

SPOKEN WORD SERVICES

What is Spoken Word Services?

Spoken Word Services is based at Glasgow Caledonian University. Our core aim is to enhance and transform educational experience through the integration of digitised spoken word audio and video into learning and teaching.

How was Spoken Word Services formed?

Spoken Word Services has strong foundations as a project funded as part of the JISC/NSF Digital Libraries in the Classroom Programme (DLIC). The project runs from 2003 - 2008.

Who are the Project Partners?

- In the USA:

Michigan State University: MATRIX
Northwestern University: Academic Technologies & OYEZ

- In the UK:

Glasgow Caledonian University
With the BBC (Information and Archives)

What are the aims and objectives of the project?

- (1) augmenting student competence to write on, and for, the Internet
- (2) enhancing digital libraries through a focus on learning
- (3) improving student learning and retention
- (4) developing aural literacy in our students

What services do you offer?

We offer access to content, tools and added-value services. We believe these services have considerable wider utility for scholarship, scholarly communication and research.

What content do you have?

We have a partnership agreement with the BBC which allows us to make audio and video from their archives available for educational use.

What's in the BBC Archives?

The archives are a unique repository of UK history & culture, stretching back to 1937. There are over 1million items in the archives, ranging from Leonard Cheshire's eyewitness account of the Nagasaki atomic bomb to Boy George's frank discussion of his own heroin addiction. Up to now the archives have been largely inaccessible, but this is changing. You can now search the catalogue online at open.bbc.co.uk/catalogue/infax/

How much of this do you have access to?

Our focus is on bringing spoken word audio and video into the classroom for learning and teaching. Teachers in our community of practice build collections based on their teaching and research interests. We currently have several hundred hours of audio/video available for educational use.

Do you have any non-BBC content?

We have an increasing amount of non-BBC content available, including audio recordings from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health events and Glasgow Caledonian University Archives Witness Seminars.

How can I access your resources?

- visit our web site at www.spokenword.ac.uk
- click on 'Find Audio'
- sign up for an educational user account
- start searching!

How can I find out who you are already working with?

We have details of our local, national and international teaching collaborations on our web site.

How can I find out how resources are being used in teaching?

We are developing subject-based resource lists of audio and other associated materials to aid learners, teachers and researchers. Recognised and respected subject experts in each field select and evaluate the materials in each collection. Learning scenarios are being developed around Spoken Word resources, and re-usable learning objects will soon be made available.

Didn't you say 'Digital Libraries' in the classroom?

Absolutely - we believe that library methods are essential for effective scholarly communication. Our repository is fully searchable online and uses metadata standards such as Dublin Core.

What do I do once I've found something I like?

Using our web search tool, Padova, you can view a catalogue record and listen/watch to audio/video at the same time. You can link to a stable web address or download a copy for individual educational use.

What else can I do with your resources?

We provide access to a suite of collaboration, collection and annotation tools for images, audio and video. These tools, Project Pad and MediaMatrix, have been developed in collaboration with our US partners.

What about added value services?

We provide a range of related services for teachers, including audio recording and advice, blog services, rights awareness, advice on open standards, and funding opportunities.

Why should I get involved?

We hope that having easy access to Spoken Word 'authentic voices' will offer excellent alternatives to traditional text based resources, and be of direct benefit in teaching and research.

What do you want from me in return?

We are always looking at ways to improve our services. We hope that you would join our informal Community of Practice and provide valuable feedback on your use of our content, tools and services.

What are the benefits to students?

We are directly addressing the national policy framework:-

'... to develop innovative applications of digital technologies that will contribute to making education and lifelong learning more personalised, inclusive, flexible, and productive'

By bringing content to our users in a variety of flexible ways - to the web browser, to their mobile phone, to their I-pod - we hope to directly address the socio-technological world of the modern student, and make it easy to engage with previously inaccessible content.

How can I get involved?

All our contact details are overleaf. Please contact Iain Wallace in the first instance.

Contact Details

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