Spoken Web 2.0:
Conceptualizing and Prototyping
a Comprehensive Web-based
Digital Spoken-Word Interface
for Literary Research

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Serendipitous Origins of Project

- Layton Out Loud event on October 1, 2009
- Promote digitized audio recordings, celebrate donors
- “We need a Laytonist or a Canadianist.”
- Shared interests in analog and digital audio
From Sir George Williams “Poetry Series” to research project

- “Poetry series” 1965-1972 (SGWU)
- 58 poets from across North America (Black Mountain, Beat, TISH)
- Reel-to-reel machines (80 hours)
- 2007 Concordia Archives converts to WAV format (3-year process)
- Text-based catalogue
- 2011 files uploaded to SoundCloud and then integrated into our WordPress site
Problem. Solution?

Problem:
- Audio a challenging research format
- Current digital sound archives in their infancy
- Example (UbuWeb)

Solution?
- A digital spoken word archive with the features that literary scholars want
- Use the Poetry Series collection as a case study
SSHRC Grant Application

- Contribution to grant application (Spring 2010)
  - What are ideal features of a digital spoken word archive?
  - What are software and hardware needs?
- Grant awarded August 2010
- Main project objectives:
  - ongoing environmental scan/lit review
  - development of a prototype interface
Spoken Web Team

- Jason Camlot, Associate Professor and Chair, English
- Darren Wershler, Assistant Professor, English
- Jason Lewis, Assistant Professor, Design & Computation Art
- Annie Murray, Digital & Special Collections Librarian
- Jared Wiercinksi, Digital Services & Outreach Librarian
- Al Filreis, Professor, English, University of Pennsylvania
- Deanna Fong, Graduate Student, English
- Celyn Harding Jones, Graduate Student, English
- Matthieu Tremblay, Graduate Student, Design & Computation Arts
Tour and demo of SpokenWeb

- SpokenWeb
Web development

- Matthieu Tremblay, Graduate Student, Design & Computation Arts
- WordPress CMS installed on university server
- Needs/discovery based development
- Scholars share ideas that occur during site use
  - Anglo-Quebec Literature FQRAC research team
  - Jason Camlot’s [graduate summer course](#)
  - Others
- Group members share ideas based on environmental scan/lit review
Tools: SoundCloud

- What is it?
- Pioneered the waveform in a web-based music platform
- Example
- Sponsor
- Features: stats, comments, cloud-based
Tools: TAToo

- TAToo (Text Analysis for me Too)
- University of Alberta
- Demo
Inspiration: Music Theatre Online

- Audio-text tethering
- Simultaneous comparison of variant scripts
- No waveform
- Associated media: images, videos, etc.
- Video
Inspiration: TED Talks

- Interactive transcript feature
- Query about how it works
- Example
- ASP’s Ethnographic Video Online
Survey

- Spring 2011: Draft a survey of Canadian libraries, archives, English departments, creative writing departments and other organizations that might have literary recordings
- Objective: gauge extent of original English-language non-commercially produced recordings in Canada
- Objective: understand how others have dealt with these recordings
- Survey to be housed on SW site in Summer 2011
What do we look at when we listen?

- Emerging question
- Spoken Web Blog
- Variations 3