Uncovering CUNY TV's Audiovisual Heritage
November 2020 Report
Kelly Haydon (kelly.haydon@tv.cuny.edu)
Project Dashboard: https://github.com/cunytv/uncoveringcunytv

Note: This report may reference previous reports, all of which can be accessed by following this link (https://github.com/cunytv/UncoveringCUNYTV/tree/main/MonthlyReports) or by contacting library@tv.cuny.edu with an access request.

Overall Progress

- CUNY TV was awarded an additional $7,500 by CLIR for COVID-19 emergency funding.
- Digitization slowed due to several factors (holidays, etc).
- A 9-part program, 'The Linsday Years' has been flagged for caption correction and upload to Youtube, CUNY TV, and Internet Archive.
- Metadata, captioning, and LTO-writing pose challenges.

Digitization

- Onsite digitization did not meet the target due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the AMIA conference, and the first week unapproved for onsite visitation by GC security.
- Forty-seven tapes were digitized this month from the Baruch collections, bringing a total of 192 videos transferred.
- Highlights from these digitized collections include panel discussions with pre-scandal Anthony Wiener, pre-Trump Kellyanne Conway, and pre-vegan Cory Booker.
- It was determined that about 40 LTO tapes will be needed to preserve the deliverables of the project.
- We began digitizing U-matic tapes from Baruch College, which requires more prep and quality assurance. These programs were not aired on CUNY TV and are new entries in the CUNY TV library database.

Captions

- Discussion regarding captioning continues to progress as previous unknowns are revealed.
- Descript, the software CUNY TV uses to caption all programs, has a limit to how many hours it can digitize per month. CUNY TV's membership to Descript was raised from 10 hours to 30 hours per month. This still may not be enough to adequately auto-caption all videos for the CLIR project. A goal in December is to experiment with bulk captioning through Youtube via API.

- Kelly will attend CUNY's Accessibility Conference, April 6th-9th, 2021.

Access

- Saul Spicer and Eduardo Lopez from the Digital Media team at CUNY TV met with the CUNY TV library staff on workflows for access. Given the university's commitment to meeting CUNY's requirement for clear and correct captioning, not achievable through auto-caption alone, we will only submit a selection to be uploaded to the CUNY TV website per month. The first program to be made accessible is a 9-part series on Mayor Lindsay in anticipation of the upcoming NYC mayoral race. MP4s and Captions will be delivered to the digital media team via Dropbox.
- Metadata for the website will be updated in the project's airtable and re-loaded into the library's Filemaker database at the end of the project. General guidelines are to sufficiently list the subjects discussed and avoid marketing-type language (good example). These metadata fields include:
    - Series Title
    - Episode Title
    - Episode Description
    - Contributors
    - Person ID of Contributors
    - Media ID

Outreach
- No new updates at this time. Outreach likely will not begin until January or March 2021. Just in time for the upcoming mayoral race in NYC, we will be looking to Baruch College Specials for mayoral topics of the past to post on social media.

Funding
- In October, we requested $7500 for an additional 5.5 weeks of employment for the project coordinator (Kelly Haydon). This brings the projected end date of the project from the end of February 2022 until mid-April of that same year. The narrative and budget of the request can be found in the CUNY dashboard: https://github.com/cunytv/UncoveringCUNYTV/blob/main/Appendices/2020_CUNYTV_ERF_Narrative.pdf.

Roadblocks
- Issues with writing to LTO. Nearly 6TB of data has been digitized, but there are some traffic issues with writing to LTO tape. The library has two machines to work with, and they are constantly in use.
- Issues with Descript's "shorten word gap" feature triggered a re-caption of nearly all digitized files to-date.