Surfing For Closed Captioned Materials

A Do-It-Yourself Guide

In order to ensure that the video materials one uses in the classroom are accessible, one will need to do a little internet surfing. Campus disability services are dynamic entities that update their resources regularly to meet the need of the student body, especially at SF State University. Campus “Library and Media Services” websites – like the internet in general – can be incredible resources for locating captioned video materials.

This do-it-yourself page is meant to offer helpful tips for finding closed captioned video materials for use in your college classroom. The resources offered at SF State University are being used to inform campus faculty, but can also be used as a model for searching for these materials on your own campus.

I. Disabled Persons Resource Center (DPRC)

[http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprdc](http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprdc)
dprc@sfsu.edu

DPRC is an excellent resource for building knowledge on how to ensure universal design in university learning. DPRC can also provide information on locating closed captioned videos.
II. Library Media Services – HSS 127
   www.library.sfsu.edu/about/depts/mac.php

Finding DVD and VHS materials that are captioned is not as difficult as one might think. Films and videos held in the library collection can be easily searched for closed captioning. Most DVDs are equipped to produce captions by turning on the subtitles in the “language” or “special features” menu. Closed caption encoding of VHS tapes is not as common. A simple search for the video to be used can reveal whether or not closed captioning is available. Using these captions are merely a matter of flipping the “captions” toggle switch on the SMART classroom console.

III. Academic Technology – HSS 127
    www.sfsu.edu/~avtv/avmediacatalog.html.

    AT offers resources for finding and viewing closed captioned materials. A simple database search makes the location of captioned video materials easy.

IV. National Captioning Institute (NCI)
    www.ncicap.org

    Established in 1979. The NCI seeks to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing peoples, as well as others who can benefit from the services, have access to television and news through the technology of closed captioning. Please see the NCI website for examples of the benefits that closed captioning can be to all.