Digitize Video for your Electronic Portfolio

With a digital video camera

Adding video to your portfolio provides a very rich opportunity to showcase your best work that you may have recorded with a digital video camera.

Hardware

A digital video camera automatically records video into digital format and saves it on a miniDV or Digital8 tape. Most digital video cameras come with a FireWire (IEEE 1394) connection that allows you to connect the camera to the computer using a FireWire cable to transfer the video stream. Most cameras have a 4-pin FireWire connection, whereas most computers have a 6-pin FireWire connection. A few laptop computers only have 4-pin FireWire connections. Be sure that you have the correct cable for your computer and camera. Connect the camera to the computer and run the appropriate software.

To convert analog video into digital format using a digital video camera, connect the analog video source to the digital video camera using an analog RCA cable. Just connect the RCA cables from the “video out” on the VCR or camcorder to the A/V port on the camera. Some cameras will accept standard RCA cable input. Other cameras come with their own unique connector and supply the appropriate cable. Record the incoming video using the VCR functions on the digital video camera. The resulting video saved to the tape in the camera has been converted to digital video.

Software

You need software to be able to transfer the digital video into the computer. Most video digitizing boards come with their own software. Following is a list of the most popular software that works with digital video:

**Macintosh OS X**
- Adobe Premiere – http://www.adobe.com
- Final Cut Pro or XPress – http://www.apple.com

**Windows**
- Adobe Premiere - http://www.adobe.com
- Dazzle – http://www.dazzle.com
- Pinnacle Studio – http://www.pinnaclesys.com
- Ulead VideoStudio – http://www.ulead.com

Helpful Websites:

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*This one-page summary provides a quick guide to the process. A comprehensive handbook with more detailed instructions and videos is available on CD-ROM. Permission is granted to educational institutions to print this page for non-profit educational purposes only. All other rights reserved.*