

Here is a [flash demo](#) that delineates the goals of Synchronotext's intended function and uses, as well as itemizing the features presently in S1 and those for which development is desired.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings first produced its [prototype](#) of a functioning software tool in 2002, hosted a multi-institution charette in 2004, and began work on a [browser-based version](#) in 2006 (as in previous examples, marketed in Beta as 'Tubelinx' but alas no longer under the authority or supervision of the Smithsonian, whose Synchronotext formed the basis of it).

Various tools exist to do pieces of this. For example [this](#) article describes MSNBC's use of a voice to text software program to transcribe Barack Obama's address to Congress. The process can then be scaled so that an infinite amount of [transcripts](#) in any language can likewise be [synchronized](#). It can be stretched so that not only text-based annotations can be attached, but [music notation](#), images, audio, other video, even other equivalently-annotated video are accommodated.

If multimedia derives its strength from the blending of multiple media types and sources, then in the new paradigm of data as indistinguishable from (searchable) metadata, user-producer-like toggling among multiple synchronized media sources amplifies that communicative power. Thus we can go from allowing a Peter Schaffer staging of *Don Giovanni* to be simultaneously contrasted with Covent Garden's, or immediately seeing how the musical ideas of the Commendatore scene are spoofed in Schickele's *Stoned Guest*, to this demo comparison of [like animations](#). Whatever the fancy, a fully-realized Synchronotext authoring environment would provide an unrivalled platform for cross-museum collaboration, an ultimate mash-up.

The vision is not a new one, and aspects of its realization have been (and continue to be) attempted in a hodgepodge way by many within and outside of the educational sector (where have you gone, oh click.tv and innertoob.com). In addition to the examples already cited, open source or like examples include (for metatagging video), [Annodex](#), [Metavid](#), [UtagIt](#), and [Yovisto](#)... and let's not forget that [YouTube](#) has rudimentary annotation and commentary capacity, though not fully synched and displayed (along with imitators [sophisticated](#) and [crude](#)).

Alas, none of these have even the basic functionality of Synchronotext V1 (though the most promising of these appears to be Yovisto, with its [Ligne-du-Temps](#)-converted-to-slide-show appearance). None of these offer a synchronized transcript... or translation... or automate the process of creating or attaching a transcript in synchrony to the original media)... or real opportunity for the many-to-many real-time correspondence and in-context, in-panel substantive annotation that Synchronotext affords. Annodex and Metavid are largely unplayable (basically offering indices of a predetermined subset of content with less functionality than YouTube presently affords), Utagit has no content to speak of that one can browse, and in all cases annotation is limited here largely to searchable tags.