Streaming audio services in Canadian academic libraries

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Outline

- Introduction
- Rationale for the pilot project
- Description, scope, and demonstration
- Student response
- Issues
- Future directions
Introduction

- Broader project on streaming audio in Canadian academic libraries
- Today, focus on Concordia’s pilot project
- Trends in the music industry
  - Shift from ownership towards access (e.g., Nokia’s ‘Comes with Music’ service)
  - Mobile (e.g. iPhone applications: Ocarina, Presidents of the United States, etc.)
  - Social networking (YouTube, Last.fm, imeem, Deezer, etc.)
Rationale for the pilot project

- Improve access to sound recordings
  - Limitations of physical format (i.e. compact discs)
  - Benefits of online
- Keep the library relevant to students
- Help students listen to the right music
- Chance to learn about some of the issues involved:
  - technology requirements (i.e. hardware and software)
  - staffing and training requirements
  - copyright
  - demand for the service
Collaborative effort:
- Dubravka Kapa
- Tomasz Neugebauer
- Olivier Charbonneau
- Christopher James

Two courses (Winter 2009 semester):
- MUSI 265 – Rock and Roll and it’s Roots
- FFAR 398m – Understanding Music
Description, scope, and demo

- **Scope**
  - Sound recordings not available in Naxos or CML
  - Sound recordings required for a particular course (not whole collection)
  - Streaming audio would be limited to students taking the course

- **Overlap**
  - MUSI 265 – 0/148 tracks (i.e. no overlap: rock, blues, etc. not available in Naxos or CML)
  - FFAR 398m - 22/307 tracks or 7% overlap
Description, scope, and demo

- **Short story:**
  - Students go the Libraries’ web site
  - Login
  - Access the music player through their web browser
  - Demo

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Behind the scenes:

- Created the mp3s with iTunes
- Imported the metadata from Gracenote, verified with listening lists provided by the professor
- Created a web page:
  - Javascript
  - JW Flash Player (supports progressive downloading, streaming)
  - XML playlists created using a Visual Basic script
  - Moved all of these files behind our Web Access Management (WAM) software
- See poster for more details
Overall how would you rate Concordia Libraries’ online music service?
- Excellent: 26.7%
- Above average: 53.3%
- Average: 13.3%
- Below average: 0%
- Poor: 6.7%

Would you be interested in a similar service that made course-related music available to your phone or mobile device?
- Yes: 46.7%
- Maybe: 20%
- No: 33.3%

Do you have any comments or suggestions? (For example, what did you like or dislike about the service?)
- Appreciate the service (6)
- Would prefer to download to my iPod (5)
- Technical problems or other suggestion (see poster for a complete list of comments)
Student response: other institutions

- 90% of students preferred online listening - University of North Carolina (Phinney p. 25)
- 10% at UNC preferred traditional reserves because of (Phinney p. 22):
  - better sound quality
  - access to scores
  - help from librarian
  - online reserves too difficult
- At Indiana, they found students who used online reserves were doing more listening (Griscom p. 528)
Issues

- Technical
  - Safari
  - Maintaining compatibility (newest versions of browsers, Flash, etc.)

- Copyright
  - Outdated law
  - To some extent, ambiguous until a ruling has been made
  - Section 29: “Fair dealing for the purpose of research or private study does not infringe copyright.”
  - “The absence of a clear resolution of this difficulty means that libraries must create reserve policies based more on acceptable risk than established precedent” (Durham p. 109)

- Resources
  - Staff time (ex. checking in Naxos / CML)
  - Server space
Future directions

- Full fledged service
- Moodle
- Mobile
References


References


