

# VHS AUDIT FOR RBA & DIGITIZATION

Collection Management at Scarecrow Video

## About Scarecrow

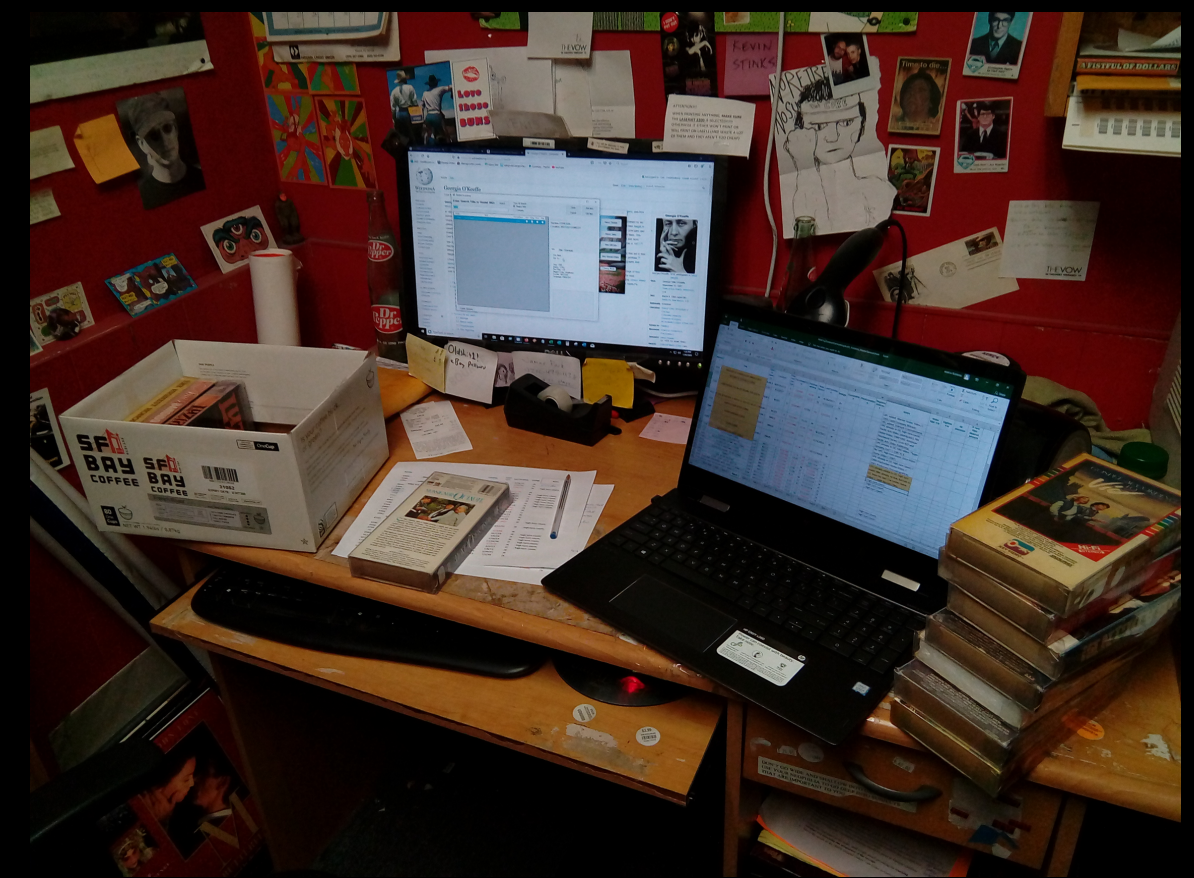
The largest video library in the world, Seattle's Scarecrow Video holds as part of its collection 14,000+ out-of-print VHS cassettes. These items are unique, containing films (or film cuts) that have never been transferred to DVD. To be effectively managed and preserved, the value and rarity of this collection must be regularly audited.

## The Need

To answer two questions: First, how many of these items are so rare that they would be excessively hard (or impossible) to replace? These can be added to a "Rental by Agreement" (RBA) list for increased protection. Second, which of these are public domain or orphaned works? These can be legally digitized for both loan and on-site display.

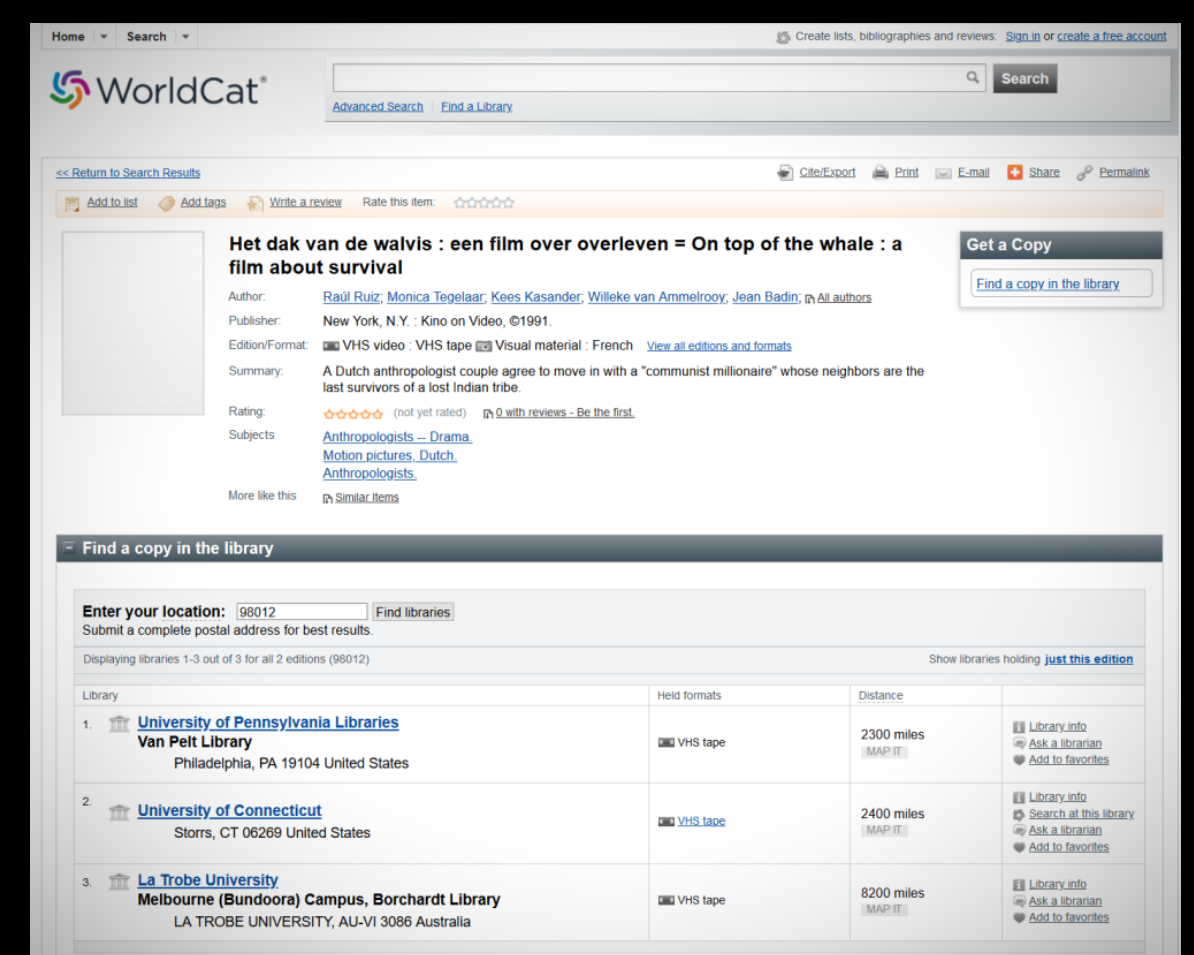
## Implementation: Phase 1

1. Assessment criteria were developed in consultation with Scarecrow staff and committed to print.
2. All 14,000+ VHS records were exported to Excel from Scarecrow's proprietary OZ database; these did not include necessary copyright statements.
3. Items already marked RBA (~5,000) were excluded, and the 500 oldest non-RBA titles identified for audit.



## Implementation: Phase 2

1. Sleeves for all 500 cassettes were pulled and full copyright statements recorded (if available).
2. The current fair market value of each item was recorded, and an RBA recommendation made.
3. Item-level research was performed to assess archival value, digitization barriers, and preservation elsewhere.
4. Research processes and tools were carefully tracked.



## Results

- 180+ new RBA recommendations.
- Written recommendation for future management and areas of focus.
- List of titles earmarked for digitization.
- New digitization selection criteria model.
- Aggregated list of online research tools.

- With these tools, Scarecrow staff can now:*
- Support decisions about the ongoing management of this collection with robust quantitative and qualitative data.
  - Use new assessment tools for future audits and volunteer training.

