‘Talking TV’: a Wiktionary of Professional and Critical Terms for TV Production

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This project arises from experience gained in developing and delivering the MA in Television Production at University College Falmouth.

From this experience, we have learnt that:

* creativity in media production is enhanced by critical awareness
  * students need rich, precise vocabularies that include technical, aesthetic, professional and critical terms if they are to develop as critical practitioners
  * these vocabularies are rapidly evolving, and students must constantly keep abreast of new terminologies

On the course, creativity and critical awareness are brought together in the MA Final Project, which is made up of two equal, complementary elements: a portfolio of practical work and a dissertation (5,000 words long) that critiques and contextualises it. In preparing students for this work, we have found that they struggle to develop a critical vocabulary. At present there is no resource that might help them to create an ‘intellectual environment that supports sustained critical discourse and higher order knowledge acquisition and application’. (Garrison, 2003)

In order to address this gap, we are developing an interactive glossary of TV terms. The goal is to allow students and practitioners to read, discuss and edit definitions, add and download exemplary video/audio clips from their own and fellow students’ work, and follow links to external sites which might be of interest.

In time, it is intended that the wiktionary will not only enable critical perspectives on television, but also develop into an archive of changing styles and forms in TV.
Aims of the Project

* To produce an interactive glossary of TV terms
* To foster symbioses between critical awareness and creative practice
* To develop links between academic, and professional partners
* To investigate the roles of interactivity and user-generated materials in L & T