

Conference Barrier-free Communication: Methods and Products
ZHAW, September 2017

Insights into Working Practices for the Audio Description of Documentary Films

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Documentary Films

“The best way to define documentary (...) may be to say simply that it is whatever people commonly mean by the term.”

D. Eitzen (*Cinema Journal*, Vol. 35, No. 1, 1995)

“Picture Book Documentary”

- Describe pictures adequately
- Focus on images
- Reflect style of the documentary, yet use correct terminology

Images which don't match the text

- The important thing is what is being said, the images are rather random
- Do the images need describing?
- Try to clarify, not to confuse

Audio Subtitles

- Record audio subtitles first, before finalizing the AD script
- Timing is of the essence
- “Cues” for the voice artist in the correct language
- Number of voice artists
- Always introduce speakers

Film(s) about an Inclusive Kindergarten

- Ignore unnecessary subtitles to avoid undue importance of dialogue
- Make additional information material accessible

- Make DVDs accessible (AD menu)
- Interviews virtually without description

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Thank you.