

I'm John Hauser. I'm associated with Access Humboldt in Eureka, California and my project is the Community Media Archive.

It's a place where public access TV stations and Community Media Centers can host, archive and share their programs without cost. I founded the Community Media Archive in 2009, in partnership with the Internet Archive and Access Humboldt. I travel around the country giving presentations about the Community Media Archive and how to work effectively with the Internet Archive.

By 2015, the Community Media Archive had grown to host collections from 45 Access Centers and 9 Series with 54,000 videos that had been downloaded over 5 million times.

I was the 2015 recipient of the ACM's Buske Leadership award for my work in promoting video archiving at the local, regional and national levels. Even though the Community Media Archive had achieved some success, I was concerned it's growth was too slow and dependent on my conference appearances. So I tried to figure out how to make archiving even easier than it had been.

That led to the Youtube → Archive project, my research effort where I collect and maintain metadata from more than 800,000 videos in about 1,000 Youtube and Vimeo channels representing Access Centers and Government Entities.

The first phase of the project was cataloging; documenting the scope and scale of Youtube and Vimeo use by Access Centers. That's mostly complete. The second phase is the semi-automated archiving of the video in those channels. So far, I've brought about 515,000 videos in 565 channels from Youtube and Vimeo into the Community Media Archive.

I think I've got the process worked out. Now it's just a matter of securing funding and "turning the crank" to archive the rest.

This is what I call "Archiving as a Service". It means that archiving can be "frictionless" with no extra effort for those centers using Youtube or Vimeo. They can put their efforts into improving their metadata instead of trying to master uploading and archiving of their video. It means that archiving becomes a byproduct of video distribution.

I think that the value of the ACM and the Foundation is the broad, shared perspective it gives us. We spend so much time and focus on serving our hyper-local community, that we don't take enough time to network to see what others in our field are doing. We get tunnel vision. The national organization and Foundation are the antidote to that tunnel vision. By convening conferences, offering the Mentor's Network, their webinar series, and the advocacy and policy work they do in Washington D.C., they enable us to be more effective in serving our local communities while reminding us of our shared purpose and that others are out there working on the same issues as we are.

I always end my presentations with an acknowledgement of those that made the Community Media Archive possible. None of this would have happened without the steadfast encouragement of Sean McLaughlin, and Access Humboldt supporting my work on the Community Media Archive. And it wouldn't have happened without the support of the Internet Archive, it's founder, Brewster Kahle, and the fantastic staff that work with him on their goal of providing "Universal Access to All Knowledge".

For more information, you can search for the phrases "Community Media Archive" and "Community Media Archive wiki". My email is jhauser@pobox.com