remit

challenges and rewards of creating a place for moving image materials within the total scope of the digital library

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today’s talk

• a little bit on digital libraries
• more on the exceptionalism of film/video
• two slides on 17 year olds
• some stuff on the dance community
• how this all fits together
• (not necessarily in this order)
scope of a digital library

• past practice – image collections of one sort or another - some text collections, electronic resources, Finding Aids, online exhibitions, institutional repositories, etc.

• ...and of course the output of private/public digitization arrangements such as the Google partnership and OCA/Microsoft
pretty much everything

- prepping
- evaluating
- describing
- shuttling
- photographing
- processing
- naming
- transmitting
- contributing

- organizing
- editing
- contextualizing
- structuring
- storing
- preserving
- delivering
- migrating
- exposing
or not

even with the Google and Microsoft projects digital libraries have suffered from
organizational isolation
limited focus
organizational isolation

all of it on the outskirts of town

– digital activities are silo’ed in our respective libraries

– our activities are directed at digital library goals such as storage, preservation, outbound services to external libraries, among others
limited focus

only been doing the middle bit
OCD activities
so that’s it for now on digital libraries

on to…

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what Rick calls

the exceptionalism of film, video and media
why is it so different from the other stuff

scale

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scale

volume

rights

apparati

output formats

players

digital divide

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volume

volume of items and volume of bits
too many producers
too much product
too much variety in the product
rights

number of rights holders
dwarf’s the orphan books issue in
terms of determining who holds the rights
unclear what “clearing the rights” might mean
managing the rights

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apparati

number of devices available to create media

variety of devices to create media
output

number of output formats
variety of output formats
number of transformations per format

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players

number of player devices
number of player formats
number of “locked down” formats
and then there is the digital divide

of another order
them

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and what they do
and us

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but

are film and video and all this new media; and the sheer volume of new product different in kind
i’m not sure

let’s put that on hold for second
<< rewind 2005

dance needs analysis

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something a little different

opened up the conversation
invited stakeholders

- practitioners
- academics
- public service agencies
- funding agencies
- archivists
- lawyers
- librarians
- film makers

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learned a few things
tremendous amount of experience in the community
almost universal recognition of the challenges
creators are devising their own solutions but are willing and happy to have the libraries take the lead.
want to be a part of the larger social conversation
less concerned about rights than we are
most concerned with transparency
how does all this hang together?
there is too much, too fast to handle as a side operation
libraries need to reach out to content producers
libraries must open up their internal conversations to the public
and we need to de-construct digital workflow if we are going to manage the volume

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we have an opportunity, maybe even an obligation to do whatever we can since libraries and archives still hold some of the most valuable extant media content
so...at NYPL we trying to work a little differently
switch ‘em up

- selecting
- prepping
- evaluating
- describing
- shuttling
- photographing
- processing
- naming
- transmitting

- organizing
- editing
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- structuring
- storing
- preserving
- delivering
- migrating
- exposing
- contributing
decouple processing from issues of (selection and presentation)
processing / preservation continuum

acquire | organize | structure | name | describe | evaluate | prep | process

evaluate | prep | process | store | preserve | expose | migrate
taken out of the of previous frame

selection - acquisition
editing
contextualizing
delivering

selection | digitize as much as possible and as comprehensively as possible

contextualize | edit | deliver | build tools for downstream use and deliver based on content not format

acquire | begin conversation with content makers while they are in the process of creating work - negotiate on formats, rights and devices before it reaches the library. engage the content community in solving the archiving problem
five things we need to do

• process based on format/deliver based on content
• engage content providers further up stream
• integrate dl activities into the ordinary life of the library
• focus on our mission to make the stuff usable
• above all
  – foster trust - by being transparent
Conclusion

It’s all about the stuff