Expanding Video Findability and Accessibility through Student Engagement:
Building the Nosotros Video Collection

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARIES

Denis Lacroix, Librarian

Students + Instructors + Library = Win-Win Situation

Engaging students in the information creation process of enhancing the findability and accessibility of a video collection reinforces the value of information and the students' own role as information creators. [1]

The Nosotros video collection projects involved:
- Two courses in Spanish Cinema and English-Spanish Translation,
- The University of Alberta Libraries as a community partner in a community service learning (CSL) course project,
- Upper-level Spanish students who worked in groups to provide video metadata, and video transcription and translation,
- Videos as objects of study in the courses,
- Sensitizing students to advanced information literacy topics, like information management, preservation, and access,
- Precise guidelines and explanations given to students as contributors, who provided a minimum of 20 hours of work on the project. [2]
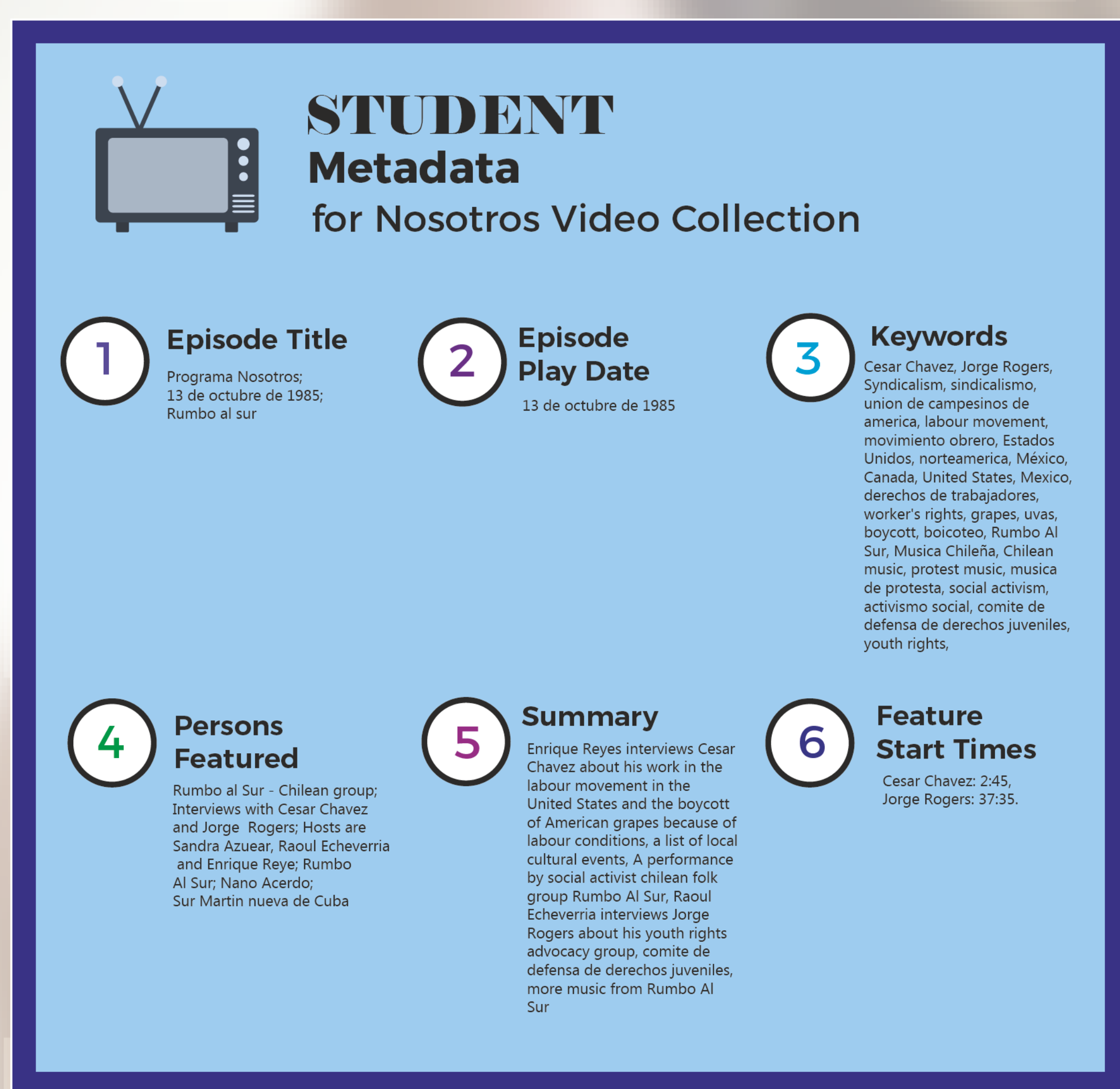
Student Metadata Project:

- University of Alberta Libraries and Latin American cinema instructor partnered on a CSL project.
- From 2012 to 2015, students contributed video metadata and episode descriptions to 316 videos.
- Metadata consistency revised by UofA Libraries' staff.
- Internet Archive collection created in 2014.
  ERA A+V institutional repository collection created in 2016.

Learning Objectives:
- Watch rare videos and interact with them.
- Enter metadata according to code-book guidelines.
- Choose meaningful descriptors in English and Spanish and compose informative summaries.
- Present understanding of video segments to peers in an historical context.
- Students entered metadata according to code-book guidelines into spreadsheet.

Results:

STUDENT Metadata for Nosotros Video Collection

1. Episode Title
2. Episode Play Date
3. Keywords
4. Persons Featured
5. Summary
6. Feature Start Times

Challenges:
- Varying quality of metadata, keyword and summaries
- Standardized keywords not given to students

Faculty Feedback:
- Instructor felt that the video project had a positive impact on her teaching and on student learning. It provided students with a greater community engagement and understanding, as well as hands-on experience in working with a library project and information management issues, like metadata. Video accessibility prior to online access was an issue for students and the instructor alike, which led to a variability in assigned content relevance and quality. Finally, the instructor echoed the challenge of not having standardized keywords for students to use.
- Online accessibility of the Nosotros videos with their corresponding metadata makes a whole course devoted to the Nosotros videos in understanding the local Hispanic community then and now possible. However, another challenge will be providing students with enough contextual information on the local Hispanic information, which does not yet exist in published format.

Student Transcription and Translation Project:

- University of Alberta Libraries and Spanish-English translation instructor partnered on a CSL project to have students translate and transcribe two Nosotros videos.
- English translation of Spanish speech available as closed-caption s /subtitles in the ERA Audio + Video (ERA A+V) repository built using the open source Avalon Media System Software.
- Ongoing since the fall of 2016.

Learning Objectives:
- Consult rare videos and understand the speech and information presented.
- Transcribe and translate a manageable video segment.
- Follow subtitling encoding guidelines.
- Ensure closed-captions match the speech act in the video.

Results:
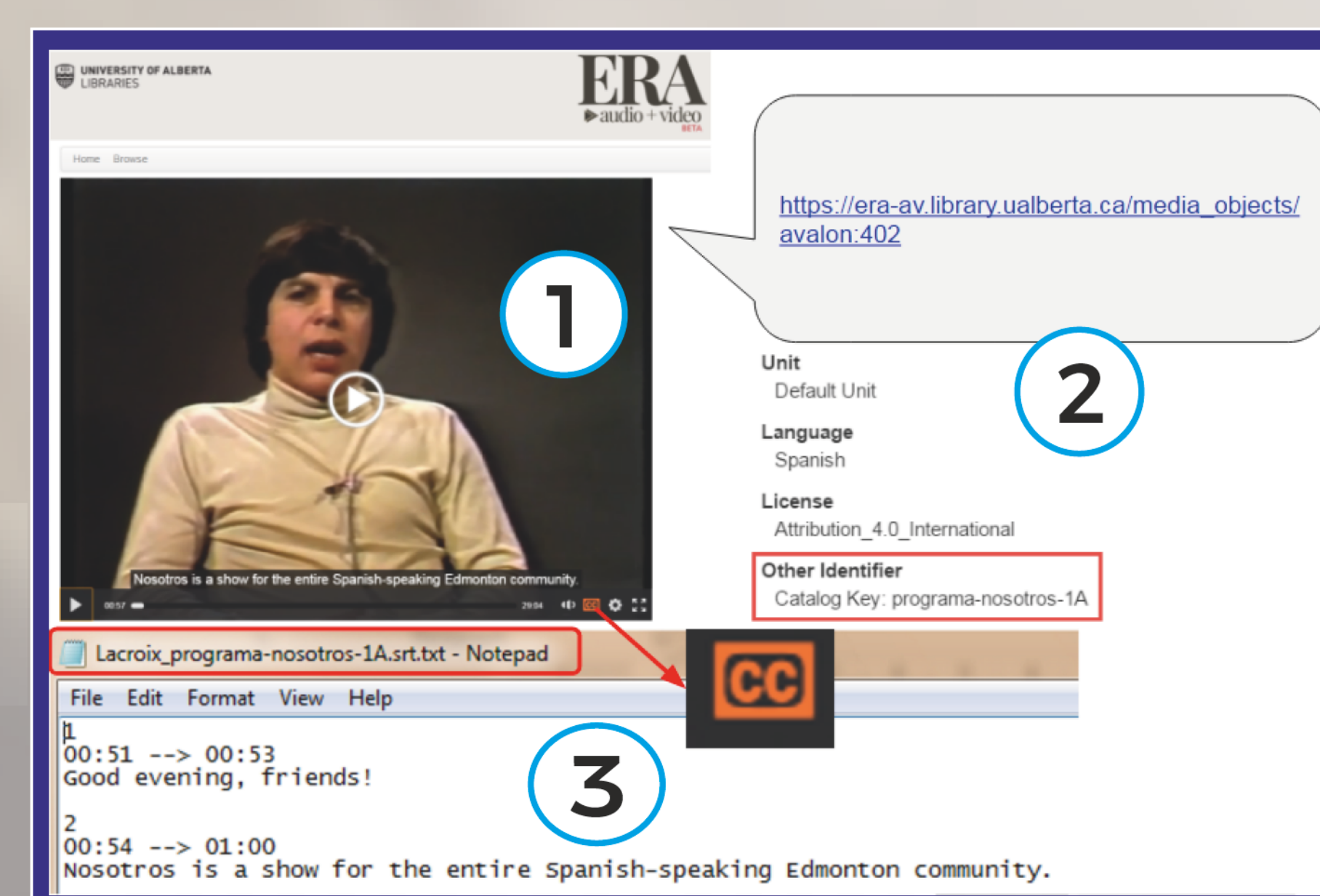
1. Screenshot of first Nosotros video with closed captioning subtitles transcribed from Spanish to English
2. ERA A+V record
3. Sample SRT subtitle encoding

Other Videos with Subtitles:
- https://era-av.library.ualberta.ca/media_objects/avalon:392
- https://era-av.library.ualberta.ca/media_objects/avalon:316

Challenges:
- Providing a text file (e.g. edited in Notepad) with the extension .srt.
- Following the exact video encoding format for subtitles, e.g. including one space before and after the arrow in the time-stamp, numbering of each subtitle line in increasing order.
- Keeping the time-stamps as accurate as possible so that the subtitles appear at the right moment.

Faculty Feedback:
- The societal impact of translating and subtitling the Nosotros videos was not readily apparent to students, who perceived this project as difficult to complete because of the challenge in understanding a variety of Latin American accents and the subtitling encoding guidelines.
- Students found transcribing and translating time-consuming and tedious; however, the more they worked on the project the easier it became and the faster they were at completing video segments.
- It was beneficial for students to provide instructor and librarian with a one minute preliminary translated and sub-titled video test file.
- Students appreciated learning about the local Latin American community and acquiring new skill-sets in subtitling in addition to those already inherent in the course.

Context of the Nosotros Video Digitization Project:

Between 2011 and 2016, the University of Alberta Libraries and the Arts Resource Centre in collaboration with Edmonton Hispanic communities digitized and processed 316 videocassettes of the Nosotros television program documenting Latin American history and culture in Alberta, Canada.

- Nosotros is a community based television program which has aired since 1981 with the help of Shaw Television.
- The program represents the memory, history, and sociopolitical worldviews of the Latin American communities in Edmonton and Alberta from Chile to Mexico.
- The videocassettes (VHS, Super VHS, Betamax, and U-Matic) were located in Medardo 'Lito' Azócar, the Nosotros founder's, basement.
- The digitized videos are licensed under Creative Commons 3.0. (CC BY-NC-ND) and are available on the Internet Archive and ERA A+V.

Views Over Time
8,052
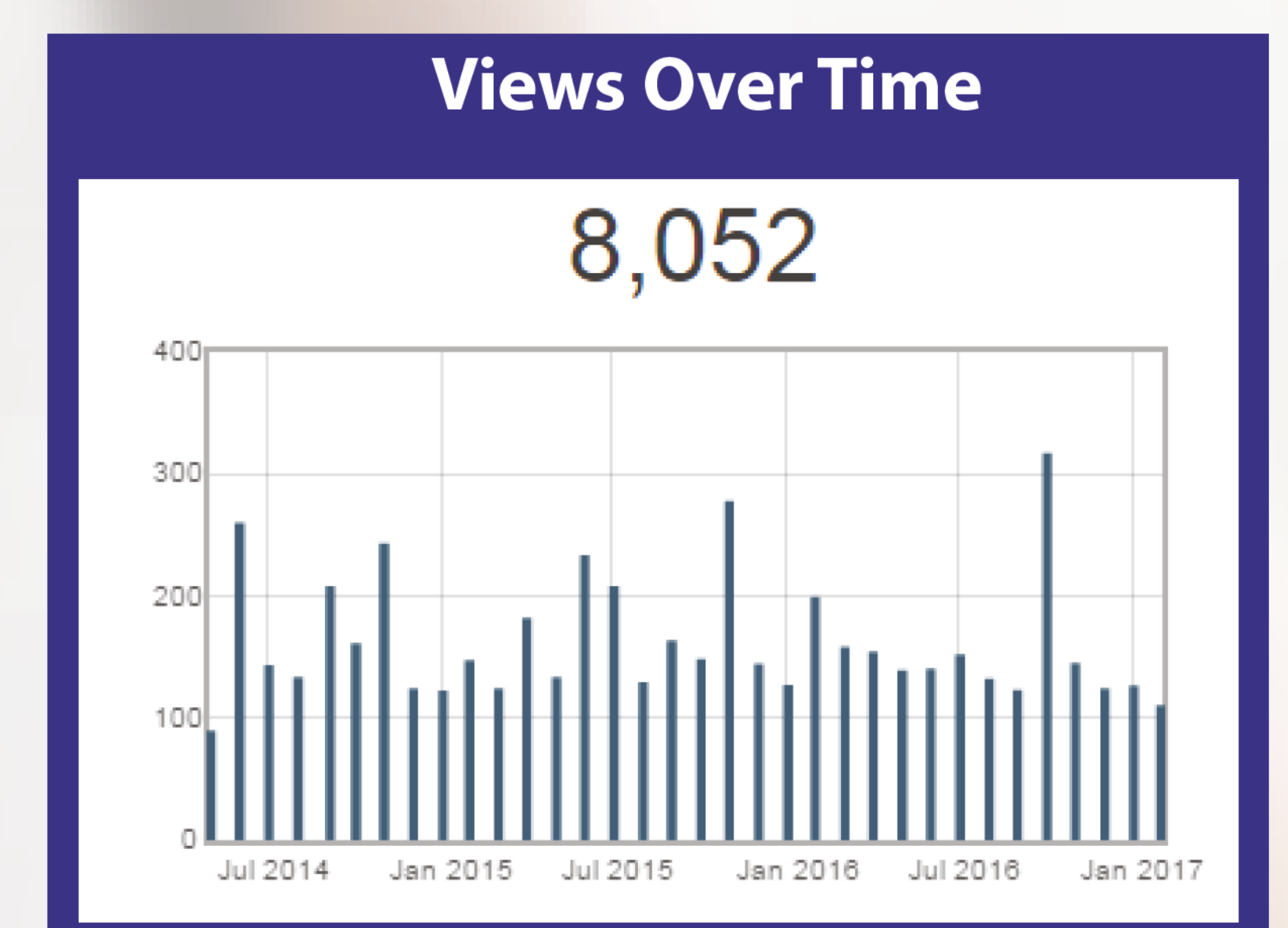
The Demographics of the Population Relating to the Project:

- The University of Alberta is located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- The University of Alberta currently has 37,830 students from 143 countries.
- Edmonton's population in 2016 is 899,447: a 58% increase from what it was in 1981. [3]
- In 1971, Canada has proclaimed itself a multicultural nation based on cultural pluralism.
- By 2011, Alberta had welcomed 54,650 people with Latin American origins. [4]
- The 1986 Canadian Census found that 0.4% of the Albertan population with Spanish as a mother tongue. [5]
- The 2011 Canadian Census found that 1.6% of the Edmonton population had Spanish as a mother tongue.

EDMONTON

Moving Forward:

By 2017, all of the digitized Nosotros videos will be freely available on the Internet Archive with metadata revised by University of Alberta Libraries' metadata assistant in Bibliographic Services. Transcription and translation of videos will continue in collaboration with the department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta.

Bibliography:
1 ACRL. "Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education." ACRL: Association of College and Research Libraries, ALA American Library Association, http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework. Accessed 23 March 2017.
2 University of Alberta Faculty of Arts. "CSL Student Info." Community Service Learning, https://www.ualberta.ca/community-service-learning/csl-student-info. Accessed 1 May 2017.
3 Edmonton, City. 2016 Municipal Census. "Household Languages," https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/census. Accessed 23 March 2017.
4 Statistics Canada. "Ethnic Origin (264), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Generation Status (4), Age Groups (10) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2011 National Household Survey", http://www12.statcan.ca/nhs-enm/2011/. Accessed January 2016.
5 Statistics Canada. Recensement de la population de 1986 [Canada] Fichier de microdonnées à grande diffusion : Fichier des particuliers, Odesi, http://search2.odesi.ca/. Accessed 23 March 2017.