

Podcasts and History

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Introduction

In this paper, I will discuss the creation of podcasts, and how they are a more evolved continuation of the radio as a method of audio entertainment that connects with a wide public through the process of talking about history through storytelling. The accessibility of podcasts separates it from its predecessor and allows it to be utilized as both entertainment and as a tool for academics.

Teaching with podcasts

In my paper I discuss an example of how a history professor utilized iPod within her classroom. Her students were able to use their iPod and the podcasting technology to create audio files for oral interviews and for digital presentations. The use of the podcasts allowed these students to consider their work, and preserve it for other students to use in the future. It also brought a genuine amount of excitement to the class.

Audio origins

In the early 20th century, a technological boom occurred, things such as movies and television began to change the world exponentially. Much like in the 21st century, these developments began to connect people across the world and fundamentally change society, this is when the radio began to emerge and grow in popularity. During this time period historians used radio to connect with the public and discuss the way that history connects with the present.

History Podcasts and storytelling

The podcasters who reached the top of the charts on their selective streaming sites did so because of their ability to tell great stories. History podcasts are more than just educational, they are provided on streaming sites such as iTunes and Spotify, which are fundamentally sites that are meant to provide entertainment. The entertainment factor is what makes proper storytelling arguably the most important aspect of these podcasts and helps the hosts of history podcasts connect to the audience.

Conclusion

The great thing about podcasts is not only the way that it connects to the public but also the way that its accessibility allows it to be used by just about anyone. This accessibility allows podcasts to be applied within the classroom as both a way that teachers can connect with students but also a way that students can connect with the material by applying a digital tool to it, and it encourages them to evaluate the material in different ways. Podcasts can also connect historians directly to an interested public, which can be seen by the large fanbases that follow these and other history podcasts there is a large group of people with interest in history who can be met by with the creation of podcasts.

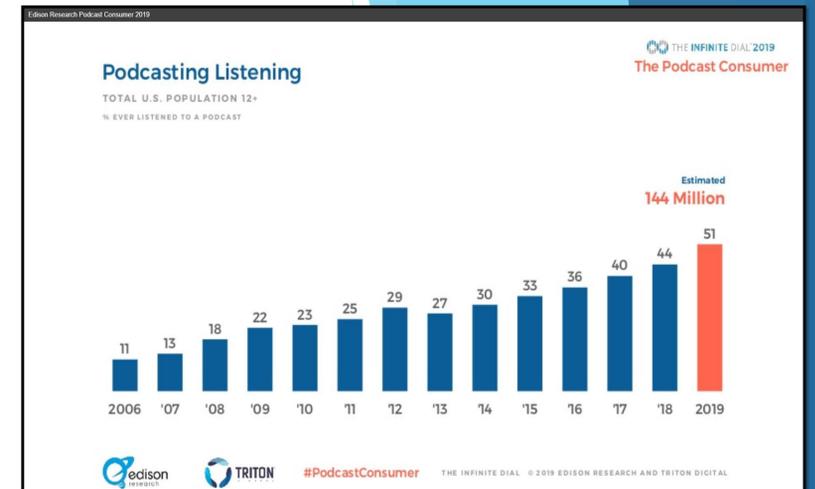


Table 1. from clickz.com.

References

1. <https://www.clickz.com/the-rise-of-podcast-advertising-32-percent-of-americans-are-tuning-in/237302/graph-showing-144-million-people-listen-to-podcasts/>
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