

First public screening of the high resolution version of the
GRASS GIS video from 1987.

http://static.tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pub/images/tv_tropes_producers_gracie_films.png





German: Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB)

- **largest science and technology library globally**
 - over 9 Mio. items,
 - 180 Mio. Documents (GetInfo Portal)
 - **125 km of shelving**
- **national library of Germany for**
 - **engineering, technology, and the physical sciences.**
- funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the 16 German states.
- **the world's first Digital Object Identifier (DOI) registration agency** for research data sets (since 2005).
- operates in conjunction with the **Leibniz University, Hannover.**



The Library Angle: Open Source + Science = Open Science



Science advances only if knowledge is shared.



***Accelerating the sharing of scientific knowledge
accelerates the advancement of science.***

The future: Data-driven Libraries

*„While scientists focus on the final frontier,
(data-driven libraries) will work on designing*

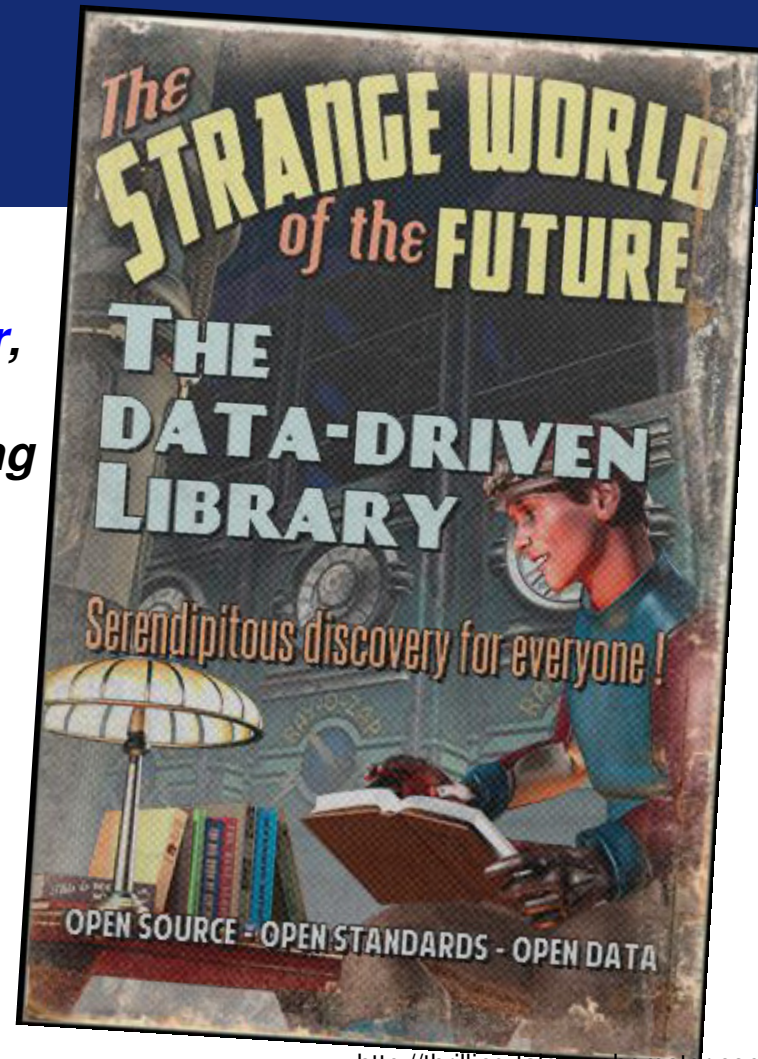
a different kind of space

full of physical and virtual tools

that

capture imagination and

enable researchers to explore it.“



<http://thrilling-tales.webomator.com>

Christopher Erdmann, 2014

John G Wolbach Library at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

What about GRASS GIS ?



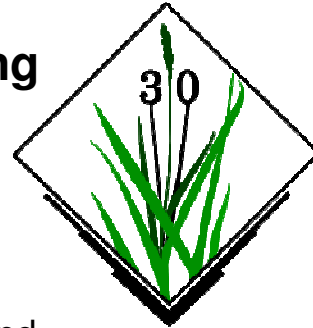
GRASS GIS: Geographic Resources Analysis Support System

- Development started in 1982
- One of the initial OSGeo projects
- <http://grass.osgeo.org>
- GPL-licenced
- Current versions:
 - **GRASS 6.4.4**
 - **GRASS 7.0 (beta)**
- **Volumes, rasters, topological vectors**
- **Temporal data**
- Cooperation with QGIS
- > 400 core modules, > 100 add-ons

The GRASS community

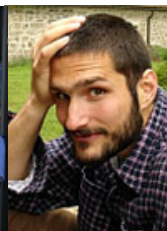
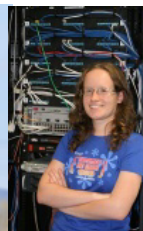
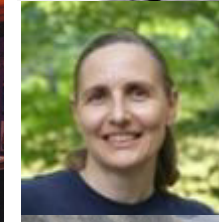
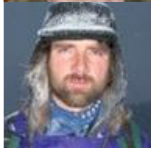
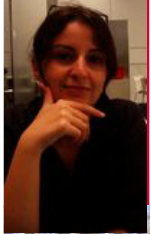
Alive, kicking – and growing

GRASS GIS is going strong
- for over 30 years



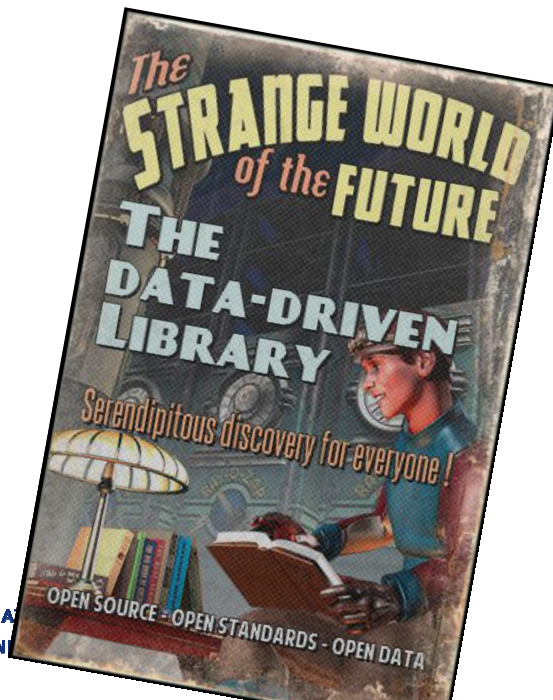
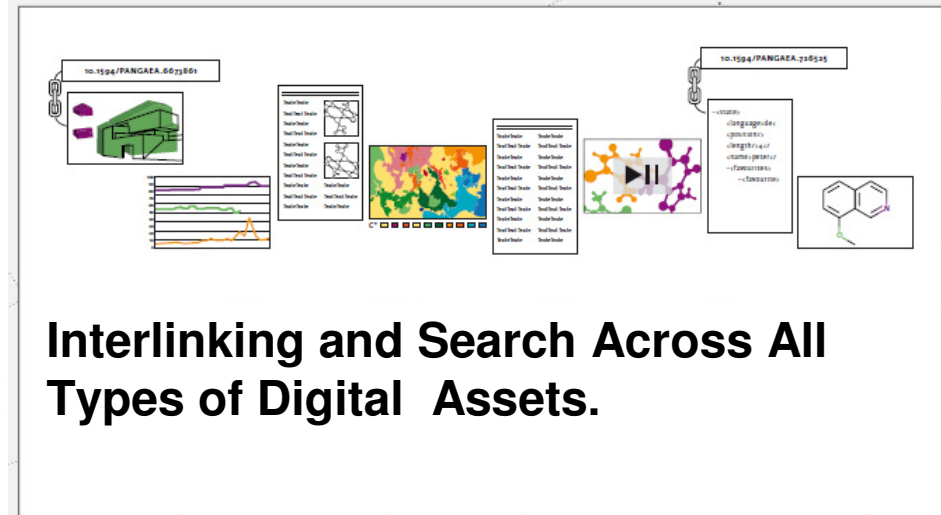
GRASS is people

- New generations of developers and users emerge
- People address new problems
- People retire from the project
- The GRASS history trail is growing
- **Knowledge + skill needs to be preserved**

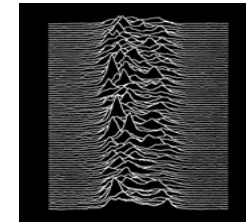
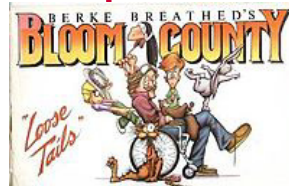
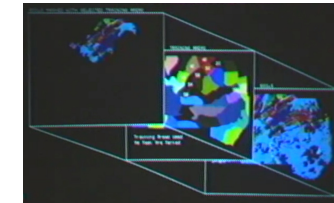
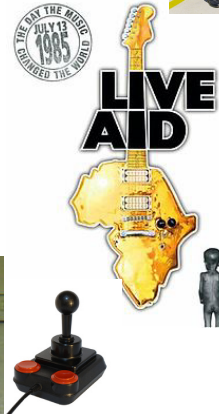
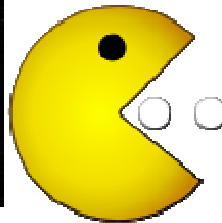
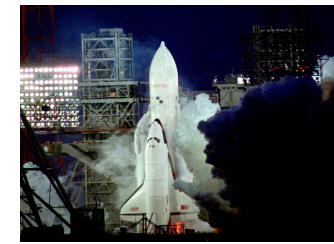


Ultimate Goal:

Interlinking and Search Across All Types of Digital Assets.

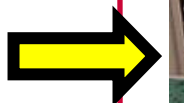


Let's go back to the 1980s

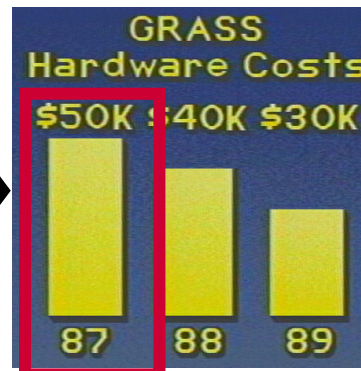


The early days of GRASS

Year	Installations	GRASS Version
1982	1	-
1983	3	-
1984	5	-
1985	20	GRASS 1.0
1987	100+	GRASS 2.0
1988	1000+	GRASS 3.0



Sun 150U

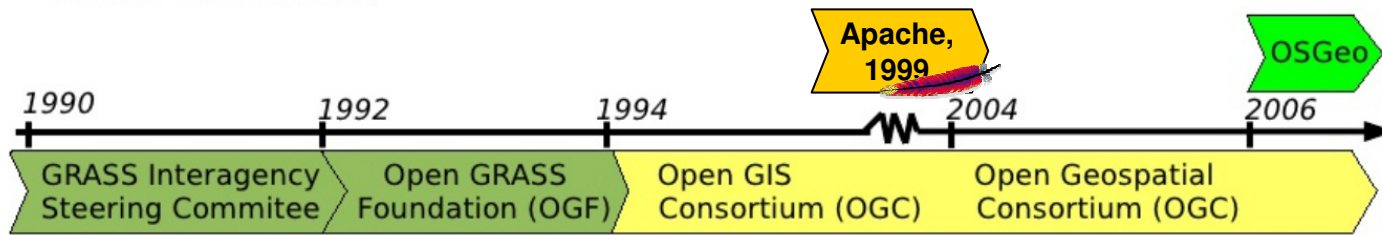


2014: \$90k

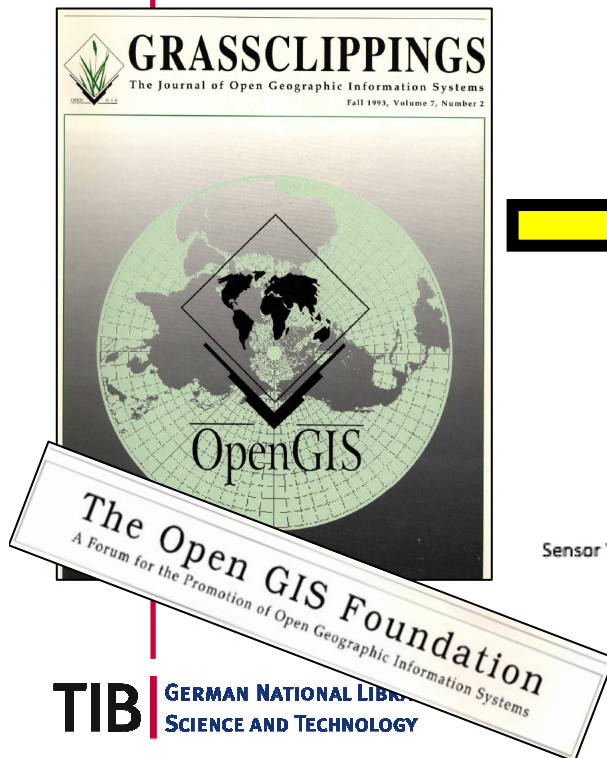


US Army Corps of Engineers.

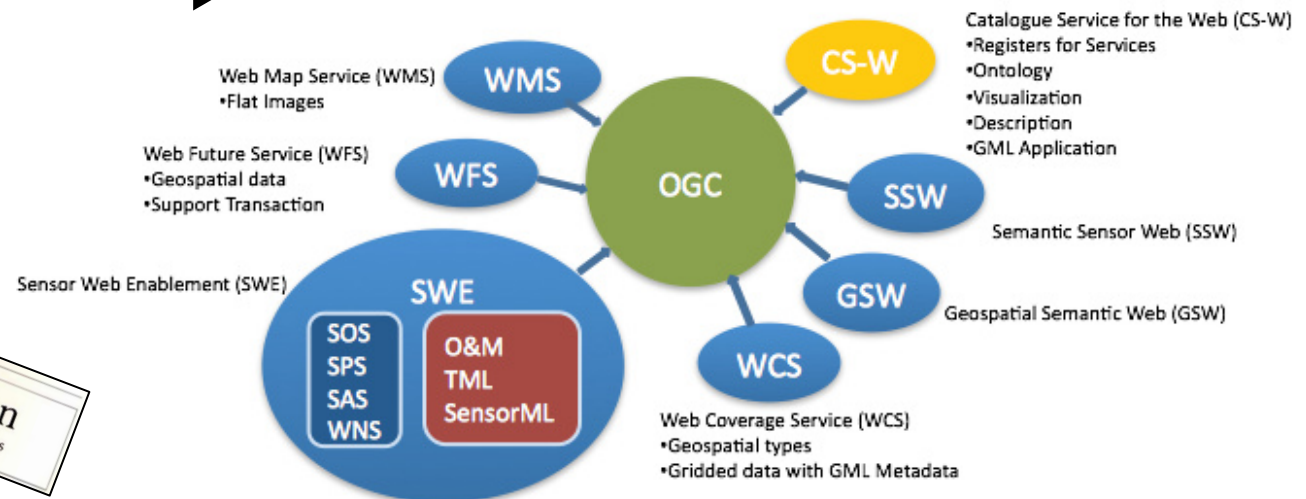
GRASS GIS: The starting point of OGC standards



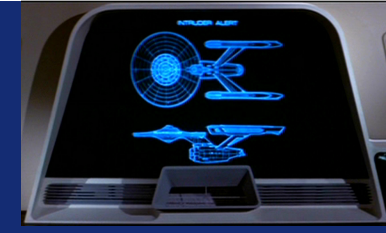
Markus Neteler, 2013



OGC™
Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc.



GIS Customer demands were driven by Star Trek



1983

“Our For McClellan customer [...] was impressed with the new computer and software for his office and, upon seeing the first map image on the screen asked “Can you rotate it ?””

“We were amazed that he wasn’t aware of what was required to just get the image on the screen- and in color.”



1982: The Wrath of Khan

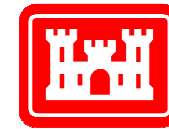
“The Star Trek television series had really raised expectations within our target user community.”

Jim Westervelt, 2004

http://grass.osgeo.org/uploads/grass/history_docs/westervelt2004_GRASS_roots.pdf

The 1987 promotional GRASS GIS video

- 1987: USA-CERL has a video for GRASS GIS produced.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

- Narrated by William Shatner (a.k.a. James Tiberius Kirk of Star Trek)



- Video was distributed on VHS tapes



The making of the GRASS video

Recollections from Robert Lozar (PI, CERL)

- The project took about 6 months.
- **Script by Robert „Bob“ Lozar, story board by Carla Peyton.**
- *„When Roger Inman bid low to make the video (special effects were his), we had extra money, so we said, **lets get a big name to do the audio.**“*
- *„Carla Peyton and I flew in to Los Angles, but the plane was late,*
- *Carla's luggage was literally melted by the conveyor belt and we got in a traffic jam on the way to Hollywood.*
- ***So we were a little late;***



Bob



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**



Carla



Roger

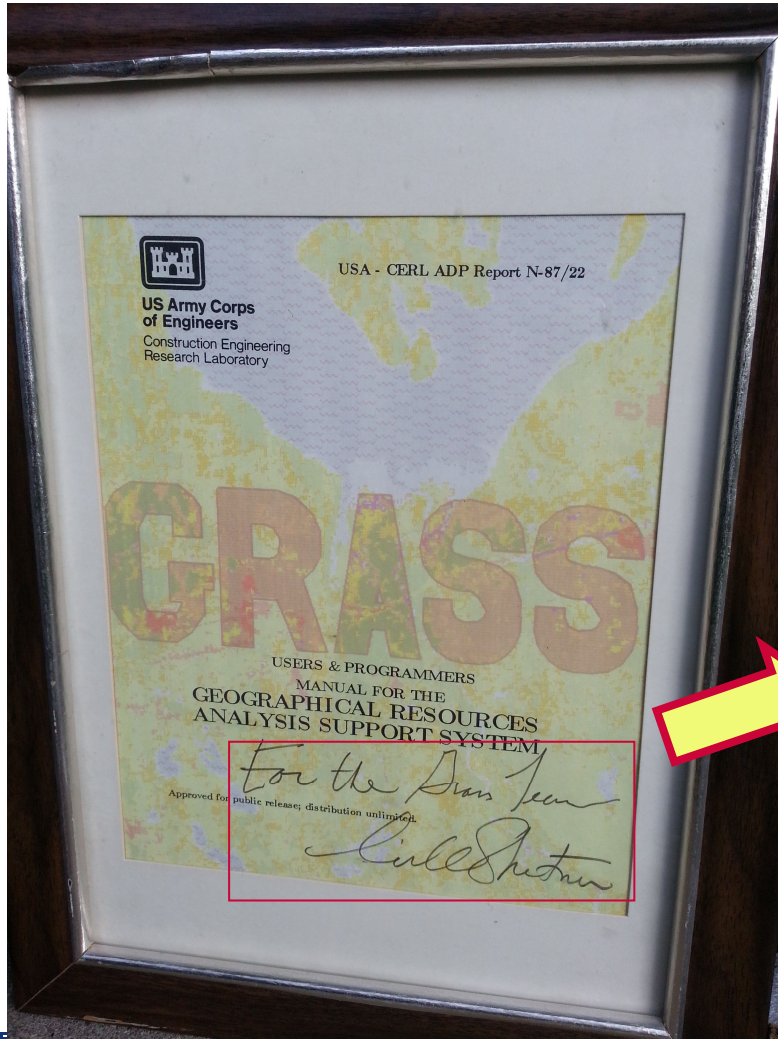
The making of the GRASS video Recollections from Robert Lozar (PI, CERL)



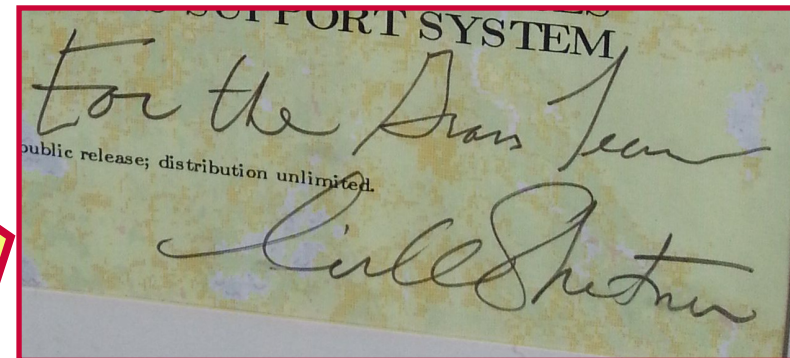
- **„Shatner was very impatient and gruff.“**
- *„I went to the control booth with the technicians and started to relax because Shatner was there and had the script ready to start. Then he looked up and asked, `Who is directing me?`“*
- **Shatner actually read the story board script, having never seen the video or not having any idea what a GIS was.“**
- *„Since I was the only one that knew what was going on, I said I was. **My first job in Hollywood was directing William Shatner.**“*
 - *„It was also my last... **they never invited me back!**“*



GRASS Manual autographed by W. Shatner



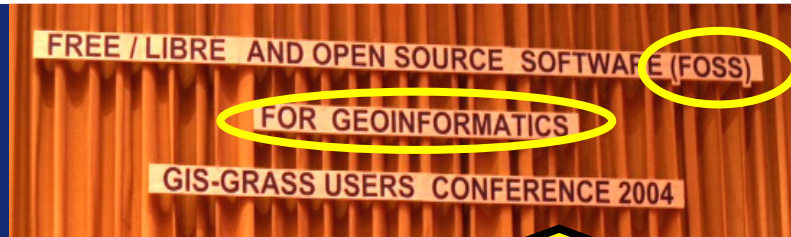
- *Frontpage of the GRASS Manual Version 2.0*
- *It was hanging in the GRASS studio for years."*



***„For the Grass team
Will Shatner“***

Bridging the digital divide

2004



1990s

- While the GRASS project evolved and addressed new kinds of geospatial challenges,
- **the GRASS video tape became legendary – and a preservation/access issue.**



2004

Jim Westervelt digitizes a VHS copy.

First screening at the FOSS/GRASS Users Conference in Bangkok 2004.

Jeff McKenna receives video on USB stick

.mov-file on the GRASS Webportal



2011

The video is uploaded to YouTube with limited Metadata



The challenge according to

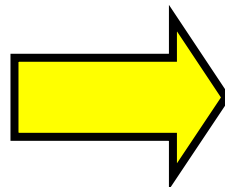
WIRED

2013

- Wired magazine features the GRASS movie in an online article and describes both its **limbo status** and **significance**, being a **historic document**:
- **Absence of references/links to the movie:**



- *not on the International Movie Database (IMDB)*
- *not on Wikipedia*
- *not on Mr. Shatners websi*



Video Flashback 1987: Shatner Tells You Where You Can Stick Your Maps

BY BETSY MASON | 08.07.13 | 6:30 AM | PERMALINK

Share 5 Tweet 1 +1 93 in Share Pin it

Source: <http://www.wired.com/2013/08/shatner-loves-digital-maps/>

Praise by

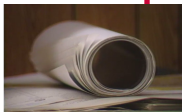
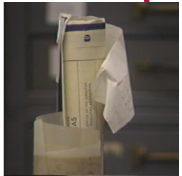
WIRED

- *„We’re pretty confident that if you really like Shatner, or you really like maps, you will really like this video. „*
- *„But we are absolutely certain that **if you are a professional geographer,***
 - ***you’ve probably already seen this video 100 times but***
 - ***still get super excited every time you watch it and***
 - ***can only barely contain yourself at timestamp 1:50***
 - ***when Captain Kirk’s voice tells you,***

Source: <http://www.wired.com/2013/08/shatner-loves-digital-maps/>

Praise by **WIRED**

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- *when Captain Kirk’s voice tells you,*

“Don’t keep your information about soils, vegetation, roads or archeological sites rolled up in map tubes or stuffed into drawers.”

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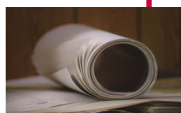
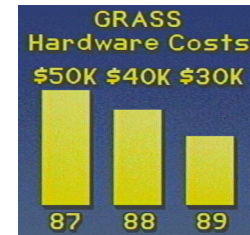
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 - can only barely contain yourself at timestamp 1:50
 - when Captain Kirk’s voice tells you,

“Don’t keep your information about soils, vegetation, roads or archeological sites rolled up in map tubes or stuffed into drawers.

Keep it in a computer.”

Source: <http://www.wired.com/2013/08/shatner-loves-digital-maps/>



Bridging the digital divide: 2014

The GRASS video is chosen as a test case for the new TIB portal for nontextual audio-video content.

The project team from 1987 was contacted via Jim Westervelt:



Jim

- *„Roger [...] seemed interested in finding the original copy which would yield a much better digital version... „*
- *„If luck continues, Roger may be able to read that original with some old equipment to create something of archive quality.“*
- *Carla Peyton: „She was intimately involved with the development of the video and did a lot of the post-editing; a **behind-the scenes creative genius**“ (passed away 2005)*

[Jim Westervelt]

Success: The GRASS 1987 video on the TIB AV-Portal

The screenshot shows the TIB AV-Portal search results for the query 'GRASS'. The page header includes the TIB logo, 'AV-PORTAL BETA', a language dropdown set to 'English', and the TIB German National Library of Science and Technology logo. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Subjects, Publisher, About AV Portal, Watchlist, Upload, Login, and Register. A search bar contains the text 'GRASS'. Below the search bar, the 'Search Results' section shows 30 results with sorting options for Relevance, Title, and Release Date. A yellow arrow points to the first result, which is a video thumbnail titled 'GRASS Video'. To the right, a 'Filter' section shows subject categories: Subject (dropdown), Physics (9), Biology (5), and Information technology (5).

GRASS Video

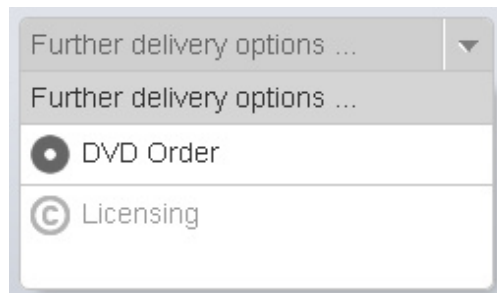
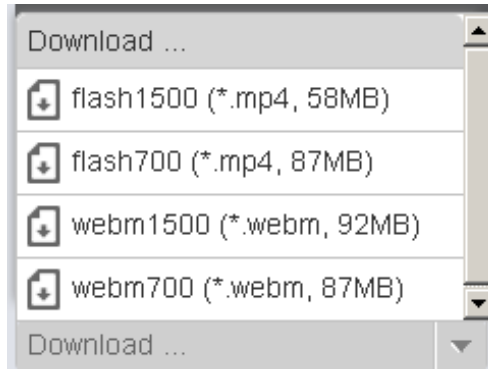
- The high resolution version of the GRASS 1987 video is available:
 - **Citable by Digital Object Identifier (DOI).**
 - **Searchable**
 - **Long term preserved for the future.**

Enhanced search capabilities: Navigation by film segments and search strings

The screenshot displays a video player interface. The main video area shows a woman with long hair reading a book titled "RISS". Below the video is a timeline with a red bar indicating search results. A red callout box points to a specific segment on the timeline, stating "This segment contains your search result." A legend below the timeline indicates that red bars represent "Results found". The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 00:32 / 14:26, along with volume, play/pause, and full screen icons. A URL bar at the bottom contains the text: "Citation of Segment http://dx.doi.org/10.5446/12963/#t=00:30-00:32".

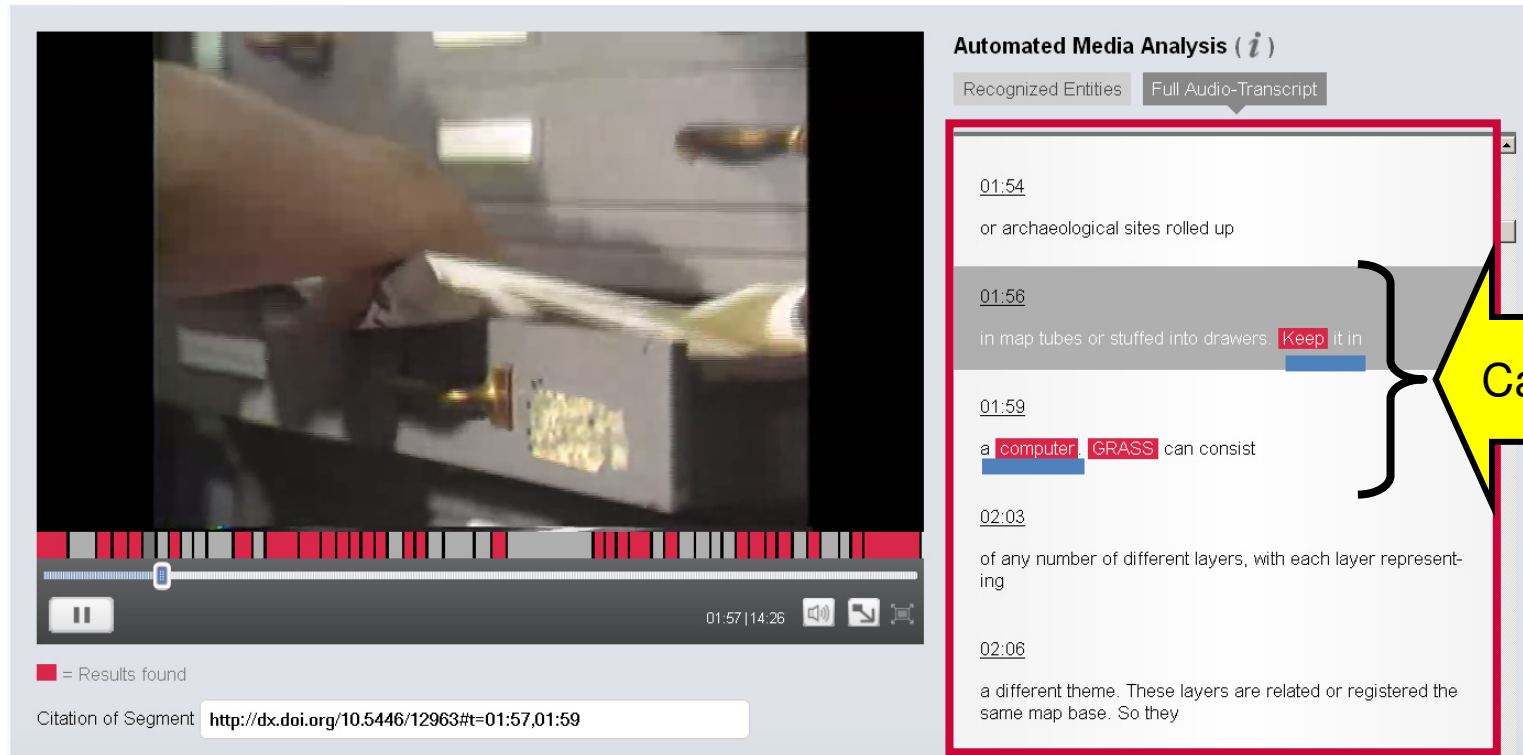
Visual index

Download Options



- New (open) formats will be added in the future.

Navigation and Citation by audio-transcript



The screenshot shows a video player interface. On the left is a video frame showing a hand holding a yellow object. Below the video is a progress bar and a legend indicating that red bars represent 'Results found'. A citation box below the video shows the URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5446/12963#t=01:57,01:59>. On the right, an 'Automated Media Analysis (i)' panel is open, showing a transcript with highlighted segments. A yellow arrow labeled 'Caption' points to the transcript. The transcript includes the following text:

01:54
or archaeological sites rolled up

01:56
in map tubes or stuffed into drawers. **Keep it in**

01:59
a **computer**. **GRASS** can consist

02:03
of any number of different layers, with each layer represent-
ing

02:06
a different theme. These layers are related or registered the
same map base. So they

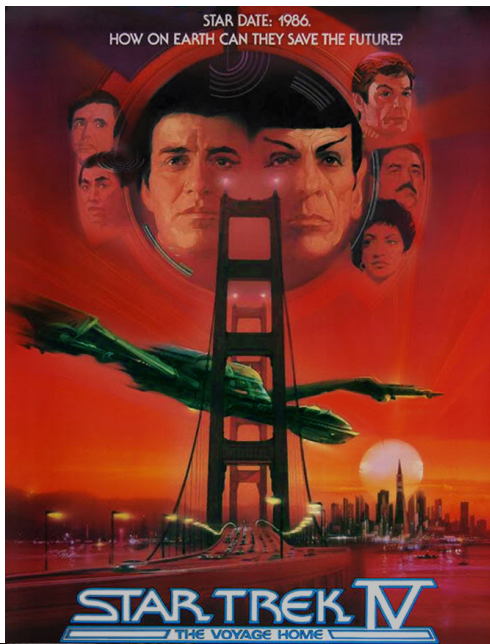
Citation of Segment <http://dx.doi.org/10.5446/12963#t=00:26,00:32>

DOI + Media Fragment Identifier (MFI)

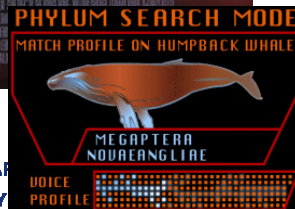
„Keep it in a computer“

Star Trek: Late 80s

1986: The Voyage Home

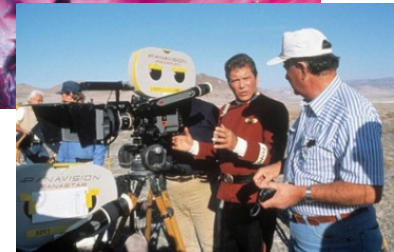


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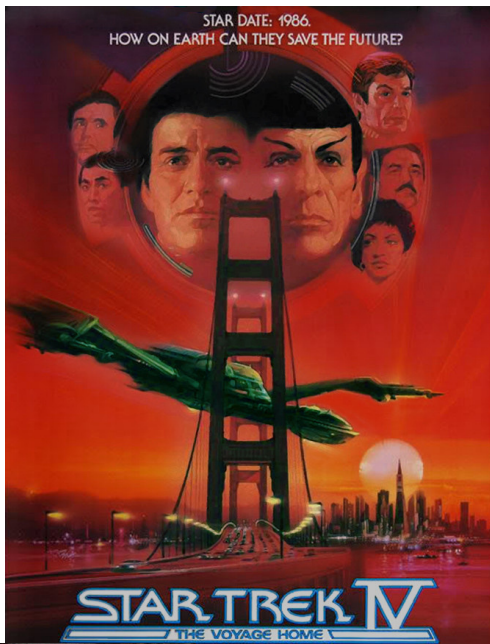
1987 ?

1989: The final frontier

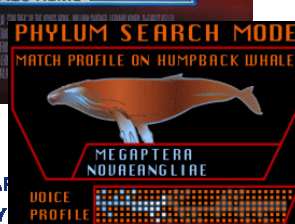


Star Trek: Late 80s

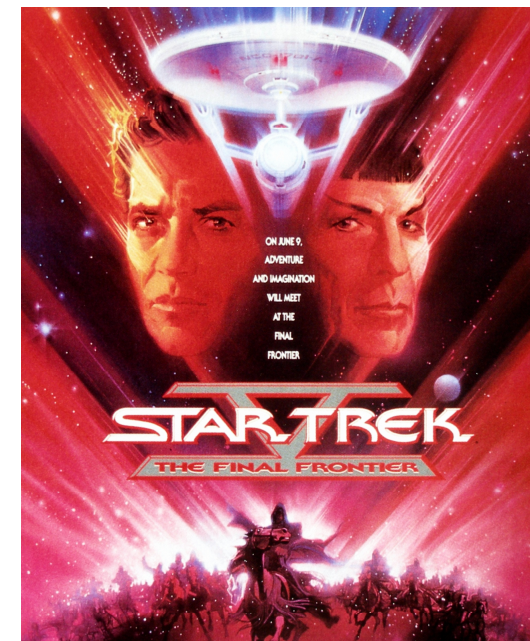
1986: The Voyage Home



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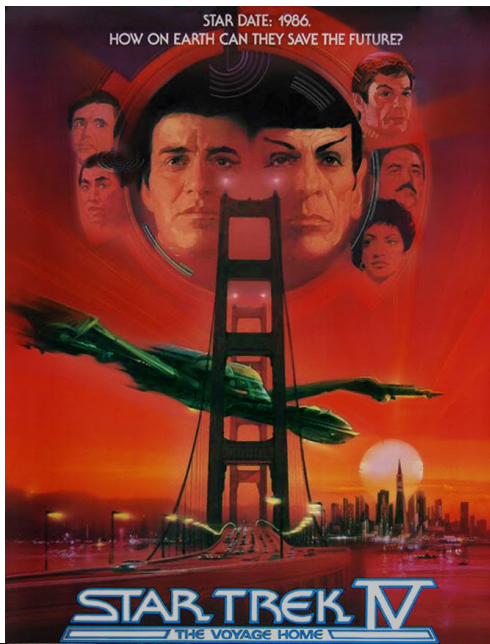


1989: The final frontier

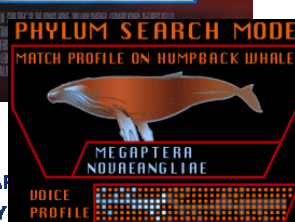


Star Trek: Late 80s

1986: The Voyage Home



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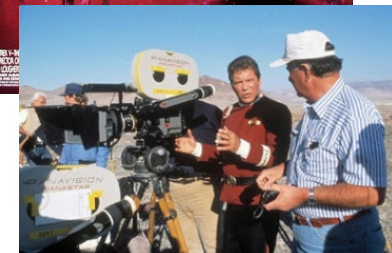
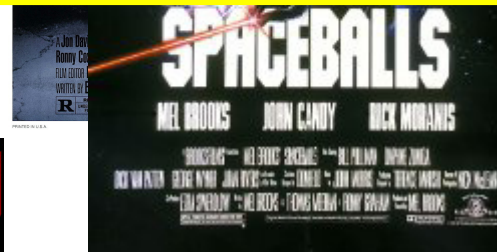
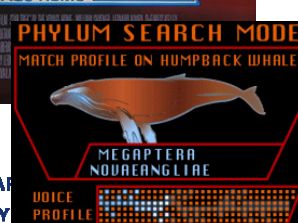
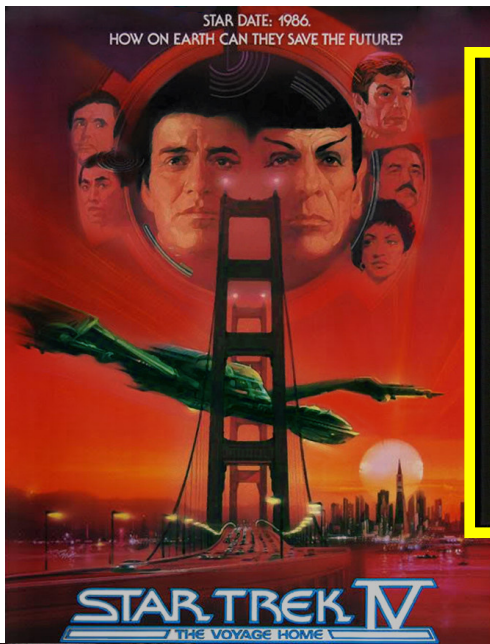
1989: The final frontier



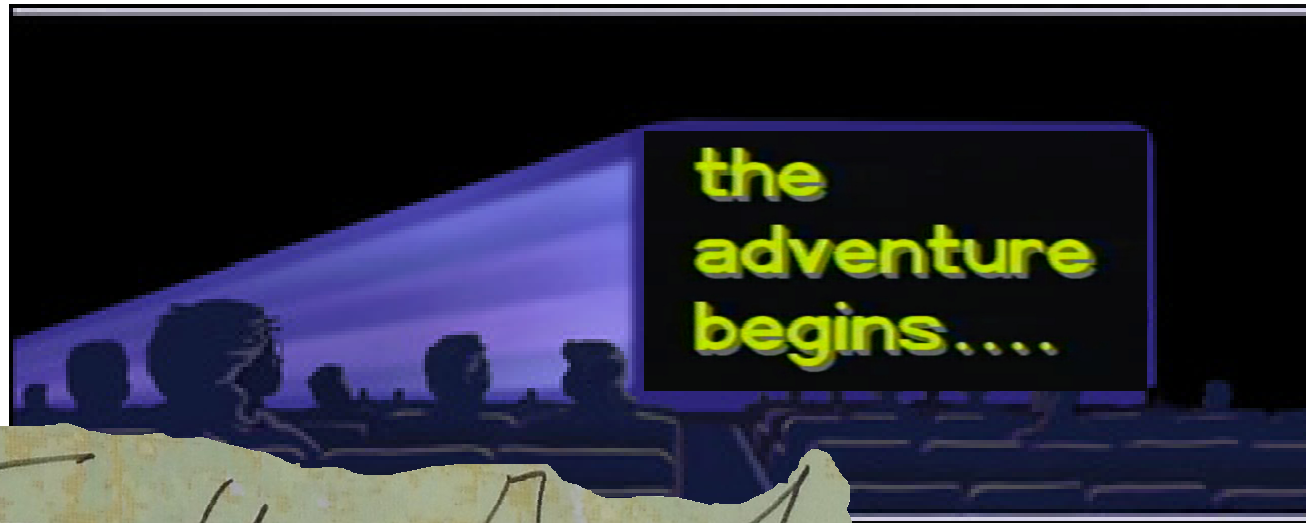
Star Trek: Late 80s

1986: The Voyage Home

1989: The final frontier



Enjoy – Have a great FOSS4G !



http://static.tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pub/images/tv_tropes_producers_gracie_films.png

For the Grass team
Will Shatner

***„For the Grass team
Will Shatner“***