CCL-EAR COMMITTEE REVIEW
FILMS ON DEMAND, INTELECOM, AND ALEXANDER STREET (VAST)
VIDEO COMPARISON
2013

In Spring, 2013 selected members of the Council of Chief Librarians, Electronic Access to Resources Committee (CCL-EAR) undertook a comparative study of three streaming video databases:

- Films on Demand
- Intelecom
- VAST (Alexander Street)

The review focused on quality and quantity of videos, cost, subject coverage, search options, closed captioning, and customer service as well options for customization, embedding for content management systems and mobile options.

The chart below summarizes our findings on our major review criteria. A short summary and analysis of each database will follow.

CRITERA	FILMS ON DEMAND	INTELECOM	VAST (ALEXANDER STREET)
Number of Videos	8,000	4,000+	20,000
Subject Coverage and Partners	27 Subjects Producers: BBC, Bill Moyers Collection, Films for the Humanities and Sciences, Frontline, Ken Burns, PBS News Hour, etc.	35 Subjects Producers: Primarily Intelecom but also partnerships with Insight Media, National Geographic, National Science Foundation, BioMedia Associates	21 Subjects: Producers: PBS, BBC, A&E, California News Reel, CBS, Insight Media, Psychtherapy.net, etc
Search Interface	Good Search Options • Keyword Segments • Keyword Title • Advanced Search A strength of the database is in its browsing feature.	Fair Search Options: • Keyword • Academic Discipline • Course • Topic • Advanced	Excellent Search Options: • Search Disciplines • Browse Disciplines • Browse, Advanced Search • Basic Keyword Search results can be sorted by relevancy, title, or date. Results can be filtered by: Video Type, Discipline, Topic, Place Discussed, Person Discussed, Organization Discussed, Author / Creator, Language, Year Released
Currency	Some videos dated but database is continually updated with new videos	Some videos dated but database is continually updated with new videos	Some videos dated but continually updated with new videos

CRITERA	FILMS ON DEMAND	INTELECOM	VAST (ALEXANDER STREET)
Closed Captioning	Available but not default. Captioning must be turned on for each video. Most videos are captioned. The CCL collection was close to 100%.	100% Closed Captioned	Minimal closed captioned videos. Many videos contain keyword-transcripts, which run alongside the video when not being viewed as full screen.
Cost	Based on FTES	Based on FTES. *Nursing Collection is an Additional Charge*	Based on FTEs and budget.
Customizations	Yes. Option to share and create customized video clips, and playlists.	Yes. Option to share and create customized video clips, and playlists.	Yes. Option to share and create customized video clips, and playlists.
Mobile Options	Yes. Mobile Access and viewing options.	Yes. Mobile Access and viewing options.	Yes. Mobile Access and viewing options.
Citation Options	Yes. MLA & Chicago APA is not available	Yes. MLA, APA and Chicago	No. No citation converter. Individual videos have bibliographic information but it is hidden in the drop down menu under "see more details".
Embedding Options	Embedding available for content management systems within authentication range. Videos cannot be viewed without patron authentication.	Persistent URLs and compatible with content management systems. Videos cannot be viewed without patron authentication.	*Many* videos have embedded code options for content management systems within authentication range. Videos cannot be viewed without patron authentication.
MARC Records	Yes, Unicode format (need converter to change to MARC8)	Yes, AACR2	Yes, UTF8 and M8
Customer Service	Help Link, Documentation, FAQ's. Flash Tutorials, Configuration Test, Technical Support and Quick Start Guides.	Video Tutorials, FAQ's and Downloadable User Guides	Help link on main navigation to FAQs and contact email and phone number.

Films on Demand

Films on Demand is a streaming video collection that contains unlimited, 24/7 access to more than 8,000 videos broken into 90,000 segments. Originally this collection was compiled specifically for California Community Colleges and almost all of the films were closed-captioned (99%). (See review for 2012. http://www.cclibraries.org/reviews/2012/02/films-on-demand-2/) Now, *Films on Demand* only offers the closed captioned collection to previous subscribers. Everything is now closed-captioned and the collection has been broken up for any new orders. Videos can be purchased by individual title (not through CCL) or subject collection.

These videos cover topics in Humanities & Social Sciences, Business & Economics, Science & Mathematics, Health & Medicine, Technical Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Careers and Job Search and Guidance and Counseling. The videos are reasonably up to date. The database also includes archival film and newsreels. Special collections represented in the collection are BBC, Bill Moyers Collection, Films for the Humanities and Sciences, Frontline, Ken Burns, PBS News Hour, etc.

Video links can be emailed. There is a citation feature that shows MLA and Chicago Manual of Style.

The video content can be embedded into any course management system, such as Blackboard, and can be used by faculty and students anytime, anywhere. Embedded videos will play anywhere within your authentication range. Outside of this range, a username and password are required to watch the videos. There are mobile options for iPad and Android.

The resolution quality of the videos is good and the closed captioning displays in the window or full-screen mode.
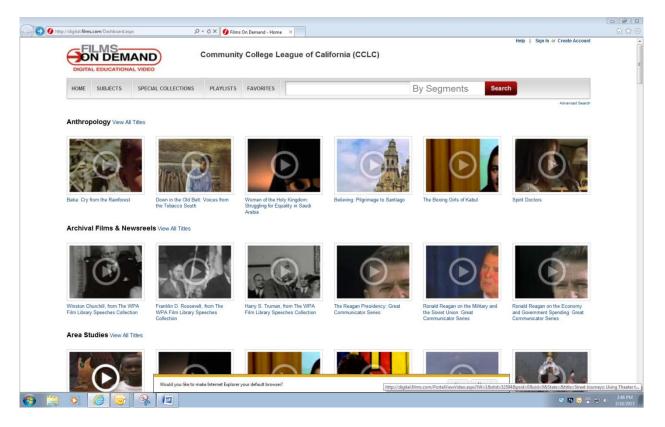
The search interface is quite clear and direct. It allows for searching videos and video segments. There is an advanced search page.
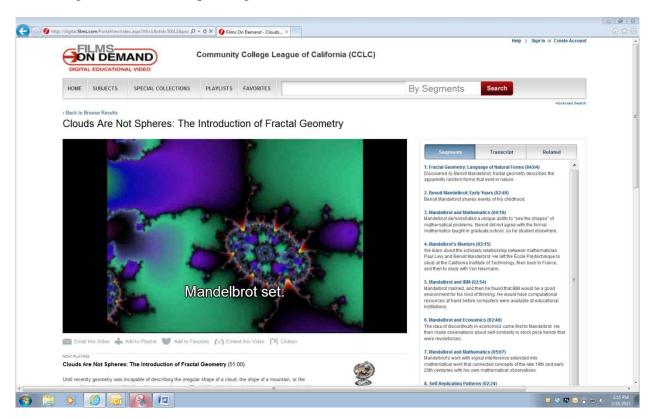
Summary Review

The content of *Films on Demand* is broad and is relevant for community college use. A very useful feature of the database is the 90,000 clips that can be searched and embedded into courseware. The videos are closed-captioned and the user support services are above average. A number of popular educational video producers are represented in the product and identified under the database's "Special Collection" tab, including BC, Bill Moyers Collection, Films for the Humanities & Sciences, Front Line, Ken Burns, Nightline, NBC News, and PBS News Hour. The search is attractive and easy to navigate. It is especially conducive to browsing. *Films on Demand* has recently changed its collection/pricing format. The original closed-captioned collection for community colleges is now offered only to previous subscribers. New purchases may be made for individual titles or individual subject collections.

Images of Films on Demand Database

Landing Page

Video Page (with Closed Captioning)

Link to CCL-EAR full Films on Demand review:
http://www.cclibraries.org/reviews/Documents/FOD%20Review%202012.pdf

Intelecom

INTELECOM Online Resources Network is a streaming video collection that provides unlimited 24/7 access to more than 4,000 closed captioned video clips covering topics in Adult Education, Business, Oceanography, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, Health and Environmental Sciences.

The video content can be embedded into course management systems such as Blackboard and can be accessed by faculty and students easily online. Mobile options are available for both Flash enabled and Apple iOS devices.
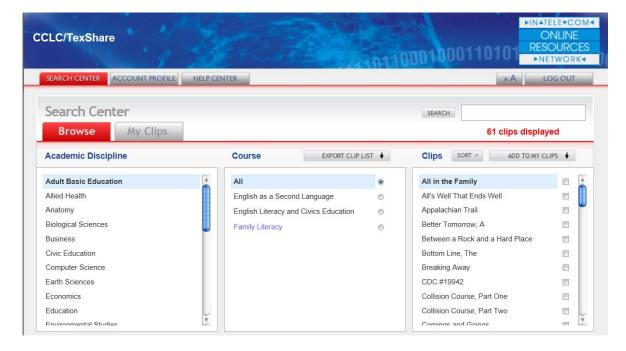
INTELECOM began in Southern California in the 1960's and was created by colleges to develop videos to support college credit television courses. The videos were produced in-house using local content experts. The majority of the content in this database is produced and licensed by *INTELECOM*. The database does not include streaming videos from popular education collections like Films for the Humanities & Sciences, Dateline, PBS or BBC. However the database does contain a limited number of videos from a few partners including: National Geographic, National Science Foundation and BioMedia Associates. The *INTELECOM* produced videos are short independent video clips designed and developed for faculty as learning objects used to support specific curriculum.
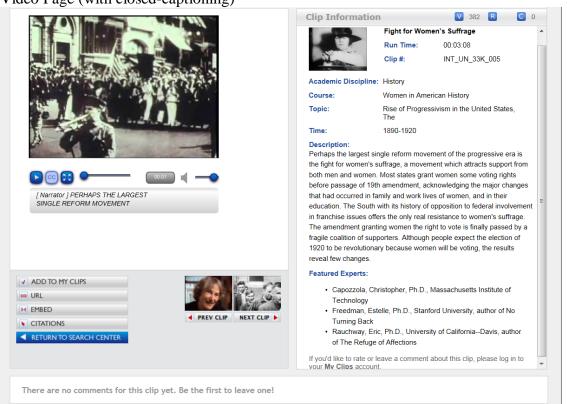
Summary Review

Intelecom has several of the same great features as *Films on Demand* and *VAST* including embedding and mobile options but their content is not as broad or as commercial as the other two databases. Although they have recently expanded their partnerships with other producers, their strength still remains in their in-house produced video clips. Their videos are designed to support specific curriculum. It would be important when reviewing this database for purchase to review the video content for the institution's need. This is a database that would be primarily used by faculty as a supplement to instruction. Even the primary search options categorize videos into specific disciplines and courses. Faculty members, students and librarians may be frustrated by this restrictive search and the rudimentary keyword search. Cost of the database is reasonable at the 1 year and 3 year options although the Nursing database is more costly and an extra added subscription to the main database. All video content in the database is closed-captioned.

Images of Intelecom Database

Landing Page

Video Page (with closed-captioning)

Link to CCL-EAR full Intelecom review:

http://www.cclibraries.org/reviews/Documents/ccear_review_intelecom_9_2012.pdf

Link to the Choice Review http://www.intelecomonline.net/pdf/CHOICE_review_IORN.pdf

VAST (Alexander Street Press)

VAST, Academic Video Online is Alexander Street's largest subscription streaming video collection. Launched in 2011, VAST's collection includes academic videos from more than 20 academic disciplines. Included in the subscription are about 20,000 videos. VAST's video content derives from well known producers and distributors including PBS, BBC, A&E, California News Reel, CBS, Insight Media, Psychtherapy.net.

Few videos are closed captioned, although many of the videos contain keyword-transcripts which run alongside the videos. Other features of the *VAST* database include: options to create and share customized video clips, synchronized transcripts, embedding codes for content management systems and mobile access and viewing options.

All videos are web based and can be accessed by any Internet browser, no special software is required.

Summary Review

VAST has more videos than *Films on Demand* and *Intelecom* but instructors might find the quality of these videos to be lacking in terms of video quality. This database would be used primarily by faculty and it would be important when considering this database to review video content for institution's need. There is a lack of closed captioned materials in *VAST* but there is the ability to see side by side keyword-transcripts when the video is not in the full screen mode. The search interface offers multiple ways to find videos and video clips in *VAST*. Faculty can create playlists and clips to be deployed on a content management system or through mobile options. *VAST* has no citation converter. *VAST* reported making changes dealing with citations and closed captioning in spring 2013 but at the time of the review no changes had been made.

Images of VAST (Alexander Street Press)

Landing Page

Video Page (with Transcript)

2:11   -1:28:06

Make clips   Transcript | Clips   ☑ Sync

directed by

Greta Schiller

Juliet Stevenson The city of Paris has often been portrayed as a seductive woman, was mistress amused to generations of male poets and artists, but not all those drawn to the city of light have been men . At the dawn of the 20th century, created women flocked to the left bank responding not only to the beauty of Paris but even more to its promise of freedom. They created a community, which made it possible for them to follow their passions in to their life filled with art and literature neither mistress were amused. Paris became a heaven for a new kind of women. [music]

PARIS WAS A WOMAN

Professor Shari Benstock is the Author. "Women of the Left Bank"

Shari Benstock It's curious the question of Paris , first of all many of these women were leaving home situations in which if they were going to be an artist or a writer, they were going to have find some way to juggle this against marriage, motherhood and the classic pattern of women's lives. And that they didn't want to do this. They wanted to be professional first and they wanted to live independent lives. Once these women arrived in Paris , especially those women who crossed over in to the French of vanguard culture that was there. They discovered richness in Paris that they had never anticipated would be there before. [music]

GERTRUDE STEIN AND MISS ALICE B. TOKLAS

27, RUE DE FLEURUS

Juliet Stevenson Gertrude Stein came to Paris in 1903 to join her brothers Leo and Michael . As this Stein family built up the world's first collection of modern art, Gertrude began to write in earnest .

02:11/1:30:17

Paris was a Woman
Video Publisher: Zeitgeist
Published: 1996
Copyright Message: © Copyright © 1995 by Jezebel Productions and Cicada Films

Link to CCL-EAR full VAST (Alexander Street Press) review:

http://www.cclibraries.org/reviews/Documents/VASTREVIEW3-2013.pdf