections or making “clips.”
- **Waveform:** the curve within a track showing the volume and duration of individual sounds.
- **Mixing:** the process of audio production, or mixing tracks of recordings, music, and other desired media.
- **MP3 File:** the most general audio file format. Others include .wav, .mp4, etc.

Audacity

Audacity is a free, easy-to-use, multi-track audio editor and one of the more popular free audio editors used for creating podcasts. It can be used with Windows, Mac, Linux, and most other operating systems.

Audacity 101

- Click on the red button to record your track!
- To edit out sections of your recording, just select the part of your track you want to remove, then hit “delete” on your keyboard.
- You can split tracks by selecting the point in the clip you wish to divide, then go to Edit > Clip Boundaries > Split.
- You can move tracks by dragging and dropping them with your mouse.
- Save your project by going to File > Save Project > Save Project (or Save Project As, if you are just creating your podcast project).
- Finished? Export your project before sharing your recording! Go to File > Export > Export as an MP3.

Helpful Videos and Sources:

Audacity for Beginners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjhllsLH32I>

Audacity for Podcasting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl-WDjWrTtk>



Tips for Getting Started on your Podcasts

- Figure out who your ideal audience is and listen to other podcasts that appeal to a similar audience. What techniques do they use?
- Develop a detailed script first and indicate when specific types of audio and media should be included.
 - For example, make a note when will you use snippets from news media or sound bites
- Involve multiple voices and media types. One person talking without interacting with another person or media is probably not interesting.
- You want your podcasting to sound like a discussion or dialogue, rather than reading off a script.

Tips for Audio Recording

- Start recording way in **advance** and do several **takes**
 - The original recorded audio is often much longer than the actual podcast episode.
 - Do not record everything at once! Break your script into segments that you can record several takes individually.
 - **Editing often takes much longer than the actual recording!**
- Find a quiet space to do any audio recording
- Use headphones or microphones to capture your audio
- Reserve space at the Digital Media Commons in Snell Library for professional studios and equipment!

Fair Use, Copyright, and Public Domain Resources

Here are some resources for finding creative commons and public domain media. Don't forget to provide credit!

- Free Music Archive: <https://freemusicarchive.org/>
- BBC Sound Effects: <https://sound-effects.bbcrewind.co.uk>
- Internet Archive Audio library: <https://archive.org/details/audio>
- Partners in Rhyme: <https://www.partnersinrhyme.com/pir/PIRsfx.shtml>
- The Public Domain Review: <https://publicdomainreview.org/collections/>
- Musopen: <https://musopen.org/>
- CC Mixer: <http://ccmixter.org/>
- Creative Commons Search: <https://search.creativecommons.org/>
- Free sound effects : <https://freesound.org/browse/>

Digital Teaching Integration Initiative
Office Hours: <https://calendly.com/diti-nu>



Northeastern University
NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks

For more information:

- Copyright and Primary Sources: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>
- Fair use guidelines: https://www.lib.purdue.edu/uco/CopyrightBasics/fair_use.html