
Avalon Media System

www.avalonmediasystem.org/

Overview

The Avalon Media System is an open source system for managing and providing access to large collections of digital audio and video. The freely available system enables libraries and archives to easily manage, distribute and provide online access to their collections for purposes of teaching, learning and research. Avalon leverages other open source higher education projects including [Hydra](#) and [Opencast Matterhorn](#). The project is led by the libraries of Indiana University Bloomington and Northwestern University.

Objectives / Problem to be Solved

Video and audio collections for education are growing in importance and size. University libraries and archives need a complete and scalable system so they can easily curate their video and audio files and manage workflows for generating video and audio content. The key requirements that Avalon is addressing include:

- Support for robust, standards-based metadata for description and annotation of time-based media
- Support for authentication and authorization
- Ability to accommodate special requirements for digital media asset preservation and long-term archiving
- Integration with preservation repository services

Recent Activities

In October 2013, Avalon made [Release 2.0](#) of the software available for [download](#) or [testing on our public test server](#).

This release expanded on the functionality of Release 1.0 by adding a new hierarchical permissions model supporting flexible collections-based content management, a new media player, an about page showing the system health, and the ability to create custom thumbnails for video content.

Governance

Currently led by the Indiana University Bloomington Libraries and Northwestern University Library with input from partner institutions, the

Members/Partners

The Avalon community is made up of over a dozen educational, media and open-technology institutions, including:

- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Indiana University
- Northwestern University
- Hydra Project
- New York University
- Opencast Matterhorn
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- Stanford University
- University of California-Berkeley
- University of Connecticut
- University of Miami
- University of Virginia
- University of York
- WGBH

Funders/Funding model

The Avalon Media System is funded in part by a three-year National Leadership Grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) with additional funding from Indiana University Bloomington and Northwestern University.

project is investigating long-term affiliation with one or more non-profit, higher education, open source entities, and developing a funding model for ongoing support and development.

Next Steps / Planned Future Work

Release 3.0, scheduled for spring 2014, will include the following features:

- Course-based access control via the Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) standard
- File management – managing and tracking master and derivative files
- Importing pre-transcoded derivatives
- Persistent URL support
- Player embedding