

## Freely Flowing: Openly Accessible Sources for Streaming Video

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# Freely Flowing: Openly Accessible Sources for Streaming Video

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## Openly Accessible Sources for Streaming Video

Changing methods of instructional delivery, especially course management systems and online instruction, are changing the way that video content is used and delivered in the academy. Increasingly, faculty and students are expecting that video materials be available in streaming format. While only one third of all academic libraries provide streaming video services (Primary Research Group, 2010), faculty anticipate using more video and cannot find quality/appropriate material for their instruction. In seeking the content they need, faculty are bypassing the library, using what they can find, where they can find it, (Kaufman and Mohan, 2009) with YouTube often the destination of choice.

There is considerable disagreement within the academic and library spheres as to what can be done to make streaming content available. Some argue that digitizing and streaming requires permission/licensing and payment for streaming rights; others argue that digitizing and streaming fall within Fair Use. Regardless of the opposing viewpoints, the process of providing streaming content is expensive, labor intensive, and time consuming. But providing access to streaming video content needn't always require prolonged licensing negotiations, expenditure of precious materials budgets, or large investment of personnel time and effort to digitize, upload, and maintain content.

There are many websites that deliver quality videos appropriate for use in instruction. Thousands of videos are readily available on open access sites. Many sites provide long-form videos (more than 15 minutes) and the content is available legally. But users (and librarians) are most likely not aware of these sites.

Libraries and media centers can provide access to the videos available on these sites with minimal effort. Providing links to the sites, descriptions of

their content, and promoting them to faculty and students can help address the growing demand for streaming video with a minimal investment in time and effort, and no investment in collection/acquisition funds.

While not an exhaustive list, this document identifies a wide variety of websites that provide legal access to streaming video. These sites may host content or merely point to content hosted elsewhere. Advertising supports some of them. Others are the official site for a producer, distributor, series, or festival. Searching functions as well as the quality of the material on these sites vary widely. Most importantly, content on these sites can change or be removed without notice.

This document presents a small selection of sites organized around broad general themes or focus. Information on the sites includes notes on scope of the content, organization, and other limitations. The author's LibGuide ([libguides.asu.edu/streamingvideo](http://libguides.asu.edu/streamingvideo)) at Arizona State University Libraries provides live links to all the resources identified in this document as well as many others.

For even more sites, visit Scott Spicer's *Digital Video Collections Guide* for the American Library Association Video Round Table at <http://connect.ala.org/node/183711>.

## PBS and PBS Program Sites

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) provides both general and series specific access to much of the content aired on PBS stations.

*PBS Video*

<http://video.pbs.org/>

This entry site for all of PBS provides access to selected programs from selected series (such as Nature, American Experience, Nova, and Frontline, among others). The "carousel" interface provides direct links into a "stack" of programs

within series. Users can browse by Programs, Topics, or Collections. Individual programs are subdivided into smaller segments. Many of the series maintain independent websites with more content and added features. The search interface on this site searches across the entire PBS sphere.

### *American Experience*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/?film-online>

View complete episodes of selected films from the acclaimed PBS documentary series. It also provides short previews (about 30 seconds) and links to other resources. The search interface here searches only "American Experience."

### *Frontline*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>

Frontline contains complete episodes of nearly 150 documentary films from the acclaimed PBS public affairs series.

### *Nova*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/>

Nova provides access to selected programs and segments from the acclaimed PBS science series as well as slide shows, articles, interactive tools, interviews, quizzes, and multimedia. Available content is organized by broad subject categories: Ancient Worlds, Body and Brain, Evolution, Military and Espionage, Nature, Physics and Math, Planet Earth, Space and Flight, and Tech and Engineering.

### *POV Video*

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/>

POV Video provides a selection of full-length films, short films, short animations, and lesson plan based clips from the acclaimed PBS documentary film series, POV.

## **Ethnography Sites**

### *Folkstreams*

<http://www.folkstreams.net/>

Folkstreams provides streaming access to a large collection of documentary films about American folk, roots, or cultures, including some well-known classic films. It includes essays about the traditions and filmmakers, transcriptions, study and teaching guides, suggested readings, and links to related websites.

Folkstreams provides simple keyword and advanced searching, as well as the ability to browse by subjects, regions, titles, filmmakers, and other categories. Video displays include links to additional, related films.

### *American Indian Film Gallery*

<http://www.jfredmacdonald.com/aifg/>

The site provides vintage motion pictures offering rich perspectives on the American Indian experience. The site organizes titles by tribes, linking to films for more than 100 tribes. A very brief line of text describes each film. Apart from what displays in the film itself, no additional information (publication date, running time, etc.) is provided.

These archival films are not perfect. Some were educational shorts used in American schools from the 1930s to the 1970s. Several have abbreviated titles or missing endings. Some are spliced or scratched; others have faded color. These films are windows into the human past, stunning documents with much to tell us about our New World story.

### *EVIADigital Archive Project—Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis*

<http://www.eviada.org/>

This site is a collaborative endeavor to create a digital archive of ethnographic field video for use by scholars and instructors. Funded since 2001 by

the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with significant contributions from Indiana University and the University of Michigan, the Project has been developed through the joint efforts of ethnographic scholars, archivists, librarians, technologists, and legal experts.

Beyond the primary mission of digitally preserving ethnographic field video, the EVIA Project has also invested significantly in the creation of software and systems for the annotation, discovery, playback, peer review, and scholarly publication of video and accompanying descriptions.

Viewing videos requires registering for an account and agreeing to the end-user license agreement.

### **Contemporary Social Issues and News**

The Internet is rich with sites that provide access to videos that provide context for contemporary issues.

#### *Media that Matters Film Festival*

<http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/films>

This annual collection showcases 12 short films on important topics of the day. Ten plus years of films are available on the site, organized alphabetically by title and by year. A simple search interface facilitates finding films by keyword. Films are also available for purchase.

Films may also be browsed by 1 of 15 issues: Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Environment, Family and Society, Gay/Lesbian, Gender/Women, Health/Health Advocacy, Human Rights, Immigration, International, Media, Politics/Government, Racial Justice, Religious Freedom, and Youth.

#### *Snag Films*

<http://www.snagfilms.com/films>

This site provides access to full-length documentary films from established distributors and first-time filmmakers. The Snag Films library includes more than 3,000 films and presents the most comprehensive multidisciplinary collection of freely accessible film content. Filmmakers and

distributors submit titles to SnagFilms for curatorial review. Videos stream in Flash. Brief ads interrupt the video stream about every 15 minutes.

The site organizes titles by broad Topics (such as Arts, Environment, Health, History, Women's Issues, etc.) and by Channels (including well-established film companies such as Alive Mind, Icarus, Fanlight, PBS, and National Geographic).

The SnagFilms website encourages donating to causes by linking each film to a specific charity. Brief commercials precede and are interspersed through the video playback.

#### *TVNews*

<http://archive.org/details/tv>

This portion of the Internet Archive collects and preserves television news. The collection contains more than 350,000 news programs collected over 3 years from national networks and stations in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The archive is updated with new broadcasts 24 hours after they air. Older materials are also being added. Use the index of searchable text and short, streamed clips to find programs to borrow on DVD-ROM or view at the Internet Archive's library in San Francisco. Fees apply for borrowing.

#### *Newslook*

<http://www.newslook.com/>

Newslook provides access to visual news stories organized under that categories US, World, Arts, Finances, Celebrity, Science, Green, Sports, and Technology, and Seriously?

#### *C-SPAN Video Library*

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/>

This site contains all C-SPAN programs since 1987, indexed, abstracted, and cataloged by the C-SPAN Archives staff.

The site indexes programs by subject, speaker names, titles, affiliations, sponsors, committees, categories, formats, policy groups, keywords, and location. The congressional sessions and

committee hearings are indexed by person with full text.

#### *Scripps Library and Multimedia Archive*

<http://millercenter.org/scripps>

From the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, the Scripps archive provides a unique collection of material on US public policy.

The Library's collection includes streaming video of State of the Union addresses from Kennedy to Obama. The multimedia archive also includes more than 2,500 hours of secret White House recordings, hundreds of presidential oral history interviews, audio and video recordings of Miller Center Forums, and documents related to the executive branch of American government.

### **Science and Technology**

#### *ARKive*

<http://www.arkive.org/>

This site presents a collection of vivid wildlife films and still photographs, with more than 3,500 of the world's leading filmmakers and photographers actively contributing to the project. Also included are teaching resources organized by age, games, and other activities.

The site permits searching across Species Groups, Eco Regions, Geography, and Conservation status.

#### *HealthLibrary Online*

<http://healthlibrary.stanford.edu/videolibrary/index.html>

The Stanford Health Library provides a collection of online videos covering various health topics, including health and society, cancer support, and women's health. Videos may be viewable online through Stanford University iUniversity (iTunes interface) or QuickTime, or available for purchase on DVD. Not all videos are available for online viewing.

#### *TED: Technology, Entertainment, Design*

<http://www.ted.com/>

This site makes available the best talks and performances from the TED conferences and partners. More than 500 TEDTalks are now available, with more added each week. All of the talks feature closed captions in English, and many feature subtitles in various languages. Videos are released under a Creative Commons license, so they can be freely shared and reposted.

Talks are organized under broad subject categories: technology, entertainment, design, business, science, and global issues.

### **Film and Television**

#### *Movieclips*

<http://movieclips.com/>

This site provides more than 12,000 short clips from feature films licensed from Fox, MGM, Paramount, Sony, Universal, and Warner Bros. The Movieclips player can be embedded in social networks as Facebook and MySpace, and shared on blogs, Twitter, and other personal websites, and used in PowerPoint presentations.

In addition to searching by title or actor, the site provides additional search capabilities for dialogue, genre, action, occasion, theme, and mood and categories including best kiss, tearjerkers, birthdays, holidays, awkward moments, action moments, bad guys, and fight scenes.

Reuse of the clips requires registering with the site.

#### *Archive of American Television*

<http://www.emmytvlegends.org/>

Hosted by the TV Academy Foundation, this archive provides access to hundreds of in-depth video interviews with TV's greatest legends and pioneers. These television history interviews can be browsed by person, show, topic, or profession. New interviews and indexes are added regularly.

### *American Cinema*

<http://learner.org/resources/series67.html>

Part of the Annenberg Media collection (see below) American Cinema is a thirteen-part series covering multiple aspects of American Film, including the studio system, the Western, Film Noir, direction, and the "Star."

### **Education and Learning**

#### *Annenberg Media*

<http://learner.org/resources/browse.html>

Part of the Annenberg Foundation, Annenberg Media uses media and telecommunications to advance excellent teaching in American schools. The Learner.org web site provides access to many of the exceptional educational video programs developed with grant money as telecourses, including series on algebra, art, chemistry, economics, film, history, poetry, and foreign languages, among others.

Not all series listed on the site are available for streaming. A graphic marks programs available for online viewing.

#### *HippoCampus*

<http://www.hippocampus.org/>

A project of the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE), HippoCampus provides high-quality, multimedia content on general

education subjects to high school and college students.

Content is organized by broad disciplines: algebra, American government, biology, calculus, environmental science, physics, psychology, religion, statistics, and US history.

The site was designed as part of Open Education Resources (OER), a worldwide effort to improve access to quality education. Colleges and universities develop the content and contribute it to the National Repository of Online Courses (NROC), another MITE project. Both HippoCampus and NROC are supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

#### *Learners TV*

<http://www.learnerstv.com/>

This is a comprehensive site providing thousands of streaming and downloadable video lectures, live online tests, and other materials in the fields of biology, chemistry, computer science, dentistry, engineering, history, language training, law, literature, management and accounting, mathematics, medicine, nursing, physics, and psychology.

The site provides free video and audio lectures of whole courses conducted by university faculty from around the world. Most of the materials offered are licensed by the respective institutes under a Creative Commons License.

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