



Call for Papers

Conference

Audio Archives: Preservation, Cataloguing, Research, Use

From 14 to 17 September, 2011 in the Alexander von Humboldt-Haus, Münster

Until the nineteenth century, written documents and surviving images were the only kinds of sources that could provide information about cultural manifestations. With the invention of the phonograph in 1878 and additional recording devices in the following decades, new possibilities for documenting everyday life gradually opened up. Today the resulting holdings are stored in archives, frequently without up-to-date security and cataloguing.

To date, the bulk of the material has been only marginally evaluated in the field of ethno-musicology and thus, especially in the face of increasingly physical deterioration, especially of the audio recordings, the question of up-to-date processing, cataloguing, representation, and comprehensive research, arises all the more urgently.

Which holdings in Europe contain audio and song archives? How can historical sound recordings, songs fixed in writing, and manuscript songbooks be preserved archivally for the long-term and also be made accessible to scholars and the public? Which current research approaches and studies treat holdings of (regional) folksongs and sound recordings and what experiences have scholars and archival employees had with existing archival holdings? How can international archives be best connected with comparable holdings?

The questions will form the focus of the international conference "Audio Archives: Preservation – Cataloguing – Research – Use," which will take place on the 15 and 16 of September 2011 in the Alexander von Humboldt-Haus, in Münster (arrival: 14 September, departure: 17 September).

Requested are contributions by archival employees as representatives of holdings of audio and written-song collections as well as scholars representing the side of the users. In addition to an exchange of experiences, it is hoped that suggestions for new or continuing research will also be generated.

Please send an abstract by 30 November 2010 to

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The talk should be approximately a half-hour long; fifteen minutes are planned for subsequent discussion: Contributions will be published in a volume of conference papers.