

Digitalisation of LPs – a modern possibility for the music librarians

Bálint Bereczki
University of West
Hungary
Szombathely

Why have LPs special advantages for digitalisation?

- LPs are released on outmoded material
- LPs contain unique contents
- LPs often belong to cultural heritage
- LPs are extremely vulnerable
- Some records weren't released on modern, digital materials at all

The problems of technical support

- There are few readers not having a record player at home
- Record players are very expensive nowadays
- The new formats and tools displace the analogue way
- The components of record players are very expensive and they are in short supply or rare available

Method of digitalisation 1: Determining the criteria

- The first criteria (1) could be the “criteria of release”: advantage for the records which weren’t released on modern, digital materials at all
- The second criteria (2) could be the “criteria of popularity”: for the most popular records which were released on CD maybe but don’t belong to the collection of the library
- The third criteria (3) could be the “criteria of decay or injury”: damaged discs are preferred

Method of digitalisation 2:

Process of digitalisation in 3 steps

- 1. step: playing the LP and start the ripper (or editor) program to make a sound file
- 2. step: editing process of the sound file by setting the volume, cutting the tracks or making fade outs, chooseing the extension of the file, the format of the audio
- 3. steps: writing the CD, DVD or uploading to the homepage of the library

6 arguments, which show the relevance of digitalisation

- The LP collection will be usable for everyone, the technical limits will disappear
- The LP collection will be protected against injuries
- The library will use its own documents and restore them
- New readers, group of users
- The library will be competitive
- More spaces for storage

Potential services 1: The online way

- If we follow the new trends, we shall choose the online way
- Upload the digitalised collection to the homepage of our library
- Web 2.0 create new dimensions to using the digitalized files
- Intranet: the problems of copyrights could be reduced
- Password protected folders
- Gramophone: Canadian Historical Sound Recordings, a growing multimedia project of the Library and Archives Canada



Introduction »

Listen

Collection Search

History

Biographies

Podcasting

Video

Resources

Glossary

About This Site

Educational
Resources

Comments

Copyright/
Sources



Introduction

What's New

June 2006

Welcome to *The Virtual Gramophone: Canadian Historical Sound Recordings*, a growing multimedia website devoted to the early days of Canadian recorded sound. With a database of images and digital audio recordings, as well as biographies of musicians and histories of music and recorded sound in Canada, *The Virtual Gramophone* provides researchers and enthusiasts with a comprehensive look at the 78-rpm era in Canada.

The database at the heart of this website, when completed, will contain information on and images of 78-rpm and cylinder recordings released in Canada, as well as foreign recordings featuring Canadian artists or Canadian compositions. The database will also contain details on the 78s and cylinders in the Recorded Sound Collection of Library and Archives Canada. Biographies of prominent Canadian performers, short histories of Canadian record companies, background information on music styles and the recording technology of the time, and digital audio reproductions of selected 78s will also be included.

This website is dedicated to Edward B. Moogk, pioneer Canadian discographer, author of *Roll Back the Years* (Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1975) and the first Head of the Recorded Sound Collection at Library and Archives Canada.

Audio files on this site are best heard with RealPlayer Version 8.0 www.real.com or higher.

Potential services 2: The traditional way

- This way of service doesn't use the internet to share
- The collection will be written to CD or DVD
- The audio documents could be lent, if this possibility is permitted by the publishers or copyright law

New groups of readers, new contacts

- Musicians
- Music teachers
- Music lovers
- Musicological researchers
- Possible contacts with music schools, musical associations

The problems of copyright

- The Hungarian copyright law doesn't permit full service
- Libraries may freely publish their digital collection in their closed network only
- Only colleges could lend their collection for helping the studies of students
- The Hungarian law doesn't permit to lend the digitalised collections

Possibility results for the copyright problems

- A liberal approach initiated by the librarians
- Libraries should join each other to show the demands for digitalisation of LPs
- Contact with the copyright organizations
- Debates about digitalisation (Hungarian examples – KATALIST mail list)

Consequently

- Digitalisation of LPs could be a new way for musical librarians
- The digitalisation of the traditional documents is the method to preserve our musical treasures and cultural heritage, so it's one of the most current challenge of librarianship.

- Thank you for the attention!