Second Statement about On Our Backs

March 28, 2017

In August 2016, Reveal Digital removed On Our Backs from the Independent Voices collection. Unbeknownst to us, it made a brief reappearance after we executed a major refresh of the Independent Voices content. We were made aware of the error on Friday, March 24 and removed access to the content the same day. The following Monday our technical team met to review the situation. Below is a summary of our findings and action plan.

Reveal Digital uses two Amazon Web Services (AWS) solutions to store Independent Voices content, S3 – which is used to mirror our production site managed by Veridian and Glacier – which currently acts as dark storage for the preservation copy.

When we removed On Our Backs from Independent Voices in August we removed the files from our mirror site (S3) and then requested Veridian to re-harvest the content so the production site would mirror ours. However, we did not remove the files for OOB from our Glacier storage, which in hindsight should have been done.

Over the past year we have been going back through all the Independent Voices content to correct metadata and imaging errors that were not caught during our original QA process. The Independent Voices files in both the S3 and Glacier needed to be updated with the corrected data. Before Veridian re-harvested the data, we completely refreshed our S3 instance of Independent Voices with the Glacier version. Not only did the corrected images and metadata get re-harvested as planned, so too did On Our Backs.

To ensure we never again inadvertently return On Our Backs to Independent Voices, we will remove all of its associated image and metadata files from S3 and Glacier. The files will be removed completely from our network drives and placed on an external storage device.