Searching the Internet Archive TV News

The TV News section of the Internet Archive contains over 462,000 broadcasts (segments can be streamed and you can also borrow DVD copies) going back to 2009. The archive is organized by captions so if you search for “Edward Snowden” it retrieves all the videos where his name was mentioned in the captions.

The main search screen can appear somewhat jumbled at first but the database is actually fairly easy to navigate:

There is a main search bar where you can perform keyword searches along with a couple easy ways to refine your search. Right under the search bar you will see two drop-down boxes which can be used to filter your search. On default they are set to search All Networks and All Programs but you can easily change it to look for a certain channel or a certain news program. In this case
we’ll search for “Edward Snowden” and limit our search to look for videos from CNN and, more specifically, the program Fareed Zakaria GPS:

The results:
The most recent video immediately starts to play, and the rest are listed in chronological order (the transcripts are listed below and the name is highlighted, which gives a sense of how the videos are collected by the captions).

On the top portion of the screen there is a timeline, starting with 2009 and going through 2013. You can actually scroll through the timeline to find videos about your topic from a certain date, although in this case there are only videos from the very recent past. The pink graph on the far right-hand side of the screen (in the 2013s) shows the videos about Edward Snowden that have been collected: