Issues in video scholarship: Using the annotator’s workbench to create peer-reviewed collections

by

Clara Henderson & William Cowan

Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities – Indiana University

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The Annotator’s Workbench is a software tool for the segmentation and annotation of digital video developed by the Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis Digital Archive Project. The forty-eight collections in the EVIADA Project (www.eviada.org) are in various stages of completion. Seven have been published online and are accessible to IU faculty and students. They represent 1,270 hours of video and a diverse range of performance traditions from around the world collected via ethnographic fieldwork. Annotating involves creating a glossary, citations, transcriptions, and bibliography, as well as writing in-depth descriptions of each video segment. For this presentation, William Cowan and Clara Henderson describe how the AWB was developed to meet the preservation, access, and analysis needs of ethnomusicologists and demonstrate the capabilities of the software and its potential uses in various areas of scholarship beyond ethnography.

Clara E. Henderson is Associate Director for Projects at IU's Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities and Associate Director of the Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis Digital Archive Project. She holds a Ph.D. in Folklore and Ethnomusicology and her research interests include the music and dance of Africa and the African Diaspora, religious expression, visual media, and technology. William G. Cowan is the Manager of Software Development at IU’s Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities, working with IUB arts and humanities faculty on the development of digital projects. Prior to this he managed software development for the Ethnographic Video for Instruction and Analysis Digital Archive Project, designing and implementing the Annotator’s Workbench, a tool for the segmentation and annotation of digital video.

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