Box of Broadcasts, commonly known as BoB, is a useful tool for managing off-air video and audio recordings. BoB is a service provided by the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUVFC) which offers subscribers the opportunity to record, store and create clips from radio and television broadcasts.

BoB is a streaming service available to you personally for the duration of your course for course related purposes. It is not, therefore, a way to create a permanently owned copy of a programme for yourself, or a substitute for family recording.

As a member of the University of Portsmouth you have free access to this resource but this access is limited to UK based members only for copyright reasons.

What does BoB cover?

BoB covers all free-to-air broadcast channels in the UK including all national BBC channels (excluding OU productions). Any broadcast requested by a user is added to a common archive and is then available to anyone else using BoB.

What use is this to me?

Students whose courses focus on areas such as current affairs, the arts or history will find useful factual programmes from both TV and radio often including interviews with leading experts in their field. Those studying performing arts or media can spot high quality programmes or performances to use as examples in their work.

Accessing BoB

1. Go to the University Library website www.port.ac.uk/library
2. Type bob into the Discovery search in the top right-hand-corner of the homepage
3. Click on the Online Access link under the BoB [electronic resource] search result
   Click on SIGN IN. Scroll down to University of Portsmouth under “Where Are You From?” and click on Select. The first time you use Bob, you need to enter your email address and name, and then click on REGISTER. You will be sent an email - click on the link in your email to complete the registration.

Searching

You can search the entire archive to find if a programme is already available – either by title or subject. Remember that anything you find can be added to your MY BOB.
Recording

Requests for recordings are limited to ten per day for any individual user. You can search for a specific programme using the search box at the top of the screen and make a request.

You can select any programme from the last 7 days or coming 7 days to record using the Guide.

Once you have chosen to record a programme, it is automatically added to your MY BOB are when the recording becomes available. You then only need to click on the programme to full screen playback.

Creating clips

If you want to incorporate part of a programme in a presentation, you can very easily create a clip of the relevant film or soundbite. You can store clips in MY BOB and add them to playlists.

Sharing MY BOB

Anything you record is automatically available to other users of the system, but you can also share your programmes with other students on your course by using the playlist feature. You can also use clips or programmes in presentations on campus as part of your course. You may also find your lecturers or Faculty Librarians have created playlists aimed at specific courses and you can search for these.

Found a programme you want to keep?

For personal or family use the only solution is to buy a commercially produced recording. For educational use by others at Portsmouth check if the library already has a physical DVD recording or check if it appears in the TRILT database and contact your Lecturer/Faculty Librarian about investigating availability via BUVFC.