

DSS Digital Collections Discussion Group Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 27, 2019 2:30-3:30 PM

Convened c. 2:38pm
25 attendees, 3 speakers, 1 convener (Michelle Urberg)

Brief business meeting and introduction to the section

- Call for co-convenor to join Michelle Urberg 2019-2020 for a two-year term.
- February 15 is the deadline to submit requests to the ALA platform.

This meeting hosted three speakers:

Anthony Sharp, recently relocated to Chapman University in California to work in their technical services department

John Vallier, Head of Media for University of Washington Libraries

James Fox, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at California State University, Sacramento

Discussion focus: Stakeholders and collections, including how to manage culturally sensitive materials, bringing in researchers as creators, dealing with conflicting interests for collections, and negotiating rights with commercial streaming vendors

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Anthony Sharp:

Anthony digitized 1452 items, including video and audio reels of the Vi Hilbert Collection (more here: <http://bela.music.washington.edu/ethno/hilbert/index.html>).

Part of this process was to create descriptive information packages about the recordings to facilitate future preservation and access of the collection.

Stakeholders:

The Lushootseed language and Tulalip tribe (native to modern day Washington State)

Students at the University of Washington

Faculty at the University of Washington

Major questions that needed to be answered:

What levels of access were required for these recordings?

Who needed access of the recordings, especially in relation to the rights of the tribe who “own” the language, history, and culture of this material?

Project deliverables:

Providing recordings for the tribal members

John Vallier:

John discussed two projects whose objective it is to make field recordings available via online commercial platforms to extend the reach of research recordings that the ethnomusicology community may find useful for research and teaching, while also satisfying the needs of the vendors providing the platform technology and the University of Washington Libraries.

Stakeholders:

Researchers who created the recordings (Lorraine Sakata and Robert Garfius)

Communities and people being studied and recorded

Ethnomusicologists more broadly

Publishers/vendors (Alexander Street Press, Adam Matthews)

Librarians

Archivists

Major questions that needed to be answered:

How should access be provided in a cost-effective, but equitable way?

Can these works be published online without legal ramifications?

Can they be provided open access?

Who owns the rights to these recordings? (see stakeholders above)

How does copyright law, particularly section 56A, in which recordings are distinguished from the creative action associated with them pertain to ownership?

Issues:

Librarians caught between the needs of the library as an institution in providing access (particularly open access) and the scholars who want the easiest path to accessibility of their scholarly work.

The recordings have the challenges of repatriation associated with them.

Deliverables:

To provide recordings that address all questions and issues associated with these works, and to meet stakeholder needs.

James Fox:

The Latino Roots project is a long-term archival (papers, manuscripts, photographs) and ethnographic (interviews and recordings) project undertaken at the University of Oregon to combat the issues associated with cultural genocide. Two professors at UO Lynn Stephen and Gabriela Martinez developed a two-course sequence to introduce students to history, immigration, and culture of Latinos/as in Oregon. This course

Stakeholders:

The greater Latino community of Oregon (roughly 15% of Oregon's population, particularly, the PCUN—Pineros y Campesinos del Nordeste, the Oregon farmworkers union whose papers were deposited in the UO library)

Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CCLAS) at the University of Oregon

University of Oregon Libraries

Students at the University of Oregon

Faculty at the University of Oregon

Questions explored:

What are the needs of the physical collection of the PCUN?

How can researchers become creators? (as with the class projects)

What can the library do well in this project? (i.e. infrastructure both technological and physical)

What can faculty and students do well? (i.e. collecting primary source data for inclusion)

Issues:

Conflicting loyalties between the university library and the PCUN alliance and the university and the Norpac union alliance

Deliverables:

Website: <https://latinoroots.uoregon.edu/>

The website was a collaboration between library expertise and faculty research (plus student learning); each group brought information and skills they excelled at

Q & A:

Did any of these three projects have a deed of gift?

John: No deed of gift or a deed of gift lite for the field recordings

James: Yes, deeds of gift for interviewers, interviewees, and students

Did these projects benefit from access to a copyright librarian?

John: Yes, operating within the guiding principles of ethnographic research

James: Yes, there is an office at UO for issues arising around copyright

Is the nature of digital projects changing the publication landscape from their perspective?

What about captioning and Accessibility? Were these issues addressed in the creation of the recordings for these projects?

Discussion from James, John, and audience comments:

Start talking early about closed captioning options to make the recordings more accessible

There are challenges with describing music in captioning that are difficult to address

What about a marketing department as a stakeholder?