

USER PERSONAE

Gerri Sanders



- PhD in Women's Studies
- Humanities professor, women's studies, SFSU
- Has some experience in navigating online databases
- She has basic knowledge of documents relating to films
- Usually shows the whole film in the classroom, as opposed to clips

How Gerri can use CF:

- To find documents to supplement the viewing
- To find films by women of color and any related information (such as where films are distributed, interviews with the director, posters, press kits, etc)
- Require her students to use CineFiles as a reading resource, and assign specific documents related to classroom viewings

How CF can help Gerri build her curriculum:

Gerri Sanders is planning on showing Deepa Mehta's *Earth* in her class "Women in Filmmaking" as an example of:

- women from Asia making films
- immigrant women making films
- an illustration of a woman's point of view about the partition of India in 1947
- the social, economic and political environment that influenced the making of the film
- textual analysis of the film

She will show the film in class next week. In order to prepare to discuss the above-mentioned issues, Gerri wants to find any kind of document. She would like to go to a film document database and look up the documents available for the film *Earth*. She would prefer to find a rich resource, which can offer as many different types of documents as possible. However, she needs help in navigating the results, for example, sorting the results by document type (reviews, press kits, etc) or chronologically.

Nick Hayes



- PhD in German
- Humanities professor, German language, UC Berkeley
- Has expertise in navigating databases
- He has limited knowledge of documents relating to films
- Usually shows the whole film in the classroom, as opposed to clips

How Nick can use CF:

- As a reference tool to research films that he is interested in teaching
- Even though Nick will not be assigning readings related to the films, he will refer students to the site so that they can explore the database if they are interested

How CF can help Nick prepare his lectures:

Nick will be teaching a class on the German filmmaker Werner Fassbinder in the fall semester. He will show 10 films during the course of the semester, but he has not yet decided which films to screen. Nick would like to browse through a film document database to do basic research on Fassbinder's filmography. He will look specifically for reviews in order to learn this information. Once he has decided on the viewing list, Nick will take a look at a wider variety of documents (such as press kits, interviews, etc.) to gather information for his lectures, especially information about the production of the film and how it was critically received when it was released.

Bashir Ahmed



- MFA, Film & Video
- Film/Video Curator, and programmer for the Arab Film Festival
- Has limited experience in navigating databases
- Uses the database on a very regular basis
- He is well-versed with the kinds of documents available in the database

How Bashir can use CF:

- As a reference tool to gather information about films and filmmaker retrospectives that he is planning for the festival
- To find information about film distribution
- To gather information for the film notes he will be writing for the film festival catalog

How CF can help Bashir program for his festival:

Bashir is planning a retrospective of the Egyptian filmmaker Youssef Chahine for the next Arab Film Festival. He has seen the later films of this director, but is not familiar with Chahine's early work at all. Furthermore, the festival will be showcasing only 6 of Chahine's films, so Bashir will have to pick films that work well with one another. Bashir needs to find a complete filmography of the director, ideally one that also contains synopses of the films. He decides to search a film document database for programs from previous retrospectives of Chahine's work. For the films he is interested in, he will go back to the database and seek out other documents as well, especially reviews and press kits. These documents will also be useful when it comes time to write the film notes for the film festival catalog. Once he has shortlisted the 6 films, Bashir will have to see if they are indeed in distribution. He will browse through old film festival catalogs to find the distributor information for the films.

Ali Barker



- PhD Student, Film studies, UC Berkeley
- Uses CF to do research on her thesis about Japanese Cinema
- Has expertise navigating databases
- Uses the database on a very regular basis
- She is well-versed with the kinds of documents available in the database
- Enjoys that her research leads her to discover other genres and films through the CF site
- Likes to spend time browsing the site, rather than a quick-in/quick-out
- Sometimes refers her students to the site, if she finds interesting content-based reading

How Ali can use CF:

- As a reference site for research towards her thesis
- To find documents for her students (such as reviews, interviews, scripts, etc) that enrich the classroom viewing experience by providing social/political/historical context to the films

How CF can help Ali enrich the classroom viewing experience:

Ali is writing her PhD thesis on the films of Japanese filmmaker Mikio Naruse. She is looking to find as many sources of information as she can find about the filmmaker, and also about other films and filmmakers contemporary to Naruse. She has no pre-conceived notion about the types of documents she is looking for, and is open to exploration. She would like to find bibliographies, if possible, as they will lead her to many more sources.

Jennifer Chien

- BA, History
- High School teacher, History, Castro Valley HS, California
- Coordinates professional development activities for the history department at her school, and is one of the lead history curriculum writers in her department
- Often uses clips from films to illustrate particular points
- Has limited experience in navigating similar databases
- Is looking for a resource that's quick and easy to use

How Jennifer can use CF:

- To find rare and interesting documents (such as distributor materials, posters, press kits, etc.) about the films shown in class, as a way to draw in the students
- To find documents (such as reviews, interviews, scripts, etc) that enrich the classroom viewing experience by providing social/political/historical context to the film
- To find documents and resources that address media literacy issues

How CF can help Jennifer enrich the classroom viewing experience:

Jennifer is planning her history module about 'America in the 1920s,' and is considering using a film clip to talk about the Ku Klux Klan. Her preliminary research on IMDb has overwhelmed her because there are over 150 films that deal with the KKK. Jennifer would like a resource that offers just a handful of suggestions of quality titles relating to the topic. So she looks for a resource that is teacher-friendly, and has suggestions and resources organized thematically based on the state's content standards. Jennifer browses the documents under each of the three titles to determine which film has the richest resources. Two of the films only have 10 documents each, while the third one – *Birth of a Nation* – has over 100 documents, so she decides to use that film. Jennifer would like to find documents that talk about the production of the film, and about the issues of racism in the film. She could do an advanced document search, but that is more time and effort than Jennifer is willing to put into this project. She notices that the film has a curriculum guide available, and downloads it. The guide makes it much easier to navigate the documents in the database - it highlights the best documents for the subjects that Jennifer is interested in, and also brings up other issues like censorship, which she had not considered before. The guide also suggests particular sections of the film for classroom viewing. Jennifer decides that she is going to watch the entire film – but she will pay close attention to the sequences suggested in the curriculum guide.