Episode Ordering

xEco: April 25, 2018
Problem Statement

- Episodes are grouped and ordered differently in different territories and purchase options
  - Rebroadcasts can have episodes reordered, added and/or missing
  - Episodes can be sold as partial seasons (volumes), with episode numbering being volume-relative
    - e.g., Episodes 1-26, Volume 1 (episodes 1-13), Volume 2 (episodes 14-26, number volume 2, episodes 1-13).
  - Episodes can be sold individually or in collections (e.g., Christmas episodes)
- Need to deliver episodes once, but map them properly within each territory and offer
- Generally, this applies only to episodes, but could apply to any sequenced content (series, movie series, etc.)
Identification vs. Purchase vs. Library

- Identification – Unambiguous identification for episodes
  - Each episode should have an abstraction EIDR ID and one or more edit EIDR IDs
  - Alternatively, AltIDs can be used (for now)

- Episodes can be
  - Prior to airing (season pass) – episodes might be unknown
  - As episodes, seasons or volumes (can be paid or free/teaser)
  - In bundles (e.g., Christmas Specials)
  - As bonus
Library View vs. Purchase View

- Library page generally shows a series or seasons that can be opened to seasons or episodes respectively
  - Bonus can be tied to series, season or episodes
- Should all these look the same?
  - Episodes acquired…
    - One at a time
    - In season pass
    - As an entire season
    - As volumes
- Is there still a view with how it’s purchased?
Episode identification

- There are multiple ways to identify an episode
  - Content of episode (EIDR, either abstraction or edit)
  - Production Number
  - Airing sequence in territory
    - Note that EIDR uses the original airing sequence
  - Distribution number
    - e.g., 1, 2, 2a, 3, 4
- Excel Avails provides
  - Distribution Number
  - Episode Number (non-specific)
- XML (Avails, Manifest, Metadata)
  - Number – sequence
  - Distribution Number
  - Production Number
  - addition sequence values (user-defined)
Basic Model

- Show
  - Season 1
    - Episode 1
  - Season 2
    - Episode 2
  - ... (n seasons)
    - Episode n
  - ... (m seasons)
Full Series

Show

Season 1
- Episode 11
- Episode 12
- ... Episode 1x
- Episode 1n

Season 2
- Episode 21
- Episode 22
- ... Episode 2x
- Episode 2n

Season 3
- Episode 31
- Episode 32
- ... Episode 3x
- Episode 3n

... Season m
- Episode m1
- Episode m2
- ... Episode mx
- Episode mn
Selected episodes

Show

Thanksgiving Specials

- Episode 1x
- Episode 2x
- Episode 3x
- Episode 4x

Show

Holiday Specials

New Year
- Episode 11
- Episode 21
- Episode 31
- Episode m1

Thanksgiving
- Episode 1x
- Episode 2x
- Episode 3x

Winter
- Episode 1n
- Episode 2n
- Episode 3n
- Episode 4n
Franchise

- Movie Series
  - Movie I
  - Movie II
  - Movie III
- Show A
  - Season A1
  - Season A2
  - ... Season Am
  - Episode A21
  - Episode A22
  - ... Episode A2n
- Show B
  - Season B1
  - Season B2
  - ... Season Bm
  - Episode B21
  - Episode B22
  - ... Episode B2n
Number in Excel Avails

- What we have to work with: SeasonNumber, DistributionNumber, EpisodeNumber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>SeasonNumber</th>
<th>DistributionNumber</th>
<th>EpisodeNumber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular season</td>
<td>Season number in territory</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Airing sequence in territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reordered season</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume (Season)</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Volume number (1a, 1b)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume (Episode)</td>
<td>Same</td>
<td>Volume number</td>
<td>Episode with volume</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Mapping to actual episodes is tricky since we’re not tracking original episode numbers in the Avail
  - Episode still identified with EIDR and/or AltID
  - Could add original episode to spreadsheet?
Common Metadata (MEC) vs. Manifest (MMC, CPE)

• Both have the same relationships, but Metadata points ‘up’ and Manifest points down

• Both structures are extremely general and flexible, but used for different purposes
  • Metadata is designed to be static
  • Manifest is designed to be specific to context
  • Note that EIDR uses the ‘up’ model and relationships
Common Metadata (MEC)

- Each object in Common Metadata can have Parent
  - Episodes have seasons as parents with ‘isepisodeof’
  - Season have series as parents with ‘sisseasonof’
- And, Sequence
Manifest (MMC, CPE)

- Manifest uses ExperienceChild to create tree, including the same relationship (e.g., ‘isEpisodeOf’)

![Diagram of manifest relationship structure]
Add to Common Metadata?

- **Issues**
  - Parent and Sequence are distinct—need to be paired
  - No localization in Parent or SequenceInfo

- **Possible approaches**
  - Modify Parent and SequenceInfo
    - Pair them (this parent with this sequence, that parent with that sequence)
    - Add localization
  - Add Parent+Sequence information to LocalizedInfo
    - Less desirable because LocalizedInfo is generally language-specific, not region-specific
Issues to discuss

• Manifest provides fully regionalized experiences, but MEC does not
• Excel Avails episode mapping works, but mixes metadata with Avails causing future problems
• We don’t distinguish between ‘sales’ view and library view
  • What are the most effective presentations to consumers
Discussion?
Thank You!
References

- www.movielabs.com/md/md
- www.movielabs.com/md/manifest
- www.movielabs.com/md/practices
- www.eidr.org
Backup