Zach's News

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Georgia Southern University, Zach S. Henderson Library

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Check it out! ScienceCinema Gives You Searchable Videos from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Oak Ridge, TN – Scientific videos highlighting the most exciting research and development sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are now available through ScienceCinema. The multimedia search tool was launched today as part of a one-day workshop, “Multimedia and Visualization Innovations for Science,” jointly hosted by Microsoft and the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI), held in Redmond, Washington.

ScienceCinema uses innovative, state-of-the-art audio indexing and speech recognition technology from Microsoft Research to allow users to quickly find video files produced by the DOE National Laboratories and other DOE research facilities. When users search for specific scientific words and phrases of interest to them, precise snippets of the video where the specific search term was spoken will appear along with a timeline. Users can then select a snippet or a segment along the timeline to begin playing the video at the exact point in the video where the words were spoken. The timeline is synced with transcripts of the targeted portion of video.

It is anticipated that scientific videos, animations, interactive visualizations, and other multimedia will become an increasingly prominent form of scientific communications. ScienceCinema was produced, in part, as a proof of concept to demonstrate the value of speech recognition in the complex vocabulary of science. While the launch of the video database will include an initial 1,000 hours of content, it will continue to grow as new DOE R&D-related videos are produced.

ScienceCinema was developed by the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) in partnership with Microsoft Research. OSTI, within the Office of Science, is responsible for broadly disseminating and preserving the Energy Department’s scientific output. Microsoft Research provides the audio indexing technology for ScienceCinema as part of the Microsoft Research Audio Video Indexing System (MAVIS) project. MAVIS is a set of software components that use speech recognition technology to enable searching of digitized spoken content. More information about MAVIS and the technology can be viewed at the MAVIS project page.

Shared with you by your Government Documents Librarian, Lori Lester.
As well as being the official Historian of Bulloch County, the late Smith Callaway Banks was a dealer in and collector of rare antiques and artworks. He donated his collection of folk art to the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art in 2009.

Mr. Banks has kept a collection of his papers here in the Henderson Library's Special Collections for many years, and now further valuable items have come to us by the terms of his will. Included in this bequest are a 1734 issue of a London newspaper announcing the departure of the Salzburgers for Georgia; rare documents on Archibald Bulloch and an original signature of George Walton, a signer for Georgia of the Declaration of Independence; a sample of Georgia “Liberty cap” currency of June 1777; a May 1850 issue of the New York Daily Tribune with a long front-page story about the Galphin Claim; a September 1863 issue of the New York Times, reporting the Battle of Chickamauga just inside the Georgia line; four notebooks containing 541 vintage postcards and photographs, many in color, of Statesboro (old and new) and of GSU (old and new). These rich additions are enhanced by a further gift of hundreds of volumes relating to art and antiques, many of a reference nature. Mr. Banks’s son and executor, John Banks, is now dividing up even more collections of books and documents, some to go to Statesboro Regional Library and some to the Zach S. Henderson Library – both of which continue to benefit from the generosity and public spirit of Smith Callaway Banks.

A list of books and papers by Mr. Banks and owned by Henderson Library is available here.

Marvin Goss

Head of Special Collections

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