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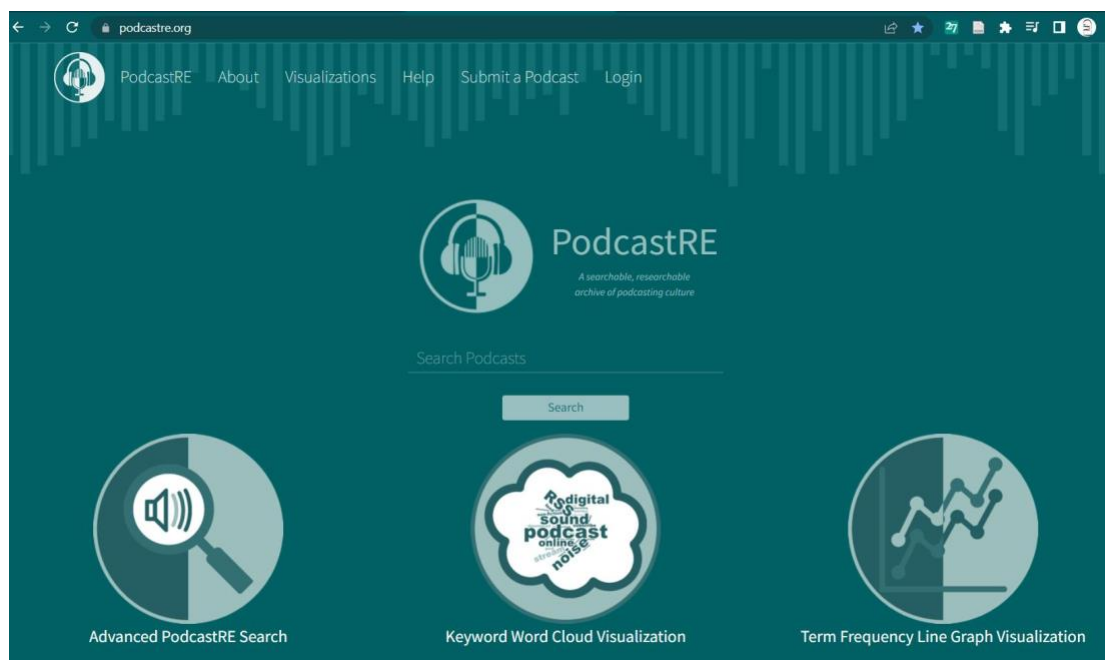
PodcastRE

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A screenshot from the PodcastRE homepage

[PodcastRE](#) is an interface resource to preserve podcasts and collect links and metadata records. Website users can search the database, analyze the metadata using visualization tools, and stream the audio if the original feed is still available online. PodcastRE(search) is founded and directed by Dr. Jeremy Morris of University of Wisconsin Madison and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

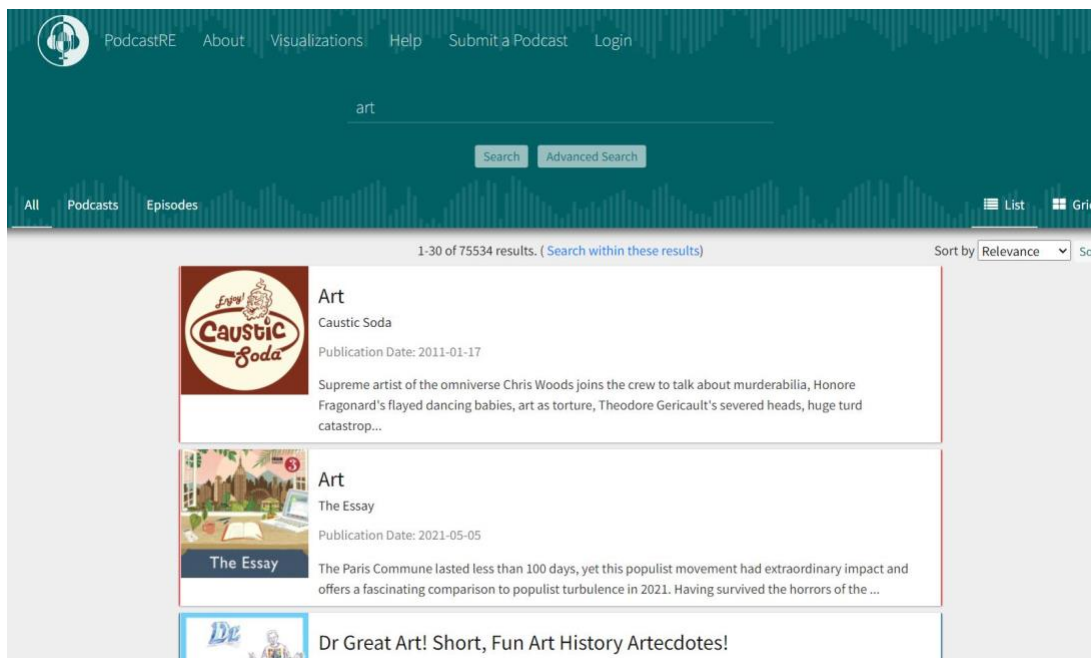
The website is free and accessible by web browser. Comparable podcast directory services include proprietary services such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon, or Pandora. Comparable free services include PodBean, Podchaser, iHeartRadio, and Podcast Index. PodcastRE stands apart from these services with its goal of archiving podcasts for researchers of the future,

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rather than marketing. PodcastRE has a much longer-term approach to data and access, and researchers requiring more in-depth information about a podcast can make an account to access original files. There is a contact form for users if they want to add to the collection or obtain further information.

Branding is consistent and clean with teal and white colors throughout. The header and footer in the background have vertical bars of different lengths and heights, indicating digital sound waves. The home page has a search bar in the middle of the page, and below that from left to right are the advanced search, keyword cloud visualization, and the term frequency line graph buttons.

PodcastRE is intuitive and easy to navigate. The basic search query is prominent on the home page and resembles a Google search. The advanced search resembles a library catalogue search, where users can type in their keywords and use dropdown menus to refine the search. Searchable fields are All Fields, Author, Keywords, Categories, Description, Title, and Podcast Source. A basic search for “art” returned 75,734 results, with thirty per page. Each result has an image on the far left, with the podcast title and publisher to the right of the image. The earliest and most recent episodes for each podcast are listed, followed by teaser text descriptions for each podcast. In combination, this gives a useful overview of each podcast.



Results of a basic search for “art”.

The first thirty results showed publication dates ranging from 2011 to 2022 with a range of subjects and creators-- from artists to critics, art history stories, one French-language podcast, and one business podcast. “Search within these results” adds the advanced search on top of the existing search. Clicking on one result leads to a new page with a list of episodes for that podcast, where

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It would be difficult to access all this information in any other format, and other database platforms typically present a paywall or a lower quality of data. PodcastRE seems well organized and well prepared for the inevitable increase in data to manage. A web accessibility test reported no alt text was provided, form labels were missing, there were multiple instances of low color contrasts, and the home page lacked page structuring. These are relatively simple design adjustments to implement and would help improve the long-term accessibility of the database. PodcastRE stands as a great resource for people who are looking for subject-specific podcasts or those interested in the history of podcasts in general.