



Smart search engines for news videos

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Reference	Comparison
Fukushima_nuclear_reactor_radiation_exposure_How_far_will_this_go_RT	30km_no-fly_zone_over_Fukushima_meltdown_fears_as_radiation_leak_confirmed_RT
	
TIMECODE 00:03:42:14	TIMECODE 00:00:24:01
FRAME 5564	FRAME 601
SPEED 1 x	SPEED 1 x
PLAYING SEGMENT 2 5564 - 5846	PLAYING SEGMENT 2 601 - 883

NewsHistory makes the most of user knowledge, searching through video databases to find video sequences with identical content. Credit: Fraunhofer IDMT

Searching for video recordings regularly pushes search engines to their limit. The truth of the matter is that purely automatic algorithms are not enough; user knowledge has to be harnessed, too. Now, researchers are making automated engines smarter.

Anyone who has visited one of the big online [video portals](#) or TV broadcasters' media libraries to search for a video clip is already familiar with the search engines tasked with seeking out and flagging [video footage](#). However, these engines have their weaknesses. Their results are based on automatic search algorithms that often go by text-based information alone. Although they can be used to locate and identify videos, a comparison of individual [sequences](#) is still very difficult. To make search engines even smarter, the Fraunhofer Institute for [Digital Media Technology](#) IDMT in Ilmenau has developed a piece of software called "NewsHistory" that will now make full use of user knowledge as well. Researchers will be presenting an initial demonstration version of the smart [video search engine](#) at the [CeBIT](#) trade fair in Hannover from March 5-9, 2013 (Hall 9, Booth E08).

Technology learns from users

"NewsHistory provides users with search algorithms, a data model and a web-based user interface so that they can locate identical sequences within various news videos," explains Patrick Aichroth from Fraunhofer IDMT. He is responsible for coordinating the institute's R&D work within the EU's CUBRIK project. Here, researchers are harnessing user knowledge to optimize and extend the capabilities of automated analysis techniques. "The search engine learns from each individual user, allowing it to keep improving search results. Not only does this improve the quality of results, but the resources needed to undertake the analysis are also cut down," Aichroth continues.

NewsHistory allows each user to add additional information to the results generated by the search engine, including production and broadcast date, sources and keywords for videos. It is also possible to rate the results. Finally, the user's search itself is a source of information,

providing data that is incorporated into the search engine; the metadata of a newly uploaded video, for instance, passes into the database.

"Comparing digital video data online or within video databases is very complex," explains Christian Weigel from the Audio-Visual Systems research group at the IDMT. "Videos that share the same content have for the most part been edited, meaning that they are scaled and encoded in a variety of formats. Also, search engines are often unable to distinguish images cropped from a larger picture, lower thirds or the zoom shots so popular with US news channels."

The demonstration version being presented at CeBIT will investigate how a selection of TV channels have made use of film footage, changed its form and broadcast it. The user interface displays commonalities and appraises them in graphic form. The [search](#) itself is conducted either by inputting text or by directly uploading individual video sequences. The researchers' aim is to make the software sufficiently robust that it could also be used in the future to compare the multimedia content found on big online media portals. The scientists do not imagine archivists or journalists will be the only users. "NewsHistory is of particular interest to media and market researchers, say if they want to assess the televised political duels coming up this year," concludes Weigel.

Provided by Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft

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