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Independent Science Research
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Avante Garde Podcasting

Abstract

We plan to create the next generation of radio through interesting and more concise podcasts. We have set out on an exploration of the medium of podcasting.

Background

Asa's side: Over summer, during working at the elab, I approached Dr. Bill about possibly doing a radio station for the school. I always wanted to be the student to set up some new form of social media. Bill helped me set up the internet radio station and we played around with it, playing music back and forth for different computers. About a month later, I spoke to Mr. H and Schorn about doing a radio project and they told me how Jackson was doing a podcast project, and we got paired together.

Jackson's side: The inception of this Independent Science Research project on podcasting was because of a meeting I stumbled upon at the end of this past school year. While talking with Mr. Schorn about Digital Journalism, we made our way up to the Elab; where we ran into Dr. Bill and two other men, who were the former and incoming presidents of Hawaii Public Radio. Mr. Schorn joined in on the meeting and I stuck around and listened. The men from HPR were working on creating a medium that would connect younger people with radio. One thing the simply led to another and in a short brainstorm Mr. Schorn formed the genesis of this project, and, being in the right place at the right time was able to take up this project. Over the summer I became more and more interested as the world of podcasting opened up to me. I am excited to see what Asa and I can create and discover in our goal to redefine podcasting as the year continues.

Goals

We want to use science and mastery of advanced audio technology to create podcasts that capture the thirteen to eighteen year-old demographic and show them the beauty of pure audio storytelling.

Essential question

How can we make a new form of podcasts for younger people that would be interesting and fun to create/listen to? (and for Asa's part) How will we get these podcasts out to be listened to?

Project Planning

We will first start out by testing out our resources, such as microphones, headphones, recording rooms and software. Then we will move onto coming up with ideas for different podcast topics and who to ask to come in. We have been thinking and making mental notes of people who would be interesting for different topics.

Research and Resources

Asa has always listened to some radiolab podcasts and other interesting ones created by NPR, but Jackson has showed me about this 3D sound and how it really submerges the listener. Jackson shared recordings of nature that were amazing to listen to through dropbox to our group and Dr. Bill.

Challenges

I think the hardest part will be getting used to being on record which other people will listen to and mentally judge. The whole technical and editing part (Asa) is actually quite used to, and will just take time to master, but getting the people on record to sound genuine and real will be our challenge. Another challenge is creativity; finding ways to constantly engage a demographic with such a short attention span will be difficult.

Impact

This project will teach us the invaluable skill of communication and teach us about audio and that technology. We will learn how to work on more professional levels of sound with more serious goals in mind rather than a freshman foundations project or a APUSH thing. Also will be a great thing to have on college applications. The most interesting impact will be our experience documenting these stories and having others share them with us.

Legacy

This project will continue in the Independent Science Research class for years to come in two ways. The experimenting and learning we will do and document will create a resource for future students using the audio equipment, creating a auditory social medium or continuing the channel. Our project will have another major legacy and that is through our channel. Through this year we will sow the seeds for the beginning of a school podcasting/radio media channel to be continued by future students. We also plan to see people's reactions to the podcasts as a type of social experiment. We have to see how the school takes this new type of social news type and what they have to say about it, which is a totally other ISRP. This could be part of the follow-up project.

Key resources

- <http://www.radiolab.org/series/podcasts/>

- Good ideas for topics of the podcasts, and a very good example of somewhere we would like to be semi-semi-semi near on a much smaller scale within the next 7 months or so.
- <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/29/483241647/beyond-sightseeing-youll-love-the-sound-of-americas-best-parks>
 - These will help us because we will also be recording nature and such to put in background and transitions of podcasts, we plan to be completely original with our own HPA sounds.
- <https://www.podcastchart.com>
 - More good examples or ideas for our podcasts.
- <http://tolweb.org/tree/learn/ToLPodcasts/PodcastPlanning.html>
 - This source gives simple guidelines for what you should take into account when designing your podcast.
- <http://www.theverge.com/2015/2/12/8021733/3d-audio-3dio-binaural-immersive-vr-sound-times-square-new-york>
 - This article gives information and background on 3D binaural sound. Something we think can really enhance our podcasts.
- <http://designingsound.org/2013/08/auditory-perspective-putting-the-audience-in-the-scene-2/>
 - This article gives a technical and scientific way to create a captivating audience experience.

Tools

- “Critical” - specific tools or materials absolutely needed for the project.
 - Microphones:
 - AKG Perception 200 microphone
 - Headsets
 - Audio technica ATH-M50x headphones
 - Studio
 - Audio processing and production software
- “Necessary” - tools or materials that are needed for the project, but there is some flexibility in exactly what is used.
 - Interesting people
 - Set up time to record people and their stories.
- “Optional” - tools or materials that would be useful to your project, but are not necessary for its completion.

- Edited HPA website that advertises for us.
- An “On Air” sign.
- Coffee.

Teamwork

Asa: By working together as a team our project will benefit by making more specific goals for each person. This will make it easier to accomplish things like recording and editing the sound bites, and recording an interview is not just a one man job, there needs to be a person or people in the background doing the technical part of it. We will most likely have contradicting arguments or ideas for each podcast prompt, which could actually be good in making a more interesting topic. Over summer, Dr. Bill introduced me to his mass amounts of itunes library music, and using that we set up an internet radio station which for at the time we just used to project music about the elab. I know how to get these podcasts and I am familiar with and have the editing software to do so. I would like to increase my public speaking stuff, like Schorn said the podcasts will be “really f*cking awkward” if you are not used to doing stuff of the sort. To practice this I have been trying to go in front of more people at a time at assembly and such.

Jackson: Collaboration on project work has many benefits especially with the nature of our project. Having a team member will help in retaining the information we learn about the equipment allowing us to be masterful with the audio and thus more professional. In a team setting we also have more of a creative force between the two of us, which will generate ideas and insights. Most importantly, working alone would have never have been able to possess the alternative perspective that a teammate grants creating opportunity for constructive criticism. This however is a double-edged sword as that in those differences that can be positive there can also arise conflict creating a different challenge. I bring research and exposure into this project as I have logged hours in listening to different podcasts and have been researching things that could help us create an captivating podcast. Most of all I bring confidence and curiosity, which I’m hoping are useful characteristics. Throughout the year I will work on my interviewing and “podcasting” skills so create a captivating podcast.