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D2.23 Digitalization of existing archive (France, Israel)

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¹ R: Report, DEM: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, DEC: Websites, patent filings, videos, etc., O: Other

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1. Scope of the document

This document is intended to provide an overview of what has been done by the French unit (CNRS & University of Paris 7) and the Israeli team (TAU) with respect to WP 2.4.

2. Introduction

This document includes the description of human recourses (section 3.1), technical resources (section 3.2) and status of the project (section 3.3) for France (section 3). In section 4, we describe the actions taken with regards to digitalization of existing archive in Israel.

3. France

3.1. Human resources

Stage 1 (starting - April 2017)

As for human resources, Carlo Geraci and Caterina Donati are working on this task.

3.2. Technical Resources

As for technical resources, all the video material is stored in two external hard-drives waiting to be uploaded on the platform. The CNRS and RAI (the Italian public broadcasting television) provided all technological equipment required to digitize the documentaries.

3.3. Status of the project

3.3.1. Completed subtasks

The first stage of work was devoted to: contacting the association Académie de la Langue des Signes Française (<http://www.languedessignes.fr/>), reviewing the materials to be digitized. A search on CNRS archives has also been conducted which brought to light the existence of documentaries on the situation of French Deaf people during World War II (<http://videothèque.cnrs.fr/doc=905>).

Digitizing the archive of the French Deaf Community

With the help of Ronit Leven (president of the Académie de la Langue des Signes Française), we identified three documentaries in VHS format that are particularly relevant for the French Deaf Community and that are in extreme danger of being lost. These are:

- 1939-1945 Que faisaient les sourds
- Le vie des sourds pieds noirs et juifs d'Algerie
- Quel avenir pour les personnes agées sourdes

All three documentaries are the last copy hold by the Deaf association Académie de la Langue des Signes Française. The association is also the owner of the rights on these videos. They discuss three topics that are central to Sign-Hub: the lives of Deaf people during WW2, the lives black Deaf people and Jews Deaf people during the war in Algeria (1954-1962), the lives of elderly French Deaf signers.

The RAI research center of Turin (the Italian public broadcasting television) collaborated with CNRS to digitize the documentaries in VHS format. Given the standard used in the original materials a number of filters had to be applied in order to recover as much as possible the original colors and reduce the noise generated by the degradation of the magnetic type. Current-

ly the three documentaries have been digitized in raw format (28 GB each documentary) and in streaming format (2 GB each documentary).

3.3.2. Remaining subtasks

Legal convention

A legal convention for the use and showing on the Platform of the documentaries is currently under elaboration at the Legal offices of University Paris Diderot-P7. It will be signed in the next month by Caterina Donati, as a representative of Sign-Hub, and by a representative of the Académie de la Langue des signes. In the next months, we plan to subtitle part of this material.

Subtitling

We are currently asking pricing to companies that provide subtitles. The following step is to start subtitling at least the documentary "1939-1945 *Que faisaient les sourds*".

Incorporating the new documentary

We are also evaluating the possibility to include the CNRS documentary (*Témoins sourds témoins silencieux*, which is subtitled in English) on the Sign-Hub platform. The decision is to be discussed within WP3 to see if there are possible technical issues and then within WP2.4. Once approval is obtained, we will contact the owner(s) of the rights to see if they allow us to include the documentary in the Sign-Hub platform.

4. Israel

Israel will also contribute materials to the repository of life narratives by elderly signers from two different kinds of sources.

The Sign Language Lab at the University of Haifa has collected many life narratives from people in the Israeli deaf community, some of them from the very first group that started the community, and others that immigrated to Israel from many different countries. They have done this through their over 25-year involvement with the community, in order to have a record of their experiences, the early years of the country, and the early stages of Israeli Sign Language (ISL). Over 30 of those life narratives are those of first and second generation ISL signers. Some of these people have passed away in recent years, and the narratives that they have are an invaluable resource for their memories of the early days of the community. To our knowledge, that collection is the only such resource in Israel. The Haifa Lab has been looking for a project that would enable them to make this rare collection of narratives available and accessible to the public. It is very difficult to find resources for funding community oriented projects like this, and Sign-Hub seems to be exactly what they were looking for. Irit Meir, Svetlana Dachkovsky and Rose Stump from that lab will be collaborating with Naama Friedmann (Tel Aviv University).

In addition, contacts have been established with the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem about the possibility to incorporate digital materials from their archives about deaf Jewish during WW2 and their memories.