

Informational Page: Project Vietnam



In 1983, Boston's public television station, WGBH, produced a comprehensive, 13-hour miniseries documenting the war in Vietnam. *Vietnam: A Television History* carefully analyzes the costs and consequences of a controversial but intriguing war. From the first hour through the last, the series provides a detailed visual and oral account of the war that

changed a generation and continues to color American thinking on many military and foreign policy issues.

The WGBH Media Library and Archives will partner with the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CCNMTL) and the University of Massachusetts-Boston on Project Vietnam: an initiative to digitize, preserve, and disseminate primary source materials from the television series and create custom analysis tools for students to interact with the videos. This undertaking is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and will result in the Project Vietnam website and its accompanying video repository, Vietnam: A Television Archive.

Vietnam: A Television Archive will provide faculty and students at Columbia University and Teachers College access to an online video library comprising hundreds of hours of original interview materials and images, as well as a significant portion of stock footage gathered for the series. CCNMTL is developing analysis tools that integrate videos into student workspaces and enable students to discover and watch full-length interviews and a range of stock footage; annotate, edit, and create sub-collections of these videos; and incorporate clips into multimedia projects.

WGBH, CCNMTL, and the University of Massachusetts-Boston also plan to create a consortium of institutions and instructors interested in using Project Vietnam materials and tools in their own classrooms. This initiative will culminate with a consortium conference in 2011 to showcase exemplary uses of the digital collection.

CCNMTL is currently working with faculty who will use content from Project Vietnam in varying ways. One professor teaches a course that examines the Vietnam War from a chronological, international perspective, and plans for students to create their own short documentaries using the materials from the collection. Pro-



Vietnam: A Television Archive will be accessible through the WGBH Open Vault website (<http://openvault.wgbh.org/>) and on-site at University of Massachusetts-Boston Healey Library.

fessors from Columbia University's Teachers College will team up to create a course where future educators will examine how the Vietnam War is taught in New York schools and ways to use multimedia to teach the historical subject matter. Another faculty member will use Project Vietnam materials in his course to help students examine issues surrounding media and visual cultures.

Project Vietnam aims to engage educators and learners of all ages with unique digital assets of immeasurable historical value. The project's website will provide curricular models and educational tools to encourage individuals to interact with the collection. "This project represents an important partnership between public television, academic institutions, and a digital media and education center where the collaboration produces a profound and lasting impact on the teaching and study of the Vietnam War," said Frank Moretti, CCNMTL's executive director.

If you are interested in learning more about Project Vietnam or becoming a project partner, please contact:

Maria Janelli
CCNMTL Project Manager
212 851-7273
ccnmtl-vietnam@columbia.edu
<http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu>