Recording Apps & Tools

At the University Library, you have several tools available that can help you record your video or audio, such as the Smartphone Kit, the DIY Video Studio and the DIY Podcast Studio. However, there are some video formats that are not supported by these facilities. Fortunately, there are plenty of apps and websites that can help you record those videos as well!

In this document, you will find information about:

Apps for recording a screencast
Apps for recording a pencast
Apps for making an animation

Recording a screencast

A screencast is a recording of your (laptop) screen, with all the images and actions that are visible at the time of recording. You can couple this with audio commentary. This is useful when you want to record a presentation, or when you want to show how to go through different steps on a website or in certain software programs. Here are a few suggestions of programs to use for a screencast.

Windows Screencast

Windows users can simply record a screencast using theGame Bar, a feature added to Windows 10 and beyond. Press the Windows-key + G to open the recording menu and start your screencast.

Windows instruction page

PowerPoint

With Powerpoint you can create professional looking videos. The convenience is that most people are already familiar with Powerpoint. You can add narration, text and animation, export to MP4 and upload to Mediasite or Youtube.

Instruction videos for Powerpoint

Editing video in Powerpoint: https://youtu.be/D8JV3w4TOVw
Adding narration in powerpoint: https://youtu.be/pP3kTmsnbnY
Animation in powerpoint: https://youtu.be/kw_udjD2xwo

KeyNote

For Mac users, KeyNote gives you the possibility to do what PowerPoint does, and also edit your videos. You can add narration, text, and animation, export to MP4 and upload to Mediasite or Youtube.

Instruction videos for KeyNote

Watch the following tutorial: https://youtu.be/C6e2ZtHnimA
Animation in Keynote: https://youtu.be/yyS8Is3tKJE

Open Broadcaster Software/OBS Studio (open source)

OBS Studio is free a free and open source software for video recording and live streaming. Downloads available for Windows, Mac and Linux.

Official website

CamStudio (open source)
CamStudio is free screen capture software to record all screen and audio activity on your computer.
Official website

Tech Smith Capture
Capture is a screen recording and screen capturing tool by Techsmith. Strong features are the possibility to upload footage of your screen recording to the cloud and send your recipient(s) the link by email, solving the problem of your video file being too large to send. A second strong feature is the possibility to draw on your screen captures (pictures not videos) to highlight an area.

For Mac and Windows (free) | Official website

Recording a pencast

A pencast is a video clip of a hand writing text, formulas or making a drawing, coupled with audio commentary. They can be both live-streamed or recorded, plain or interactive, depending on the combination of hardware and software that you use. Different styles are:

- **Kahn style pencast:** a black background with writing in different colours.
- **Writing-on-paper pencast:** a hand writing or drawing on a sheet of paper.

For both styles, various tools are available, such as digital pens, drawing software or screen capture software. Here we list a few suggestions. Of course, you can also simply make a close-up recording of your own hand writing or drawing on paper.

Smoothdraw
Smoothdraw is an easy to use drawing application. It allows you to customize your brushes, background and text colour. Only for Windows (free).
Official website

Krita (open source)
Krita is a drawing application that is fairly straightforward to use, but has more functions than Smoothdraw. It also gives you the option to create layers.
Official website

Explain Everything
Explain everything is a 'collaborative and interactive whiteboard' application that can be downloaded for Windows, iOS, Android and Chrome OS. Using a tablet or computer, you can write text and draw on a digital whiteboard (a slide) and import photos, videos and other files.
Official website | Tutorial

LiveScribe SmartPen *for interactive pencast videos*
With this SmartPen, you can create interactive videos; you write on dotted paper and the small camera inside records the pen strokes. A microphone inside the pen records your voice. After recording, LiveScribe Pencast is saved as a LiveScribe-PDF. The viewer can click on a word or formula and play back the audio for it.
Official website | Tutorial 1 | Tutorial 2

Anoto Pen Presenter – Livestream pencast
With an Anoto Pen Presenter you can stream written text to your PC and create a digital whiteboard. The Anoto pen is integrated with Powerpoint, making it easy to navigate through slides and to make notes on the slides. You may also choose to print you Anoto presentation.
Official website | Tutorial

Recording an animation

Animation is a wide genre that includes different techniques, such as taking photos and drawing frames. You often need a combination of tools for animation. Examples of animation are hand-drawn animations and stop motion.

- Stop-motion animation is made by placing photos in sequence. In order to 'animate' your characters or objects, you move them each time you take a photo. Use dolls, LEGO's, or (clay) figures, and add music or voice in post-production. There are many websites online that give you tips on how to do this.
- For a hand-drawn animation, you can use the tools mentioned under screencast and pencast. Some other apps & tools that could be helpful for animations are listed here. Many more (open source) software for animations can be found online.

Powtoon
Powtoon is an online application for creating animations with predesigned characters and objects and customizable animations. Quick and easy quality results. Free option to create and store your videos online. Free version with restrictions or a monthly plan.
Official website | Tutorials

OpenToonz (open source)
Free to use animation production software for making 2D animations. Easy to use, and provides many plug-ins for different effects
Official website

Pencil2D
Hand-drawn animation software with a minimalist design, easy to use interface and perfect for beginners. Free to download and use, with many tutorials available online.
Official website