



**British Universities
Film & Video Council**

moving image and sound, knowledge and access

Why join the National VHS Register initiative?

The BUFVC's National VHS Register initiative aims to provide HE and FE institutions across the UK with an economical and comprehensive solution to the retention, disposal and migration of unique, and sometimes irreplaceable, off-air VHS recordings. It comes in response to the growing disposal of video held in older formats by libraries across the UK.

Why is it needed?

Many libraries have invested substantially in off-air recording and its licensing over the past few decades. Some of these recordings are extremely valuable and may in fact be the only copy available. It is known that as the pressure for cost savings increase these assets are becoming increasingly at risk.

The BUFVC hopes to provide the means to minimise damage to this "distributed national collection", becoming a central hub through which institutions can determine the uniqueness of their VHS off-air libraries in order to inform their eventual disposal.

What are the benefits?

The benefits of such an initiative are multiple and may be individual to your institution. The main benefits are listed below:

- It will help facilitate the release of shelf space in institutional libraries.
- The register will determine which recordings are unique or at risk of being lost, this information can then be made available to all libraries that participate in this initiative.
- You will be able to take an informed approach to disposal, reducing the risk of losing valuable or rare recordings.
- The BUFVC will be on hand to respond to disposal enquiries and advise on preservation and digitisation strategies.

What do we have to do?

The information we are requesting is minimal. The BUFVC is providing an Excel spreadsheet template [bufvc.ac.uk/nationalvhsregister] and require the following information by 1 September 2011:

- Title of programme
- Date of broadcast
- Time of broadcast

- Institution / location (e.g. University of Westminster)
- TRILT ID of the programme (if/where possible - this is entirely optional)

The majority of institutions should be able to collate this information by a simple 'export' from their databases.

Once received and collated this information will then be used to create a relational holdings database.

Pilot phase and timeline

In order to test the viability of the project we are first directing our attention towards the BUFVC's member institutions. This pilot phase will last approximately one year. Once the concept has been proven we then hope to expand the project to all HE and FE institutions in the UK.

- Deadline for BUFVC member institutions to submit data: 1 September 2011
- Consolidate data and evaluate pilot phase: September - December 2011
- Open project to non-BUFVC institutions: January 2012

Further questions?

Please refer to the FAQs on the BUFVC website or contact Frazer Ash (frazer@bufvc.ac.uk) or 020 7393 1503