

*University of Washington, Winter 2010, Music 512 A (3 credits)
Tuesdays, 1:30-3:50, Music Bldg. 27*

Seminar: Sound Archiving in Ethnomusicology Course Syllabus

Laurel Sercombe (julius@uw.edu) and John Vallier (vallier@uw.edu), co-instructors

Office Hours: By appointment

Class dates: Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9

Final project due – Monday, March 15, 4:00 p.m. (Music 28B)

The development of sound recording technology in the 1890s revolutionized scholarly research in music. With the establishment of the first sound archives at the turn of the 20th century, the link between the comparative study of the world's music and sound archiving was firmly established. This link is the starting point for an exploration of the principles and practice of sound archiving in historical and contemporary contexts. Topics to be covered include:

- archival principles, functions, and activities
- the history of sound recording
- the historical relationship between Ethnomusicology and sound archiving
- copyright and ethics
- digital access and preservation: standards, best practices
- the “green” archive
- global perspectives on sound archiving in the digital age

Course Requirements:

- Readings – links to internet sources are listed on the syllabus; additional required and supplemental readings will be available through Electronic Reserves or in print form in the Music Library reserve section.
- Assignments - one in-class presentation based on reading assignments.
- Final Project - written description of proposed project due in class Week 4; oral presentations in class Weeks 9 and 10; written papers due March 15.

Grading will be based on the following formula:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Class attendance & participation - | 20% |
| In-class presentation - | 20% |
| Final project proposal - | 10% |
| Final project - | 50% |

January 5 (Week 1) - **Introduction to Ethnomusicological Sound Archives**

Recommended reading:

Simon, Artur. "The Musical Traditions of Mankind in the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv 1900-2000: Collecting, Preserving, Researching and Communicating," in *The Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv 1900-2000: Collections of Traditional Music of the World* (2000) (*Ereserve*)

January 12 (Week 2) - **Sound Archiving: Principles, Functions, Activities...and Challenges**

Readings:

Seeger, Anthony. "The Role of Sound Archives in Ethnomusicology Today," *Ethnomusicology*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Spring/Summer, 1986), pp. 261-276 (*JSTOR*)

International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives. *The Safeguarding of the Audio Heritage: Ethics, Principles and Preservation Strategy* (IASA-TC 03, December 2005) - http://www.iasa-web.org/downloads/publications/TC03_English.pdf

Additional recommended readings:

Vallier, John. "Sound Archiving Close to Home: Why Community Partnerships Matter," (*Ereserve*)

Post, Jennifer. "Sound Archives," in *Grove Music Online* – <http://www.grovemusic.com>

January 19 (Week 3) - **History of Sound Recording**

Guest: John Gibbs (*Special Projects Librarian, UW Music Library*)

John's website is one of the best sources for on-line information related to sound archiving - <http://guides.lib.washington.edu/AudioPreservation>

Readings:

Brady, Erika. "The Talking Machine: A Marvelous Inevitability," in *A Spiral Way: How the Phonograph Changed Ethnography* (1999) (*Ereserve*)

Myers, Helen. "Field Technology," in *Ethnomusicology: An Introduction* (1992) (*Ereserve*)

January 26 (Week 4) – **Care and Handling of Media; Collection Assessment**

Guest: John Gibbs (*Special Projects Librarian, UW Music Library*)

Final Project Proposal due (1-2 pages, double-spaced)

Readings (Care and Handling):

Byers, Fred R. *Care and Handling Guide for the Preservation of CDs and DVDs - A Guide for Librarians and Archivists* -

<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub121/contents.html>

St. Laurent, Gilles. *The Care and Handling of Recorded Sound Materials*
<http://cool.conservation-us.org/byauth/st-laurent/care.html>
 (23 April 1999)

Van Bogart, John W.C. *Magnetic Tape Storage and Handling* -
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub54/index.html>

Readings (Collection Assessment):

Frost, Hannah. *Surveying Sound Recording Collections* -
http://www.arl.org/preserv/sound_savings_proceedings/Surveying_sound-2.shtml

Spec Bros. Basic Inspection Techniques to Sample the Condition of Magnetic Tape –
<http://www.specsbros.com/whitepaper.html>

February 2 (Week 5) – **Arrangement, Documentation, Description, and Access**

Readings:

Ives, Edward D. “Processing,” in *The Tape-Recorded Interview*, Ch. 3 (**Ereserve**)

Kerst, Catherine Hiebert. “The Ethnographic Thesaurus: Creation and Development of an Archival tool,” *IASA Journal*, No. 27 (July 2006), pp. 25-31 (**Ereserve**)

Society for Ethnomusicology. “Documentation,” in *A Manual for Documentation, Fieldwork & Preservation for Ethnomusicologists* (2nd ed., 2001), Ch. 1 (**Ereserve**)

IASA Technical Committee. “Metadata,” in *Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects* (TC-04, 2nd edition, 2009), Ch. 3 (**Ereserve**)

Additional recommended readings:

Anderson, Scott R. and Robert B. Allen. “Envisioning the Archival Commons,” *The American Archivist*, Vol. 72 (Fall/Winter 2009), pp. 383-400 -
<http://uwashington.worldcat.org/oclc/488927302>

Green, Mark A. and Dennis Meissner. “More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing,” *The American Archivist*, Vol. 68 (Fall/Winter 2005), pp. 208-263 -
<http://uwashington.worldcat.org/oclc/193918074>

Recommended resources:

American Folklore Society. *Ethnographic Thesaurus* - <http://et.afsnet.org/>

EVIA (Ethnomusicological Video for Instruction and Analysis) Digital Archive -
<http://www.eviada.org/>

Human Relations Area Files - <http://www.yale.edu/hraf/collections.htm>

Library of Congress – *Encoded Archival Description* – <http://www.loc.gov/ead/>

On-line Archive of California - <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>

UCLA Library, Digital Collections. *The Strachwitz Frontera Collection of Mexican and Mexican American Recordings* - <http://frontera.library.ucla.edu/project.html>

UW Ethnomusicology Archives. On-Line Catalog - <http://www.music.washington.edu/ethno/?page=search>

UW Libraries, Digital Collections. *Ethnomusicology Musical Instruments Collection* - <http://content.lib.washington.edu/ethnomusicweb/index.html>

UW Libraries Media Center. Crocodile Café Collection - <http://www.lib.washington.edu/media/crocodile.html>

February 9 (Week 6) - Access and Preservation: Standards, Best Practices

Guest: Gary Louie (*Media Maintenance Technician, UW School of Music*)

Discussion of issues related to the digital preservation of and access to archival materials, including an introduction to digitization standards and best practices as defined by the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (TC-04, 2nd edition, 2009)

Readings:

Council on Library and Information Resources and the Library of Congress. “Capturing Analog Sound for Digital Preservation: Report of a Roundtable Discussion of Best Practices for Transferring Analog Discs and Tapes” -

<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub137/pub137.pdf>

IASA Technical Committee. “Key Digital Principles,” in *Guidelines on the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects* (TC-04, 2nd edition, 2009), Ch. 2 (**Ereserve**)

“Sound Directions: Digital Preservation and Access for Global Audio Heritage” -

<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sounddirections/>

Sound Savings: Preserving Audio Collections - Proceedings from the Symposium (2003)

http://www.arl.org/preserv/sound_savings_proceedings/

Additional recommended readings:

Danielson, Virginia. “Stating the Obvious: Lessons Learned Attempting Access to Archival Audio Collections” (2001) <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fhcc/accesskey.html>

Schüller, Dietrich. “Technology for the Future,” in *Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21st Century* (2004) –

<http://seagullindia.com/archive/download.html>

Additional recommended resource:

“Audio Preservation and Restoration” - John Gibbs’ list of links to on-line sources –:
<http://guides.lib.washington.edu/AudioPreservation>

February 16 (Week 7) - Contracts, Copyright, and Ethics

Readings:

Frith, Simon and Lee Marshall. “Making Sense of Copyright,” in *Music and Copyright* (2nd ed., 2004), Ch. 1 (*Ereserve*)

Seeger, Anthony. “Ethnomusicologists, Archives, Professional Organizations, and the Shifting Ethics of Intellectual Property,” *Yearbook for Traditional Music*, Vol. 28 (1996), pp. 87-105 (*JSTOR*)

Seeger, Anthony and Shubha Chaudhuri. “Rights, Intellectual Property and Archives Today,” in *Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21st Century* (2004) – <http://seagullindia.com/archive/download.html>

Society for Ethnomusicology. *A Manual for Documentation, Fieldwork & Preservation for Ethnomusicologists* (2nd ed., 2001), Ch. 2: “Ethical and Legal Considerations” and Ch. 5, pp.80-82: “Depositing Fieldwork Materials in Archives” (*Ereserve*)

Additional recommended readings:

Cline, Scott. “‘To the Limit of Our Integrity’: Reflections on Archival Being,” *The American Archivist*, Vol. 72 (Fall/Winter 2009), pp. 331-343 –
<http://uwashington.worldcat.org/oclc/488926843>

Harper, Georgia K. “Copyright Law and Audio Preservation” -
http://www.arl.org/preserv/sound_savings_proceedings/Copyright_law_audio_pres.shtml

Seeger, Anthony. “Traditional Music Ownership in a Commodified World,” in *Music and Copyright* (2nd ed., 2004), Ch. 9 (*Ereserve*)

Sercombe, Laurel. “Researching the Music of the First People of the Pacific Northwest: From the Academy to the Brain Room,” *Fontes Artis Musicae* 50/2-4 (April-December 2003), pp. 81-88. (*Ereserve*)

February 23 (Week 8) – Global Perspectives on Sound Archiving in the Digital Age;
 The “Green” Archive; Archival Training and Employment
 Guest: Lorraine Sakata (*Professor Emerita, UCLA*)
 Film: “A Kabul Music Diary” (John Baily)

Readings:

Chaudhuri, Shubha. "How Do You Turn a House Into an Archive? Air Conditioning and Tape Storage in a Hot and Humid Environment," in *Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21st Century* (2004) – <http://seagullindia.com/archive/download.html>

Cullhed, Per. "The Almedalen Library: An Energy Low-Cost Solution," World Library and Information Congress: 71th [sic] IFLA General Conference and Council - <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/papers/152e-Cullhed.pdf>

Additional recommended readings:

Hecker, Thomas E. "The Post-Petroleum Future of Academic Libraries," *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (July 2007), pp. 183-199 – <http://uwashington.worldcat.org/oclc/364511696>

Layne, Valmont. "The Sound Archive at the District Six Museum: A Work in Progress," in *Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21st Century* (2004) – <http://seagullindia.com/archive/download.html>

Niles, Don. "Reclaiming the Past: The Value of Recordings to a National Cultural Heritage," in *Archives for the Future: Global Perspectives on Audiovisual Archives in the 21st Century* (2004) – <http://seagullindia.com/archive/download.html>

Ruskin, Jesse – "Collecting and Connecting: Archiving Filipino American Music in Los Angeles," in *The Pacific Review of Ethnomusicology*, Volume #11 (Winter 2006). <http://www.ethnomusic.ucla.edu/pre/Vol11/Vol11html/V11Ruskin.html>

March 2 (Week 9) – **In-class presentations (Week 1)**

March 9 (Week 10) - **In-class presentations (Week 2) (Last class!)**

Monday, March 15 - **Projects due** (Music, Room 28B)