

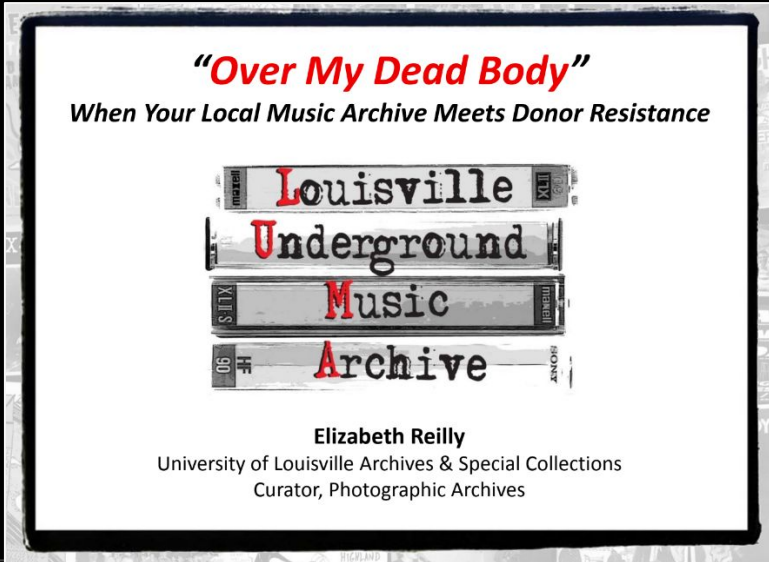
Comparative Research on Underground Music Archives in the American South

Society of American Archivists
Research Forum 2025

Jon Sewell

PhD student, MTSU

To focus on underground and punk music primarily in the South:
a seemingly unconventional location for these scenes- placing this historically under-represented subculture/counterculture in an often hostile environment... How are they preserved and archived?



Previous research precedent at SAA:

2015 Annual Conference Presentation

University of Louisville, LUMA project
Curator: Elizabeth Reilly

Timeline for Research... and Action?

1 Spring 2025



Survey the field:
"Is there anybody out there?"

Identify Partners

Make contact

Proposals:
SAA Research Forum
AASLH conference Panel

Documentation Strategy

2 Summer 2025



Further Research:
"What's out there?"

Partner communication

New partners emerge:
"Let the tribe increase"

SAA Presentation!

3 Fall 2025



Engage the field:
"What are we making?"

Partners to Partnership

Are there others?

AASLH Panel! Sept. in Cincy

4 2026 and beyond...

Engagement deepens:
"How do we do it?"

Partnership (in)formalizes

Southern Underground
Music Academic
Conference: U. of Miss?

Partners Contacted

Institutionally-managed

- 1 **Louisville Underground Music Archive,**
Spec. Coll, University of Louisville
- 2 **Southern Punk Archive,**
Southern Doc. Project, Univ. of Miss.
- 3 **Atlanta Punk Zine Collection**
Rose Library, Emory University

Community-managed

- 4 **Memphis Punk Archive**
- 5 **309 Punk Project,** Pensacola
- 6 **Nashville Underground Music Archive**

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Louisville Underground Music Archive

LUMA documents the history and culture of the Louisville rock music scene from the 1970s to the present.



Louisville Underground Music Archive (LUMA) Project documents the history and culture of the Louisville rock music scene from the 1970s to the present. Archives and Special Collections' goal is to address the gap in the historical record related to independent/underground rock music culture in Louisville. Generally speaking, records of popular culture of this type are underrepresented in archives, putting this history at risk for loss. In addition, Louisville's music scene was influential

beyond the Ohio Valley, making it an area of interest beyond our immediate community.

Ultimately, the goal of this collecting is to make it freely available to the community and researchers in general, and to preserve it for future generations.

We are interested in a wide variety of materials: oral histories, recordings, set lists, photographs, zines, posters, flyers, t-shirts, ephemera, correspondence, business records, and early web history related to the rock/indie/punk/hardcore music scene. These materials are preserved and prepared for use by the community and other researchers. We also use collection materials to curate exhibits and programs designed to engage the community with Louisville music history.

Louisville Underground Music Archive

Spec. Coll, University of Louisville

Academic Institution

Archives & Special Collections

Physical location to visit

Online resources available

Community advisory board

2011:, founded by community members
with U of L connections

- library.louisville.edu/archives/luma

Southern Punk Archive,
Southern Doc. Project, Univ. of Miss.



Southern Punk Archive is a growing physical and digital repository of videos, photos, fliers, music, films, and oral histories with a unique interest in DIY spaces, self-published works, rural punks, artists, writers, and musicians who have contributed to the development and growth of this scene.

Academic Institution

Center for Southern Studies,
Southern Documentary Project

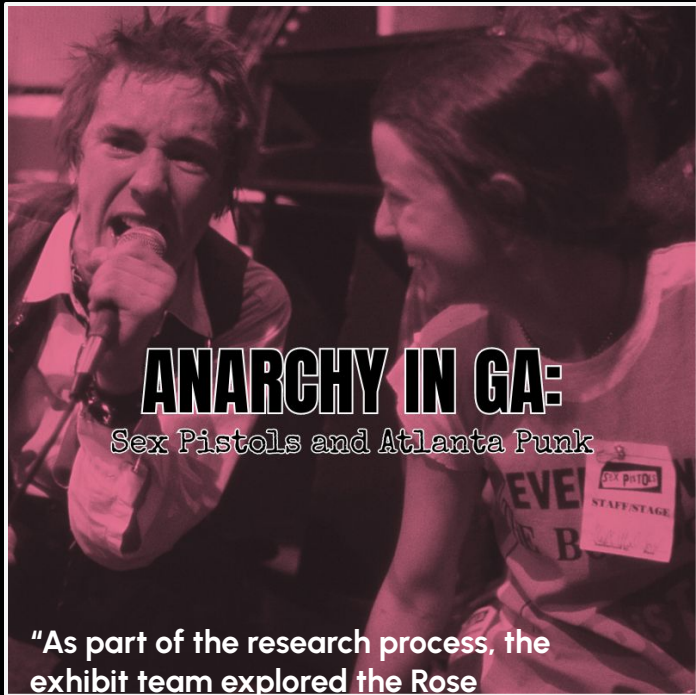
Physical location to visit

Online resources available

Community advisory board

2021- est'd by John Rash in
collaboration with the U. Miss. Library
Archives and Special Collections.

southdocs.org/southern-punk-archive/



Atlanta Punk Zine Collection

Rose Library, Emory University

Academic Institution

Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and
Rare Book Library
Political, Cultural and Social Movements
Collections

Physical location to visit

Online resources available

Oxford Library's Anarchy in GA: Sex
Pistols and Atlanta Punk exhibit

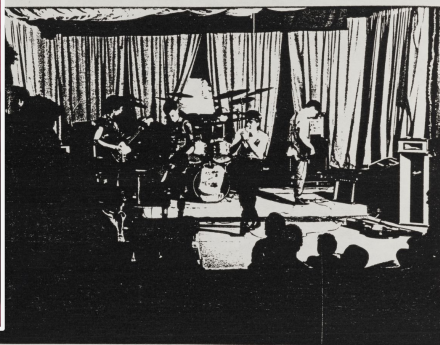
-guides.libraries.emory.edu/

"As part of the research process, the
exhibit team explored the Rose

Library's Atlanta Punk Periodicals
collection. While many zines from the
collection were scanned, only a small
selection were incorporated into the
physical exhibit poster. Selected zine
scans are reproduced below."

"Green Berets" by trapping the commie
a cable agent prostitute.
I think somebody is trying to tell us
I don't like it. Don't run down to
y recruiter, the Russians aren't going
films like this can serve to whip up
of hysteria that could lead to a REAL
which will be fought with something
dly than 46 Nicaraguan paratroopers, I
--something a lot more permanent.

I would've been on
AMARCHIST, But I
couldn't figure out
the rules.
-- Karl Marx
What Rules?
-- R/S
"I Just needed a new
gig after Death
Valley Days."
-- Ronnie Ray Gun



The Atlanta hardcore scene had an historic moment in Spring, 1984 when Cable TV's public
access station taped Neon Christ and Antikeros at the Fallout Shelter for a later showing.
Can network hardcore be far behind? Is MTV ready for this? Restless 'n' Bored publisher
Lacy took this photo during the taping at Fallout Shelter.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS DEPARTMENT - Atlanta hasn't exactly been known as the forward cutting edge
of the punk scene in America, much less of hardcore, though the scene has really grown in the
last couple of years. It's a little known, but true fact, however, that the Sex Pistols did
the very first concert of their one-and-only American tour right here in Atlanta, at the old
Great Southeastern Music Hall in Broadview Plaza, about 1977.

Anarchist science fiction - What is anarchy all about? It's a pretty complex system of ideas
that start with the idea that government is the wrong way to run society. To visualize the
anarchist ideal, it might be helpful to read through some of the science fiction and futurist
novels that explore anarchy and anarchism. A short checklist: Mack Reynolds isn't exactly
an anarchist, as far as I know, but he comes pretty close; he was born into a little leftwing
sectarian political party that's been around for a hundred years or so called the "Socialist
Labor Party", but after visiting the 'Soviet' Union in person, he decided that the party-and-
state road to socialism didn't work. He's written a whole series of books looking at possible



memphispunkarchive ...

Following ▼

Message



Memphis Punk Archive

Archive of punk & hardcore music from the pre-net & early net era, DM me with flyers, shirts, posters, anything! & I'll... more
@ linktr.ee/memphispunkarchive

Followed by [mattpunk77](#), [the.nashville.underground](#) + 17 more

338

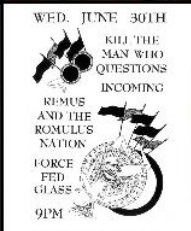
posts

2,084

followers

906

following



Preserving the Past with the Memphis Punk Archive

How two former Memphians are reviving the city's almost-forgotten punk scene for the digital age.



Memphis Punk Archive
Memphis, Tennessee

Follow

Fan-run archive of mostly punk music in the Mid South.

Write to us with suggestions, edits, issues, etc.
memphispunkarchive@gmail.com

Any proceeds from this page will be donated.

Memphis Punk Archive

"Fan-run" community archive

No physical location...

Digitizing events at WYXR

No website... Online resources aplenty:

Bandcamp site:

memphispunkarchive.bandcamp.com/

Instagram account:

instagram.com/memphispunkarchive/

"There is so, so much music that isn't online anywhere, especially independent music." Memphis Punk Archive provides a platform for somewhat forgotten acts to have a second breath of life in the digital age.

-memphismagazine.com/features/preserving-the-past-with-the-memphis-punk-archive/

NEWS

'No other place like it:' Pensacola's famous 309 'punk house' to be preserved



Troy Moon

Pensacola News Journal

Updated Sept. 30, 2017, 6:31 p.m. CT

Our primary goal is to serve the local and regional community as archive, residency, and venue for divergent practices in DIY culture and contemporary art that critically examine the sociopolitical cultural moment that is shaping all our lives.



309 PUNK PROJECT

Artists and Writers

Pensacola, Florida · 352 followers

Preserving and promoting the creative contributions of the punk subculture in the Deep South



309 Punk Project Pensacola

Community-run, Artist-run

Non-profit, founded 2016

House, procured in 2019

Physical location to visit

Artists-in-Residence, 2022

Online resources available

Youtube account

Website: 309punkproject.org/

Instagram active

OUR MISSION:

We serve the local and regional community by operating as a gathering place, housing an archive for DIY culture, and by providing an Artist in Residence Program in order to inspire and enrich all our lives

Nashville Underground Music Archive

Main Page

Welcome to the **Nashville Underground Music Archive**- a place to share and save memories of the people, places, and performances that show the under side of Music City, USA. As time marches on, much of what helped make the musical communities in this town have gone away too soon, or for some, not soon enough- here is the story.

This project is a constant work in progress. P
your story and help improve it for others.

Contents [hide]

- 1 People
- 2 Labels
- 3 Places
- 4 Performances
- 5 Underground



Community-run, fan-run

Physical location to visit
Suboptimal: private house

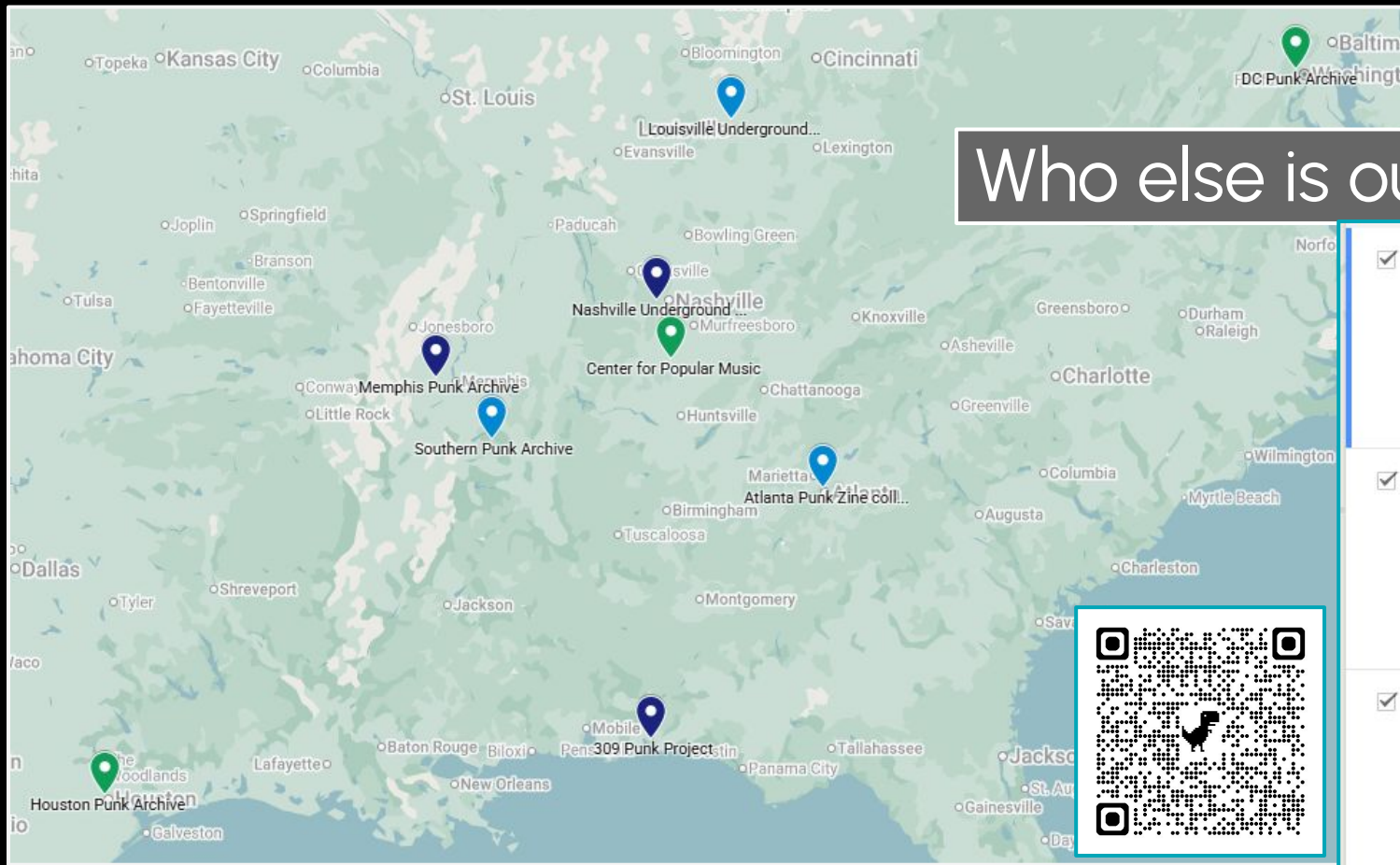
Online resources available
Wiki-template website:
thenashvilleunderground.org

Instagram: blog-style

350+ hrs of interviews
1500+ 45s, 7", 10", LPs
Ephemera: zines, flyers
Reel-to-reel,

Nashville
Underground
Music
Archive

thenashvilleunderground.org



Who else is out there?

✓ Community Archives

Individual styles

- 309 Punk Project
- Memphis Punk Archive
- Nashville Underground Musi...

✓ Academic Archives

Individual styles

- Atlanta Punk Zine collection
- Southern Punk Archive
- Louisville Underground Musi...

✓ Potentials

Individual styles

- DC Punk Archive
- Houston Punk Archive
- Center for Popular Music





SOCIETY OF
American
Archivists

Promoting the value and diversity of archives and archivists.

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[HOME](#) » [GROUPS](#) » [REGIONAL ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATIONS CONSORTIUM \(RAAC\)](#) » [GUIDE TO ARCHIVES](#)

CONSORTIA

Guide to Archives Consortia

[Roster](#)

The Membership Subcommittee developed this resource to provide archival repository employees and researchers with a convenient guide to archives consortia. If you have additional consortia to add to the list, please contact the [Membership Subcommittee Chair](#).

- typically organized around geographic regions
 - occasional org. around topic
 - fewer examples of regions and topic:
 - New York Art Resources Consortium
 - NLM History of Medicine Finding Aids Consortium
- last one inactive- goes to WayBack Machine :(

Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC)

Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC)

[Roster](#)

The Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC) provides a mechanism to connect the leadership of regional, multistate, state, and local archival organizations with each other and to the Society of American Archivists (SAA). RAAC seeks to facilitate information exchange and foster collaboration among these organizations. It offers formal channels to coordinate efforts intra-state, interstate, and with SAA which facilitate streamlining actions, reducing costs, and increasing services. Such efforts include but are not limited to advocacy, public awareness, education, disaster planning/recovery, and grant development.

Thank you

Any Help Appreciated!

Say Hello please!

Jon Sewell

thenashvilleunderground@gmail.com