The attention to the film content on EN 15907 and the FIAF Moving Image Cataloguing Manual, and its repercussion on the retrieval of film information by users at film archives

Rubén Domínguez-Delgado
María-Ángeles López-Hernández
University of Seville (Film Archive of the Faculty of Communication Studies)
rdd@us.es / alhernan@us.es

Session 1

Abstract:

In the field of library and information science, content analysis is a fundamental task for the efficient retrieval of information by the users of information systems. The Cinematographic Works Standard EN 15907, as well as the new FIAF Cataloguing Manual have demonstrated to be really useful for film archives in the process of film cataloguing, although they are still being implemented in most of them and much work still needs to be done. However, beyond the technical or formal aspects of films contemplated on these standards, there are some important aspects about the film content analysis which have not been had into consideration.

Due to the insufficient attention to the film content on these standars, users of most film archives cannot currently retrieve on their databases shots, scenes or sequences of movies about a concrete need. In Spain and many other countries, a user who visit today an important TV archive can retrieve on its databases a concrete shot of any personality, place, time or issue. However, this type of retrieval of film information is not possible at most Spanish film archives[1].

At the Film Archive of our Faculty of Communication Studies (University of Seville, Spain) we are starting to apply the new film standards from some months ago, adding three new fields to our traditional film cataloguing records at the moment. However, paying attention to the needs of our users, and as these new film standards do not contemplate a rigorous film content analysis, we have decided to create a "themed film dictionary"[2]. This is a tool for our users to find lists of film titles according to the issue or theme they need to research about it. Although the results have been very possitive, we really feel that this is not enough to cover the needs of the 21st century film moving images users and researchers.

That is why we would like to share our experiences - at the archive and as researchers and professors in the field of Moving Images Archives - and propose a discussion, in

---

[1] DOMÍNGUEZ-DELGADO, Rubén; LÓPEZ-HERNÁNDEZ, María-Ángeles (2016). "Film content analysis at six major Spanish film libraries". El profesional de la información, v. 25, n. 5, pp. 787-794. http://www.elprofesionaldelainformacion.com/contenidos/2016/sep/09_esp.pdf
https://doi.org/10.3145/epi.2016.sep.09

[2] http://fama2.us.es:8080/cine/

the context of this FIAF workshop, about the possibilities of adoption of more film content fields on the film cataloguing standards, what would suppose better possibilities of retrieval of film information by the users of film archives, adapting to their needs and to the new era. The development of new technologies, which are already used at TV archives, could help us for this purpose.