



## Screenocean

Screenocean handles clip licensing from the Reuters news archive and the television collections of UK broadcasters Channel 4 and Channel 5. Screenocean's team of 15 are now all working from home. With a priority to ensure business continuity and no break in services to customers, there is an immediate challenge to ensure that the team has access to all of the systems they need - including new video conferencing solutions - and that everyone is trained to use those. However, there is a culture of remote working in normal times, so this situation does not present a significant operational challenge.

Screenocean is additionally advantaged by most of their collections - including the entire Reuters archive - having been digitised and made available for customers to search online. An exception being the deeper broadcaster archives, which are still on tape. With access to physical archives having been closed, those collections will remain off-limits for now. However, Screenocean's Assistant Manager, Duncan Roxburgh, highlighted that some of that deeper archive material has been licensed before so it may be possible to get copies from other sources, rather than turning away requests. In addition, a skeleton staff at Channel 4 will ensure continued access to rights information held in paper files, which is needed to support clip licensing.

Roxburgh's immediate take on the current situation for archive licensing is that "it all boils down to digitising, to future-proof against this happening again, it's the only way we can survive". If the case wasn't there before for digitising, it is now, and companies will want to ensure that the best of their remaining physical archive is prioritised for digitising. Screenocean has seen an increase in licensing requests from the television production sector in this current period, as broadcasters adapt their schedules and programme makers, who cannot get out to film, instead turn to archives for both footage and inspiration. However, with most of their collections already digitised and available to search online via their Imagen platforms, and the team set up to work remotely, Screenocean is well-placed to service any current upsurge in demand for archive content.

For information on Screenocean's collections visit <https://screenocean.com/>