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CINE-GT 1803: Access to Moving Image Collections

Assignment #2: Presentation of Information

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Presentation of Information Comparison:

National Film and Sound Archive Australia, Museum of the Moving Image

Presentation of information is a principle component of access which has three types: physical, virtual, and intellectual. The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate two institutions' presentation of information regarding all three aspects of access. The National Film and Sound Archive Australia and the Museum of the Moving Image are my selection. I intend to evaluate the online presentation of National Film and Sound Archive Australia, as well as the information presentation offered online and on-site presentation at Museum of the Moving Image.

National Film and Sound Archive Australia (NFSA)

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia is the national audiovisual archive where is located in Canberra, Australia. It is responsible for developing, preserving, maintaining, supporting, promoting, and providing access to a national collection of programs and related material, including Australian film, sound, and new media heritage that are not in the national collection.

Their collection contain more than 1.6 million works including films, television and radio programs, videos, audio tapes, records, compact discs, phonograph cylinders and wire recordings. It offers services such as exhibition showcases, collection access, and collection loan to other organizations and personal research.

NFSA is a center of preservation in Australia. Restoration and preservation original material and copies techniques are provided by its expertise. Furthermore, information, knowledge and guides on preserving are available on its website: <http://colsearch.nfsa.gov.au>

- Physical Access to collection

I select to evaluate the information presentation of the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia via its website; therefore the space, the lighting, and the quality of equipments for researching on-site are the physical access that I cannot consider. However, I still obtain other information from the website and can apply it in this assessment.

The service of NFSA is provided everyday: weekdays at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no the entrance fee and the application fee for making a request for internal review, except for these charges: time of search and retrieval, decision making time, transcript preparation from sound recording, photocopying, supervision by an NFSA officer of your on-site inspection of documents, including sound/audiovisual recordings, and posting or delivering documents to you at your request.

In the archive, we will be able to see the collection of films, sounds, televisions, Indigenous Australians, documents and artefacts, and oral history. Clients can access these NFSA collection items from the Access Centers in their capital city: National Film and Sound Archive of Australia in Sydney, Australian Mediatheque in Melbourne, State Library of Queensland in Brisbane, State Library of Western Australia in Perth, State Library of South

Australia in Adelaide, State Library of Tasmania in Hobart, and Northern Territory Library in Darwin. Moreover, the advice and assistance from NFSA Collection Officers is available to researchers, students and industry practitioners seeking to access the national collection for new productions, exhibitions and research.

- Virtual Access to collection

The website of National Film and Sound Archive of Australia is convenient to use. It has the complete information and the web pages are very clear. The collection search menu appears obviously on the website, so I can easily access to collections by using it.

Collection searching of NFSA can be done directly online on its website: which provides the information including viewing and listening. Additional information on collection can be contact its reference staffs.

Online services includes collection searching, exhibition and event newsletter, NFSA journal which is academic publication among researchers as well as stay connect with its social network sites – facebook, and twitter.

- Intellectual Access to collection

The collections of National Film and Sound Archive of Australia are classified into alphabet, title, genre, decade, timeline, maps, and tags. All collections will have the information about their title, year, and description

Museum of the Moving Image

Museum of the Moving Image is located in Astoria, New York. It contains over 130,000 collections of moving image artifact, and provides services in exhibition and collection search and access.

The collection of this museum includes artifacts from every stage of producing, promoting, and exhibiting motion pictures, television, and digital media. Over 1,400 of these objects are currently on display in the Museum's core exhibition, *Behind the Screen* which aims to focus on how films and television shows are created, marketed, and exhibited. However, changing exhibition and event can be followed up through website.

Collection browse is available online which currently contains 6372 silent film era and licensed merchandise entries which is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts.

- Physical Access to collection

Museum of the Moving Image provides service on Tuesday to Thursdays at 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays at 10.30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (free admission at 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and weekend at 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors have to pay the admission fee: \$12 for adults, \$9 for senior citizens and college students with valid ID, \$6 for children ages three to eighteen, and free for Museum members and children under three. However, the admission is free for educators with valid ID and children under the age of fourteen must be accompanied by an adult of eighteen years or older

The area of museum is divided into three floors. On the first floor, there are the admissions desk, the theatre, the Moving Image Store, and the Museum Café. The second floor is the area for the internet reading room and the *Behind the Screen*, the core exhibition of museum consisting of licensed merchandise, technical apparatus, still photographs, design materials, costumes, games, fan magazines, marketing materials of all kinds, video and computer

games, and movie theater furnishings. And the temporary exhibitions will be displayed on the third floor.

The visitors will be checked all items at the admission desk. The strollers, umbrellas, and large bags, including all backpacks, are not permitted in the galleries because of the safety and security of the Museum's artifacts, except for their own camera.

After visiting the museum on-site, I can see the information presentation and find that the lighting in the exhibition area on the second and third floors is quite dim, whereas the lighting on the first floor and the internet reading room on the second floor is bright. There is the adequate table space for visitors to see the audiovisual media in the exhibition and search for the information in the internet reading room.

Accessing to collections in this museum has two methods: to view the core exhibition and to use the internet reading room where has eight computers with headphones. That day, I tried to access to collections through internet, however, the network hung, so I could not go to other web pages, and I could notice that there is no a staff of museum to stay in the area of exhibitions on the second and third floors.

For research access, however the museum requires fee in accessing a collection which is calculated from hours of service, which is US \$35 for members and US \$75 for non-members.

- Virtual Access to collection

The website of Museum of the Moving Image has the clear and complete information. We can see the content about services and activities. Moreover, there are the links to others online services of museum: *Sloan Science & Film* – exploring the intersection of science and film, *Moving Image Source* – original articles by leading critics, authors, and scholars; a calendar that highlights festivals, and gallery exhibitions; and guide to online research resources, and *The*

Living Room Candidate – more than 300 president campaign commercials, from every presidential election since 1952.

- Intellectual Access to collection

When I access to all collections of Museum of the Moving Image, I will see the information about name of collections, resources, and items' description which help me to know the in-depth and important contents of works.

Conclusion

In my view, the virtual and intellectual access of National Film and Sound Archive Australia is excellent because it is the national archive, so they have the clear and concise mission, as well as the great preparedness of preservation and providing access for all people. For the Museum of the Moving Image, I think the virtual and intellectual access is perfect too. I can access many collections from the museum's online services and know more information about them. However, the disadvantages of this museum are the officers who can give the advice and assistance for visitors and the quality of internet network in the museum.