

## **SDH**

(This is the email that initiated the discussion and prompted it to be brought to the Joint ILS and Technology Policy Committee – Jonya)

From: Kirby Johnson  
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2007 8:31 AM  
To: CATALOGERS; STANDARDS  
Subject: SDH -- something new

Something new and wonderful to make cataloging more interesting.

SDH is a new form of improving videos for the hearing impaired. First of all, it is NOT close captioning. See below or Google sub-titles for the hearing impaired for additional information.

The questions are;

How should this form of captioning be handled.

Do we wish to create a subject heading for these items?

Is a Language note (546) adequate? e.g. Subtitled for the deaf and hard of hearing (SDH)

Should there be a standardized 500 note so that a given search terms them all up?

Is this easily handled by our current search capabilities?

Please respond to 'all' to improve results.

Wiki-poedia entry

Closed captioning is the American term for closed subtitles specifically intended for people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. These are a transcription rather than a translation, and usually contain descriptions of important non-dialog audio as well ("Car horn"). From the expression "closed captions" the word "caption" has in recent years come to mean a subtitle intended for the hard of hearing, be it "open" or "closed". In British English "subtitles" usually refers to subtitles for the hard-of-hearing (HoH), as translation subtitles are so rare on British cinema and TV; however, the term "HoH subtitles" is sometimes used when there is a need to make a distinction between the two.

"SDH" is an American term introduced by the DVD industry. It is an acronym for "Subtitles for the deaf and hard-of-hearing", and refers to regular subtitles in the original language where important non-dialog audio has been added, as well as speaker identification, useful when the viewer cannot otherwise visually tell who is saying what.

The only significant difference for the user between "SDH" subtitles and "closed captions" is their appearance: SDH subtitles usually are displayed with the same proportional font used for the translation subtitles on the DVD; however, closed captions are displayed as white text on a black band, which blocks a large portion of the view. Closed captioning is falling out of favor as many users have no difficulty reading SDH subtitles, which are text with contrast outline. In addition, DVD subtitles can specify many colors, on the same character: primary, outline, shadow, and background. This allows subtitlers to display subtitles on a usually translucent band for easier reading, however, this is rare, since most subtitles use an outline and shadow instead, in order to block a smaller portion of the picture. Closed captions may still supersede DVD subtitles, since many SDH subtitles present all of the text centered, while closed captions usually specify position on the screen: centered, left align, right align, top, etc. This is very helpful for speaker identification and overlapping conversation. Some SDH subtitles do have positioning, but it is not as common.

DVDs for the US market now sometimes have three forms of English subtitles: SDH subtitles, English subtitles, helpful for viewers who are Hearing and whose first language may not be English (although they are usually an exact transcript and not edited into Simple English), and closed caption data that is decoded by the end-user's closed caption decoder.

High definition disc media (HD DVD, Blu-ray disc) uses SDH subtitles as the sole method because technical specifications do not require HD to support line 21 closed captions. Some blu-ray discs, however, are said to carry a closed caption stream that only displays through standard definition connections. Many HDTVs allow the end-user to customize the captions, including the ability to remove the black band.

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/trail001/beyondbooks/041030.html>

From <http://www.nmm.net/guide/CaptionMax.pdf>

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