

Recorded Sound Roundtable Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 3, 2016

Atlanta, Georgia

Room 309/310 Atlanta Hilton

4:00 - 5:30

Members in attendance: Sarah Cunningham, Chair; Rebecca Chandler, Newsletter Editor; Danielle Cordovez, Steering Committee Member.

1. Chair's welcome and agenda (Sarah Cunningham)
2. Introduction of current and incoming officers:

2016 Recorded Sound Roundtable Member Election Results:

- Chair - Eric Cartier.
 - Vice Chair/ Chair Elect - Tre Berney.
 - Newsletter Editor - Rebecca Chandler.
 - Web Liaison - Jolene Beiser.
 - Steering Committee - Danielle Cordovez, Sarah Cunningham, Ben Houtman, & Calvin Rydbom.
3. 2016 SAA conference sessions that highlighted recorded sound collections:
 - Remain in Light: Archival Practice for Popular Music Collections (Steven Weiss, Susannah Cleveland, Nicholas Meriwether, and Rachel Morris)
 4. SAA phrase of the week: ARCHIVAL VALUE! We say YES to with archival value!
 - It is important to assess the value of rare and unique material in collections.
 - Be mindful of the chemical components, etc.. of audio formats. There have been lots of cool inventions and trends over the years that were not practical long term.
 - There should be collaborative activism within the sound archive community to avoid the collection of recordings that may be interesting and have historical value, but can be easily found in other collections. (Ex. Alan Lomax's collection of field recordings)
 - Content is a key factor in determining variability. Vintage looking formats are not always archival.
 - [The National Recording Preservation Board \(NRPB\)](#) has published wonderful reports on preservation awareness for audio collections and how much we stand to lose.
 - The [ARSC Guide to Audio Preservation](#), published by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC), Council on Library and Information Resources, and Library

of Congress, is highly suggested for all who work with and care for audio collections.
The pdf version is available for free!

5. SAA Council Liaison Bergis Jules:

- Introduction /Questions.
- RSRT is officially an SAA section - Annual reports for groups - new deadline Sept. 1st.

6. Old Business:

- No old business.

7. New Business:

- The 3rd Annual SAA A/V Archives Night, hosted by [A/V Preserve](#) on August 3, 7:00 p.m. at the Sound Table! The event will feature one- hour worth of streaming audio and video content from various archives, a performance by the band *Glass Plate Zero*, and a 45 rpm “Memphis vs. Atlanta” spinoff!
- Open discussion for all to pose questions or share experiences working with recorded sound collections.

Topics discussed:

- Processing and storage advice for collection of 600, 000 LPs and 45s at Michigan State University -- Gaylord record sleeves and boxes suggested for ideal protection and storage capacity.
- Collection featuring a civil rights icon speaking at a Historically Black University, celebrating the end of the modern civil rights movement and death of Martin Luther King Jr. The software used access the audio (Audacity) is problematic. It only uploads data to Itunes and won't work on pc based software.
- Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) archives has a National Archives and Records Administration (NHPRC) grant to digitize a visual collection of 700 recordings of historical student performances at the Tanglewood Music Center. There are issues with copyright as the student performances were not unionized. The plan is to stream the collection under the Fair Use Policy.
- Florida State University (FSU) has an educational collection established in the 1960's that was used to teach students how to collect oral histories. There are 2000 recordings on cassette, wav, and mp3 files. Despite having well documented, albeit questionable, release forms, they've had difficulty establishing the original formats for some of the recordings. FSU hopes to digitize the recordings soon and plans to make the collections available at FSU in special collections through the Island platform developed in house.

The copyright situation for the professors, students and volunteers is “iffy” but they hope to eventually make the collection, complete with transcripts, publically available.

Discussion regarding the many gray areas of copyright ensues.

- Is the lack of information preventing access? What information is missing ? What are the barriers?
- Risk assessment is crucial.
- SAA and ARSC have educational resources (see the ARSC Guide for Preservation link above).
- RSRT will update the bibliography to include links for Copyright and Deed of Gift issues. Should not let those issues stand in the way of preservation. Asks for volunteers to assist.
- Copyright and A/V collections will be the topic for the SAA 2017 conference.
- Guggenheim Museum performances from 1984 to the present have partial copyright. The release forms were not signed by all participants. Programs released after 2009 can be shown on the web due to detailed contracts drafted where all parties released rights to the Guggenheim.
- This year’s International Association of Sound Archives (IASA) will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Library of Congress in September of 2016. It’s a great place to meet professionals and leading experts in A/V.
- **All are encouraged to submit articles for the RSRT Newsletter which currently circulates annually, but could potentially be a bi-annual publication with enough submissions.**