



InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

Case Study Proposal *The Danube Exodus:* Interactive Multimedia Piece Focus 1 - Arts

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Description

This project will examine the processes involved in creating a multimedia interactive piece that has manifested in at least two forms—as a gallery installation and as a Web site—and the products and by-products thereof. The case study will be in part post-mortem (of the gallery installation at The Getty Research Institute in 2001) and in part examination of the current Web project. The issue of possible future manifestations will also be explored.

The Danube Exodus interactive piece is the result of collaboration between the artist Péter Forgács, the Labyrinth Project at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center for Communication, and The Getty Research Institute. It examines the displacement of ethnic minorities by juxtaposing intersecting narratives: of Jews escaping Slovakia in 1939; of the “reverse exodus” of Bessarabian Germans fleeing the Soviet annexation of Bessarabia in 1941; of Captain Nándor Andrásovits, whose ship carried both groups; and of the Danube River itself. It is built on archival/historical analog articles including found footage and photographs and early eighteenth-century maps of the Danube River and drawings of the region from the special collections of the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute. These are integrated with immersive audio effects such as ambient sounds of river and harbor and ships, regional music from the period, interviews with survivors, songs and prayers of the refugees, voice-overs, and music created for the piece by composer Tibor Szemző.

Rationale

This installation piece offers an ideal opportunity to examine an interactive, dynamic and interactive system, and/or the records used in such a system. It also offers the opportunity to reexamine terms and concepts such as authenticity, reliability, and so forth within both a virtual and a hybrid context.

Research Methodology

The primary research tool will be interviews conducted with Péter Forgács, Zaia Alexander of the Getty Research Center, and Marsha Kinder of the Annenberg Center, based upon the questionnaire developed by Brent Lee (as adjusted for this project). Should modeling software become available the processes may also be modeled to show interrelations and workflow.

Timeline

Winter 2002	Submission of case study for approval
Spring 2003	Develop customized questionnaire for discussion at Vancouver meeting and clear through ethics review
Summer 2003	Conduct interviews and other data gathering
Fall/Winter 2003	Synthesize and refine results

Research Team

Exact composition TBD.

- Principle Investigator: Sally Hubbard.
- Research Assistant