About Pad.ma

Pad.ma - short for Public Access Digital Media Archive - is an online archive of densely text-annotated video material, primarily footage and not finished films. The entire collection is searchable and viewable online, and is free to download for non-commercial use.

We see Pad.ma as a way of opening up a set of images, intentions and effects present in video footage, resources that conventions of video-making, editing and spectatorship have tended to suppress, or leave behind. This expanded treatment leads us into lesser-known territory for video itself: beyond the finite documentary film or the online video clip.

The design of the archive makes possible various types of "viewing" and contextualisation: from an overview of themes and timelines to much closer readings of transcribed dialogue and geographical locations, to layers of "writing" on top of the image material. Descriptions, keywords and other annotations have been placed on timelines by both archive contributors and users.

The Pad.ma project was initiated by a group consisting of CAMP, from Mumbai, Ox2620 from Berlin, and the Alternative Law Forum from Bangalore. Two other organisations from Mumbai, Majlis and Point of View were part of its initiation.

It was supported at its inception by a seed grant from HIVOS. Since 2010, Pad.ma is being supported by its many contributors and by grants from the bohlen foundation and the Foundation for Arts Initiatives.

https://pad.ma/about