

Literature Review Matrix Template

INFO 200

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Define the Information Community and explain the significance of studying the information behaviors of this group (e.g. why is this research important). Cinephiles are liberal arts hobbyists devoted to the study of cinema. They are often defined by their interest in less commercial forms of cinema (i.e. arthouse movies), although in practice cinephiles may appreciate a variety of genres. In pursuing their hobby, cinephiles seek information about new films, directors, and genres to explore, where to watch movies, the history and production behind specific films, and filmmaking techniques and how they work to produce their effects. Information sources include movies themselves, professional and amateur reviews, locations like movie theaters and film clubs, video essays, and books, magazine articles, and online resources. Information professionals can assist them by increasing their awareness of the movie-related resources available at libraries and archives, perhaps by doing outreach to online and in-person forums where cinephiles congregate. For example, Letterboxd's HQ accounts allow film-related organizations to post news stories to the main page. The Los Angeles Public Library has a page on their website where they link to online resources for movie and television research.

Statement of Research: Through this research, I seek to understand the information behaviors of the cinephile community and how libraries and information centers might serve their needs.

Macke and Sewell (2011)

Main Idea(s): In libraries, DVD's and VHS tapes are often kept in closed stacks because they are easily damaged or stolen, but open stacks better serve patrons' needs and increase the visibility and use of libraries' video collections.

Theoretical/Conceptual Framework: The authors discuss previous studies of open versus closed stacks, which describe balancing security and inventory control, staff downsizing, and user experience. For special collections kept in closed stacks, including many video collections, detailed cataloging, bibliographic aids, and human intervention are necessary to connect patrons to resources.

Closed stacks may reduce awareness and findability of resources.

Methods: The authors conducted a case study of Penrose Library at the University of Denver. The library originally only purchased videos when requested as teaching aids, but received a large gift of VHS tapes of popular movies. In addition, professors increasingly used videos to teach, but it was often difficult to find older movies, and titles frequently went out of print. The library eventually created a dedicated video budget "for continued retrospective collecting and up-to-date collection building" (Macke and Sewell, 2011, p. 38), choosing to stock highly rated films, including Criterion Collection films and Oscar and Sundance winners.

Results & Analysis: When videos were kept in closed stacks, circulation remained flat. The library also ran out of space as its collection grew. Librarians hoped browsability in open stacks would increase serendipitous discovery. They started to include original covers on the boxes to increase visibility and put shelving in a high traffic area with space to browse and read titles. They also developed a new classification system for DVD's, since the Library of Congress does not use a call number system for movies. They

classified documentaries according to the LOC headings for their subjects, used the call range numbers for individual movie scripts for films based on original screenplays, and classified literary adaptations near the books they were based on. Classifying by genre proved difficult. The system also had to be explained to patrons.

Conclusions: Over time, DVD circulation went up while VHS circulation went down. The library created special viewing centers for patrons who don't have VHS players and replaced some popular VHS titles with DVD's. The article also mentioned that the Penrose Library owns some of the only existing copies in the surrounding area of certain documentaries and foreign films on VHS, thus serving as an archival resource for the local community.

Comments (My Analysis): Although this article is not specifically about cinephiles, it demonstrates how libraries can serve as a rich resource for cinephiles seeking rare movies, especially as video stores die out. Many films are available only on older formats, not being commercially successful enough to warrant rerelease. The article mentions how some patrons asked for more films by certain directors or in specific languages, allowing the library to shape the collection according to the community's needs. University film classes often spark cinephilia among students, but non-academic libraries can also serve their local cinephiles. The piece also demonstrates the difficulties of classifying films using traditional indexing systems. The system mentioned in the article did not seem optimal to me for cinephiles, who might want to search by genre or director, but it makes sense in an academic context where videos often serve as teaching aids.

Future Research Implications: It would be interesting to see current data on how much library video collections still circulate, given the popularity of streaming and declining sales of DVD's and Blu-Rays. Libraries may be the only available, or at least easily

accessible sources for some films, as the article notes. Also, there is relatively little research out there about usage of the streaming vendors that cater to libraries, like Kanopy. These services provide access to educational materials, like documentaries, but also many independent and art films.

Information Professional Practices Implications: Libraries must balance the expense and security issues of open stacks, and of maintaining media collections in general, with the value they can clearly have for patrons. I love the idea of providing viewing technology for older formats so that these movies can be viewed as well as preserved. Of course, digitization and preservation of older movies by film archives is also key. Finally, it seems that different libraries have improvised different classification systems for videos, and it would be fascinating to study the pros and cons of these various systems for discrimination and aggregation.

References

Macke, S., & Sewell, B. (2011). Open stacks for library videos: A case study. *Reference and User Services Quarterly*, 51(1), 36-42.

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