Media and Technology FAQ:

How can I tell if a video is closed captioned?

The most reliable way is to play the video. In the library, check out the remote to turn the captions on the library’s TV.

Other ways to tell:
Commercially produced videos will have a small CC symbol on the box. However, most videos owned by WSU do not have their original boxes and do not have CC symbols on the label.

How do I turn on closed captions in the classroom?

For VHS tapes:
We make an effort schedule deaf students in classrooms that have closed captioning decoders. If you have trouble displaying closed captioning in your classroom, please contact Scott Fraser.

Fraser, Scott fraser@vancouver.wsu.edu 546-9770 VCLS 214 VIT/Media Services

For DVDs:
Look on the main menu of the DVD for “closed captions for the hearing-impaired” and use the DVD controls to turn them on.

What’s the difference between subtitles and closed captions?
Subtitles provide only the spoken words, not the background music and sounds that are usually required to understand the action. In some cases, even though the DVD main menu only offers “subtitles”, those turn out to be closed captions. Even if subtitles provide only the spoken words, they might be acceptable in some cases. If the video is a documentary, where the video is essentially a person speaking with little other sound, subtitles may be understandable. If in doubt, try turning the subtitles on and the sound off and see if you can follow the video.

If I request a non-captioned video from Pullman, how can I get it to the interpreter a week ahead of class?
The check-out period for a video is 7 days. You may renew the material once. This will give you 2 weeks to preview the video yourself and give it to the interpreter a week in advance.

If you have a transcript of the video, make that available to the interpreter and student ahead of class. This will allow the interpreter to prepare for class.
I know a closed-captioned or subtitled DVD exists, but WSU owns a non-captioned VHS version of the film. Can I get the DVD?

Maybe. First, check the Summit catalog. Entries for DVDs generally indicate if subtitles are available (but may not tell you if they are closed captioned). If you request the video in Summit without telling the library that you need the DVD not a VHS, you may receive the WSU copy that you can’t use. IT is careful to be clear in your request.

For assistance locating Closed Captioned media not in Griffon or Summit, talk to the reference librarian.

Thanks to Kathy Becker Blease who created the Media and Technology FAQ.