

Remembering 9/11



Accessing Oral Histories
for Educational and Research Purposes

Introduction

Stony Brook World Trade Center Wellness Program conducted over a hundred interviews with 9/11 first responders

Wanted to make them all available to the public

Already made documentary using select interviews

Have lesson plans for teachers using them

Needed a way for researchers to easily annotate the interviews

Required Features

View interview and transcript at the same time

Search and organization features needed

Annotate the interviews

Research

Closed Captioning

Sections of text on transcripts are too large

Can't see context of current part

Services that linked text on screen to timestamps in a video were expensive

Video hosting services were not open-source, could not tailor to current or future requirements

Solution - Opencast

Open source video hosting for university lectures

Shows lecturer video and lecture slide video side-by-side

Extracts text from lecture slides: text becomes searchable and appears on the page

Add videos to a series

Add-on to annotate videos

Solution - Opencast - Make it Work for Me

Installed Opencast and annotation tool, configured settings, set up accounts

Show interviews on one side, show video of transcript on the other

Wrote scripts to convert transcripts into PowerPoint slide videos

Transitions in PowerPoint match the timestamps of the interview

Text from transcript video extracted and becomes searchable

Can use series to create categories to organize interviews

Can annotate any interview; account system in place

Interview and Transcript

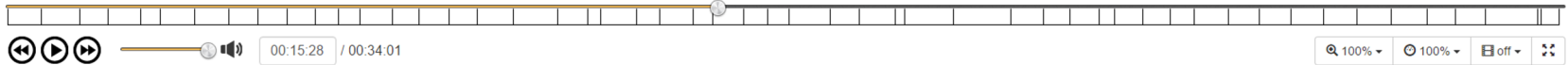


opadmin



GLEN: Oh, absolutely, yeah. We got breaks. Our breaks were held in our temporary headquarters. Our first temporary headquarters was Stuyvesant High School, which is off Chambers Street and West Street. And that happened to be one of the areas that the EPA came in and did an air quality check, because I was there the day that they did it. And that was one of the places that they said the air quality was okay.

MELODIE: What was your impression of the air at that point?



003 - Glen Klein - H

March 2 2017, 1:58:43 pm

Extracted Text

003 - Glen Klein - H

March 2 2017, 1:58:43 pm

Description

Shortcuts

Slide text

Segment 1

00:00:00

GLEN and the last name is Klein K L E I N comments of crew MELODIE Hi Glen My name s Melodie Guerrero and I m going to interview you today for the World Trade Center oral history project First of all I want to thank you for taking the time to come in sincerely I know that it can be difficult to find time and inaudible more difficult when we re asking you remember things that may not be all pleasant So on behalf of the program and on behalf of the people who are going to watch this in the future thank you

Segment 2

00:00:45

GLEN Okay MELODIE The first thing I d like to do is get to know you a little bit better I mean I know you a little bit but not very well at all So what I d like to do is ask you to provide me some background about who you are what you do for a living your family

Segment 3

00:01:36

GLEN Well my name is Glen Klein I did twenty years with the New York City Police Department Sixteen of those twenty years were in the emergency service unit which is a SWAT team slash rescue unit We were the guys that the police officers called when they needed help I have a family I have two children from my first marriage and I have a five year old from my second marriage who s currently in kindergarten My daughter from my first marriage is twenty one and my son is eighteen

Segment 4

00:02:13

GLEN Well my name is Glen Klein I did twenty years with the New York City Police Department Sixteen of those twenty years were in the emergency service unit which is a SWAT team slash rescue unit We were the guys that the police officers called when they needed help I have a family I have two children from my first marriage and I have a five year old from my second marriage who s currently in kindergarten My daughter from my first marriage is twenty one and my son is eighteen

live in Centereach Long Island just moved there about five years ago from Levittown Long Island And right now I m not working I m collecting Social Security Disability because of injuries that I received from working down at Ground Zero I put in somewhere in the area of 800 hours down at Ground Zero from the morning that the towers were attacked till the last beam was removed I believe it was in early June MELODIE When you went down on that first day was that because you were at work and called there Was it something where you were out on Long Island How did you end up down there on the first day


Segment 5

00:02:56

GLEN Okay Well my normal shift was midnight to eight in the morning On that particular day my shift was changed because I was a PBA delegate union delegate and we had hadz we were scheduled to have a meeting with our commanding officer that day all the PBA delegates from my unit 50 we were scheduled for that particular day to do a four in the afternoon to twelve midnight So I happened to be home that morning

Annotation Tool

Annotating Academic video - 1.1.3 View Export for statistics Print Logout



15:27 / 34:01

Annotate on Default Ryan

Write a free text annotation. Use »shift + return« keys to create a new line.

Pause video during writing **Insert**

All Public Mine Edit mode

Mood

- ANG
- SAD

00:15:27

	18:00	18:05	18:10	18:15	18:20	18:25	18:30
Default Teabon...							
Default Ryan			Testing	SI		SI	SI
Mood							AI
Default Test							

Reset zoom < + - > Other annotations - + Add track

Items visibility -

- ▶ 00:00:54
- ▶ 00:01:52 Normal duty
- ▶ 00:03:43 Surreal. First reaction: didn't believe, joking.
- ▶ 00:03:57 Dedication
- ▶ 00:04:24 Surreal, Hollywood movie scene.
- ▶ 00:05:57 Negative feelings
- ▶ 00:06:53 The event was totally unexpected, but they showed very high level of professionalism.
- ▶ 00:09:50 Very proud of the profession and duty.
- ▶ 00:10:36 Still don't believe the severity and scale of the tragedy.
- ▶ 00:10:51 Try to control the emotion. It is hard, even today.
- ▶ 00:11:26 Very graphic scene.
- ▶ 00:13:17 Physically tired.
- ▶ 00:13:45 Concerns from friends and family
- ▶ 00:14:37 Very long working hours.
- ▶ 00:15:19 Toxic air
- ▶ 00:15:27 00:27:59 Testing
- ▶ 00:17:27 The gas mask was not very useful.
- ▶ 00:18:09 Lack of equipment, such as gas mask. Further indication of the unpreparedness of th...
- ▶ 00:20:14 Negative feelings, very sad.
- ▶ 00:21:24 Recovery of body parts.
- ▶ 00:21:28 SAD
- ▶ 00:22:01 Unexpected attack. No one prepared for this.

Public Access

Showed product to Library of Congress, who are currently tasked with storing the interviews indefinitely

Working on own system, slightly different end goal

Job mainly involves storage, not public access to items

Showed product to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum

Years out from using this kind of exhibit

Remain in contact for future engagements

Well received, but outside of their timeframes at the moment

Future Work

Works fine as a proof of concept, getting grant money, etc.

Recommend creating platform from scratch

- Interview on one side, text from transcript on the other

 - Text changes as timestamps are hit

 - Saves storage space, as transcript can remain text

- This removes all unnecessary features from Opencast

- Can create a better annotation tool

 - Incorporate moderation

 - Better account management for open-sourcing annotations

 - Organize annotations

Questions?