

The Establishment of Digital Library System for Audio/Video Materials

Duk-Hoon KWAK (Ph. D)

Director, Educational Media Development Center

Korea National Open University

e-mail: dhkwak@av9500.knou.ac.kr <http://www.knou.ac.kr/>

The digitalization of audio and video materials means transforming the great amount of analog-type audio and video broadcasting materials that are currently used in our university as study materials into digital data and saving it in the computer system. The digital data stored in the computer can be divided into broadcasting and educational materials. The broadcasting materials are used in radio or television broadcasting and the educational materials are provided for students who want to study their choice of subjects in a wanted place and time through Internet. The necessity of digitalization of broadcasting material can be found in many aspects.

First, it will make it available to have the construction of Education on Demand (EOD) system using computer networks (LAN, WAN, Modem). The EOD system will allow students to study whichever subject they choose regardless of time and place, if they are connected to a computer network.

Second, the digitalization of broadcasting materials is very helpful for the efficient utilization of space for storing broadcasting material. In case of KNOU, the sufficient space for storing original broadcasting recordings of educational programs provided by school is about 72 square meters and there are space limitations in storing the increasing broadcasting materials every year.

Third, it will contribute to construct the basis of digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting is 'technological revolution in broadcasting'; the realization of digital broadcasting will allow us to edit and send the educational programs of the university without the process of converting data.

Fourth, it can be a solution to the problem of limited broadcasting time. Students can study at home using computer networks, since they can select the required study programs that are saved in the large storage server.

Fifth, it will contribute to the establishment of Virtual Education system. Last February, the Ministry of Education examined proposals for the virtual university from public institutions, universities, and companies individually or in the form of consortium. As a result, five model operation bodies and ten experimental operation bodies were selected. Our university participates in the one of experimental operation bodies and three courses are being run using the Virtual Education system. It is quite certain that digital broadcasting lectures through Internet will be a proper method for Virtual Education.

The information society of the twenty-first century is closed at hand, and each field of the society is changing rapidly. In this view, digitalization of broadcasting material will play a big role in improving the specialization of college education, the educational use of informational technology, and the competitive-

ness of universities. Therefore, the course of development hereafter should be 1) construction of the basis for virtual education, 2) introduction of an efficient contents production system for digital production and editing, 3) liaison with digital broadcasting system, 4) connecting with the unified information system of the KNOU. Finally, KNOU will become one of the best distance education institutions of the next century, if we develop the uniqueness of the university in various fields.