PROVIDING BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL SOUND RECORDING COLLECTIONS

A Case from the J. David Goldin Collection of Transcription Discs at UMKC

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Outline

- Importance of bibliographic access
- Importance of standards
- Introduction to the J. David Goldin Collection
- Decisions and considerations
- Examples
- Addressing the future

Importance of Bibliographic Access

- Cannot rely on lore or word-of-mouth
- Democratizes information
- Describes materials sufficiently to promote use
- Accesses knowledge even if not physically present with the item
- Connects the information seeker to the information they are seeking!

Story of Penicillin - Penicillin was actually discovered twice. The first time was 100 years before the famous time in 1928 (by the bacteriologist Sir Alexander Fleming who shared the noble prize). It was first discovered and written up in a Master's thesis at the University of Paris. The thesis was then filed away without being indexed anywhere -- in other words, there was no bibliographic access to it. So it went missing and people had to die for another 100 years before someone again discovered penicillin. The point here is that ACCESS to information is even more important than the information itself. Without access information remains relatively useless, like a book on the wrong shelf in the library.

Results of Providing Access

- Blogs
- Websites/Databases
- Digital collections
- Articles
- Books
- Discographies/Directories

Importance of Standards

- Consistency!
- Vetted by larger group of users (many times perpetually so)
- More easily updated or transferred to other information platforms or programs
- Cost effective

Hidden Collections

Table 1.8. Catalog records (Q. 41-47)[20]

Format	n	Online	Offline	No Records	Described within Archival Collections
Printed volumes	154	85%	7%	8%	n/a
Archival collections	153	56%	14%	30%	n/a
Audiovisual materials	128	25%	7%	36%	36%
Visual materials	136	21%	13%	35%	35%
Audiovisual materials	128	25%	7%	36%	36%
Born-digital materials	89	29%	1%	34%	40%

OCLC. *Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives.*
<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2010/2010-11.pdf >

To give a sense of where libraries and archives are in describing their audiovisual materials.

- Of 128 institutions holding a/v materials, 25% have online records, 7% have records offline; 36% have no record at all; and 36% are described within archival collections; some of those archival collections are hidden so the real number of hidden a/v materials isn't obvious
- CLIR, NEH, and other granting agencies are focusing on hidden collections; particularly keen on a/v collections
- Movement on the concept of "core" or floor records for quicker processing of collections
- Ideal access description is at the most granular level

J. David (Dave) Goldin

And now...

Then...
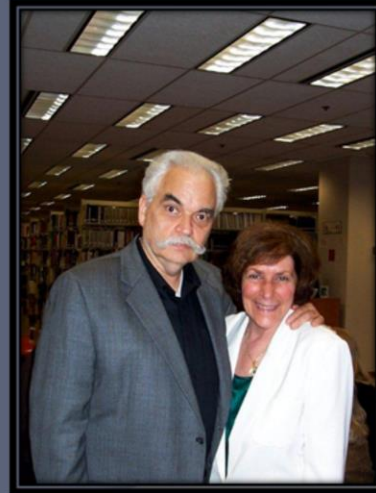
Photograph courtesy of Mark Mattison

- Career in radio on the air, advertising, and operating engineer (NBC, Mutual, CBS networks).

- Won a Grammy in 1981 in the Spoken Word, Documentary or Drama Recording category for his reiusse of *Donovan's Brain* by Orson Welles.

- Over the years, Goldin amassed a collection of over 95,000 radio programs.

- Goldin, who is now retired, continues collecting radio programs and vintage radios.

Donated to UMKC 1995-2001

Comprised of 16 in. recordings, each of which are 30 min. in length (15 min. each side), produced for broadcast between 1935 and 1960

Photograph courtesy of Kelley Martin

- Goldin donated approximately 10,000 6-16 inch transcription discs that while unified by the disc format was hugely disparate in material type: vinyl, shellac, glass- and aluminum-based cellulose nitrate lacquers, cardboard, uncoated metal

- Electrically recorded and acoustically recorded discs, dubbings of records, private recordings

- Syndicated radio programs, spot announcements, library service programs featuring science, history, children's shows, dramas, debates, music, variety shows, etc.

Efforts to Provide Access

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant:
Jan. 1, 2008-Dec. 31, 2010

1 Special Project Cataloger
3 Library Information Specialists
2 Students

GOAL: Eliminate barriers for discovery by providing a description of each disc and its contents online.

We were able to be placed in an ideal situation: Equipment, time, staff resources to tackle description at the item level for the entire collection

A Collection of Transcription Discs
Decisions and Considerations
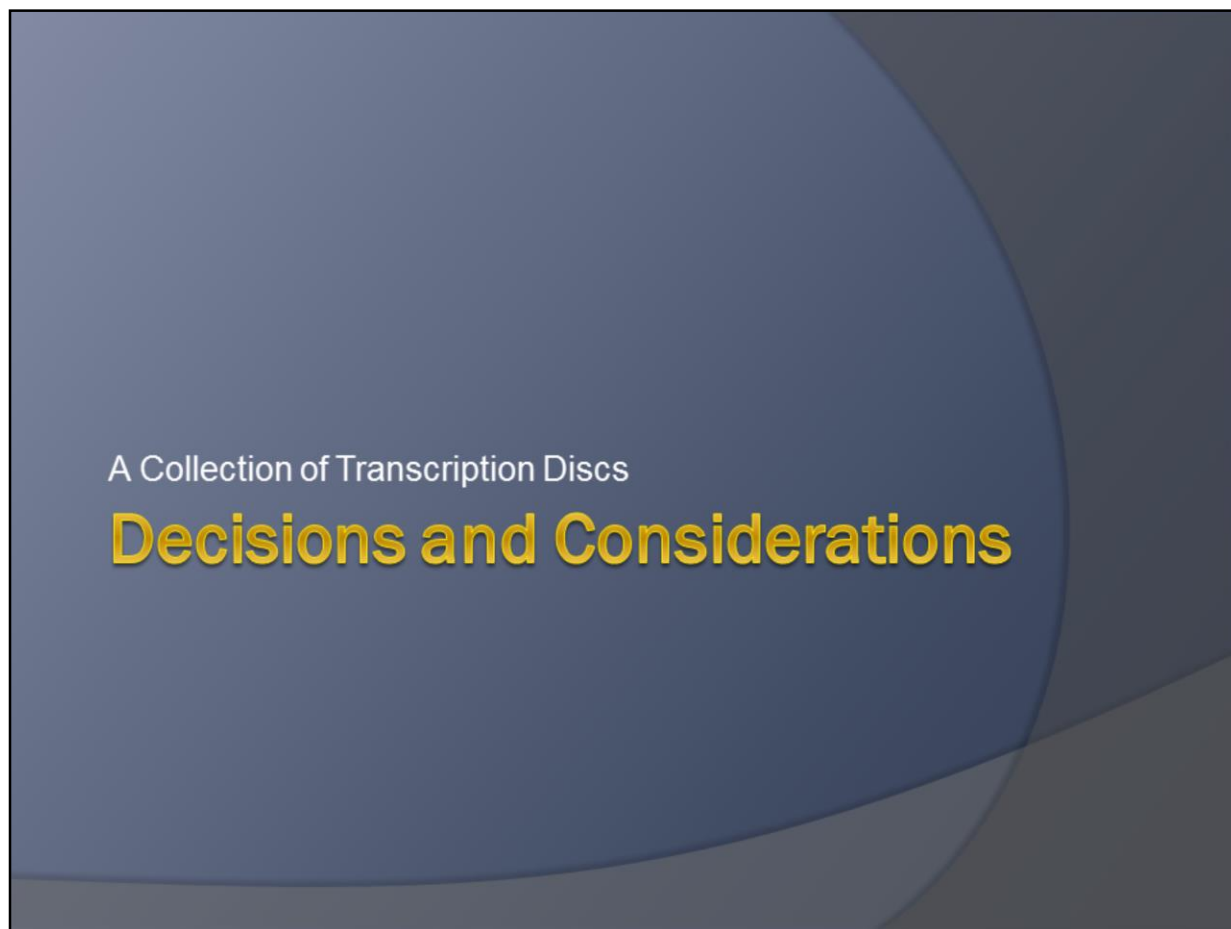
Considerations for archival sound collections and how they inform the decisions you must make for describing any archival collection and how they impact the process of providing bibliographic access.

There will be no discussion in MARC or XML; broad concepts covered only.

Some may be obvious, but for me, it was a learning process; prior to working on this collection, I had only worked with published materials.

We're using the Goldin collection to demonstrate the considerations.

DECISIONS

- Unit of description
  - Item, Series, Collection

- Content standards
  - **IASA Guidelines (International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives)**

- Controlled vocabularies and thesauri

- Structural standards

- Delivery platform

Unit of description

- Chose item level b/c it was the most granular, meaningful access we could provide for a collection with a variety of content (no obvious arrangement/a mixed bag)
- Level of description: Full-level (could have gone w/ "core" record)

Delivery platform—Worldcat approaching 1 billion records

Structural standards: MARC

Content standards

- *International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives* Cataloging Rules (recommended!) freely available, in synch with AACR2r, addresses the unique nature of archival sound
- DACS is more focused on description arranged as a collection

Controlled vocabs, ontologies, thesauri: LCSH, LCGFT, LC NAF

- Collections consisting of varied formats will also entail varied preservation treatment and workflows.
- A balancing act because some formats are relatively stable (vinyl) while others are very fragile (wax cylinders)
- Before embarking on an access project, you must always get a sense of how critical the preservation needs are.

- Available resources: staff time, specialized skills, playback equipment, equipment to preserve, physical and technical infrastructure
- Balance—will have a direct impact on decision-making (could be in phases—re-visit collections); pursue grant money (over 60% of libraries and archives funding from non-institutional funds)

- Informs and guides in making decisions on description, particularly summaries, subject headings, genre headings
- Historical, manufacture includes if published or unpublished, issuing body = Intent, Provenance

- Available information also runs the gamut in archival sound collections; tied in with practice going back to context; for instance, ethnographic field recordings often contain copious field notes so lots of accompanying data vs. a person recording direct from broadcast to collect (may not have any information)
- When you collect data, you must make sure the information is authoritative
- Transcribing from audition can be tricky
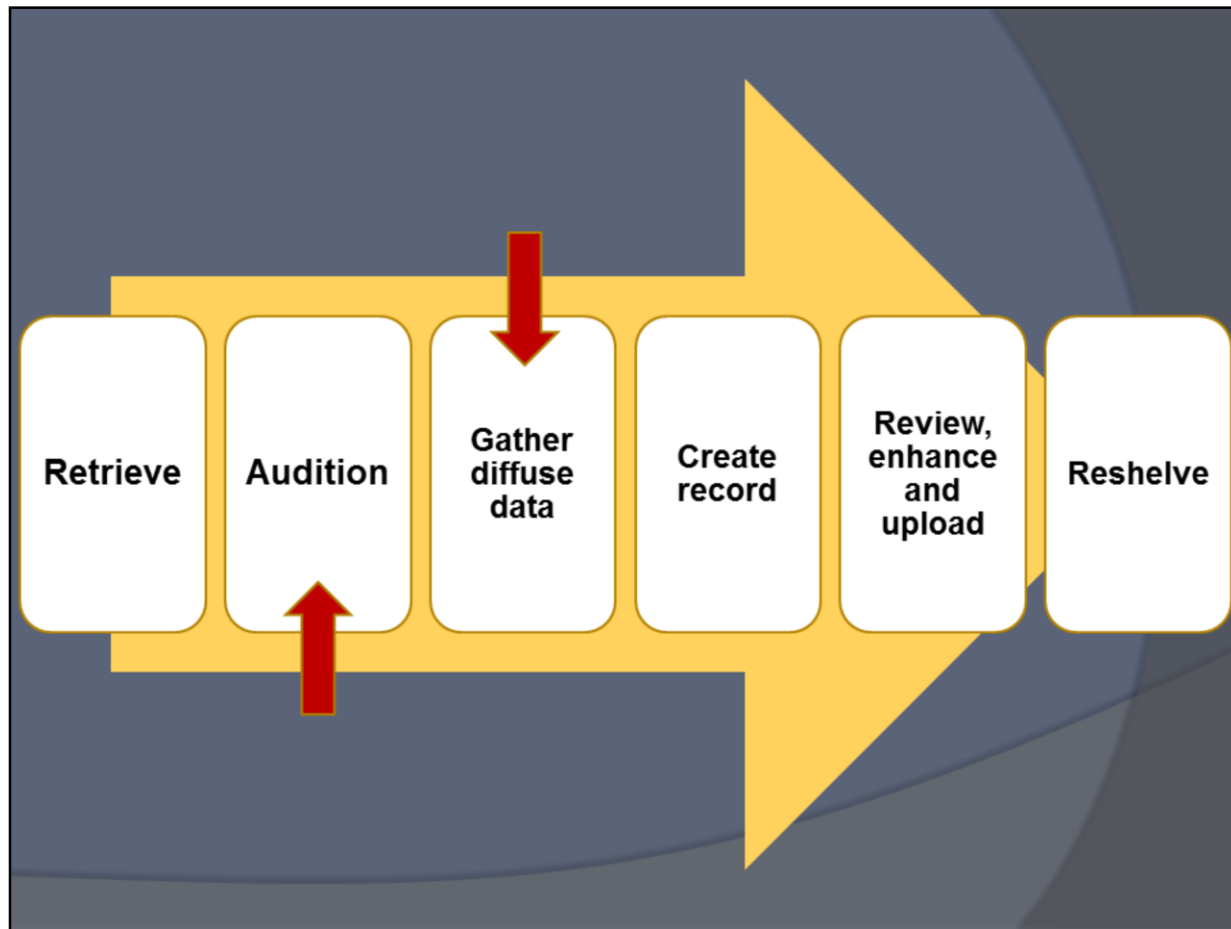
Our workflow for the description portion was fairly straightforward.

This workflow does not include efforts to clean, resleeve, and digitize content.

Students would sometimes audition the disc or audition a digital playback copy of the disc...depending on the conservation treatment.

While the students' tasks were a key component of the workflow, the most intellectual intervention is in gathering diffuse data and creating the records.

These two components are time-consuming and unique to dealing with archival collections (non-commercial)
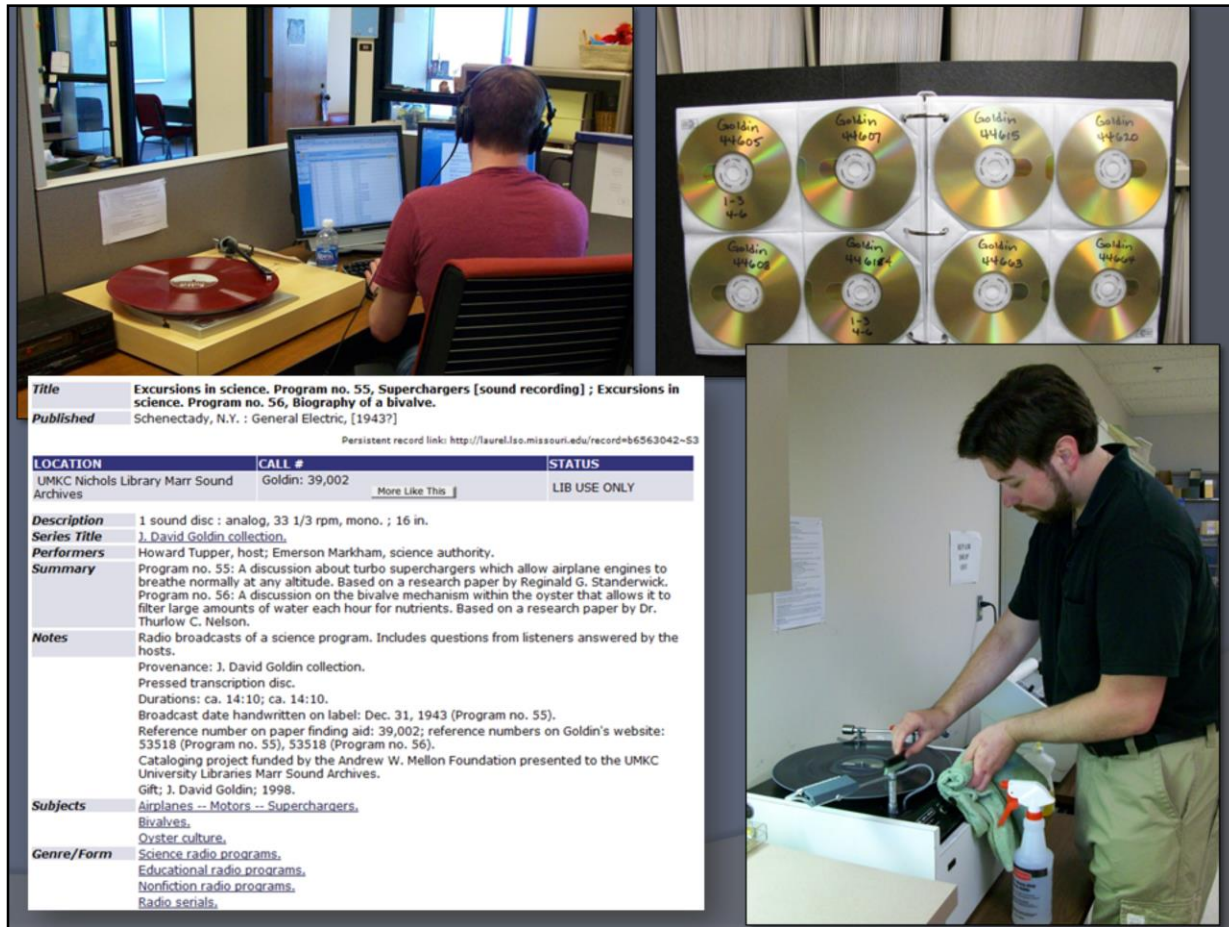
This is what we were able to do in an ideal setup.

- Available to us already: Marr Sound Archive--a dedicated staff in our sound archive, two studios, equipment

- Acquired by grant: Two workstations for students where they would listen and provide audio data

  - Collected data not readily available; hired two music conservatory students b/c they recognized composer names

- Able to create full-level bibliographic records with up to 3 staff and 1 librarian.

- The grant also allowed for treatment of the discs and digitization. We took on a cost share for the digitization.

Format stability: In this case, full cleaning, transfer and digitization; access copy is CD-ROM

Context: Weren't meant to be played more than once or kept for posterity

Available information: No label—must audition

Impact on bibliographic access: Make note of access copy; separate workflow and students listened to playback copy and photos were taken of the label

This doesn't even include the scripts, cue sheets, promotional letters that accompanied some discs.

Quality of information: Difficulty of transcribing from audition. We addressed the classical music by hiring conservatory graduate students. They had to become creative searchers.

Context—spent less time with syndicated programs and more with unlabeled lacquers

Again, had to set parameters and expectations of production for students. Wrote notes indicating what they did to try to find persons, works, etc. to avoid duplicating effort by the project full-time staff.

LOCATION	CALL #	STATUS
UMKC Nichols Library Marr Sound Archives	Goldin: 40,030b	LIB USE ONLY

Author — Clapper, Raymond, 1892-1944, Commentator.
Title — [Raymond Clapper news analysis. 1942-10-08, part 1] [sound recording]. [The Jack Benny program. 1942-10-11, Jack takes two cadets to Barbara Stanwyck's house. Part 2].
Published — [1942]

Description — 1 sound disc : analog, 33 1/3 rpm, mono. ; 12 in.
Contents — The Jack Benny program. Comedy sketch: Mother Benny's old-fashioned chili sauce ; I've got a gal in Kalamazoo.
Performers — Raymond Clapper news analysis: Raymond Clapper, commentator. The Jack Benny program: Don Wilson, announcer; starring Jack Benny, Mary Livingstone; Barbara Stanwyck, guest; various actors and performers.
Summary — Raymond Clapper news analysis: Japanese losses in the Solomon Islands; Germany announces that Stalingrad is mostly destroyed while Clapper reports that Hitler has given up Stalingrad.
Format — Playback copy. Kansas City, Mo. : Marr Sound Archives, 2010. 1 CD-ROM : sd. ; 4 3/4 in.

Series Title — J. David Goldin collection.
Notes — Radio recording of news commentary (Raymond Clapper) and a musical-comedy variety show (The Jack Benny program). Raymond Clapper news analysis: Mutual network origin. The Jack Benny program: Red network origin; sponsored by Grape Nuts Flakes. Program originates from The Santa Ana Army Air Base, California.
Cataloged from audition. The Jack Benny program episode title taken from Jerry Haendiges Vintage Radio Logs, as viewed on Feb. 17, 2011.
Provenance: J. David Goldin collection.
Instantaneous-cut glass-based lacquer disc.
Recorded from broadcast: Oct. 8, 1942, over station WCAE, Pittsburgh (Raymond Clapper news analysis) and Oct. 11, 1942, over station KDKA, Pittsburgh (The Jack Benny program).
Reference number on paper finding aid: 40,030b; reference numbers on Goldin's website: 46385 (The Jack Benny show), 68980 (Raymond Clapper news analysis).
Cataloging project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation presented to the UMKC University Libraries Marr Sound Archives

A lot of information taken from diffuse resources

Also note the fact that this item has two very different programs on them so you must use a distinguishing element (title) to identify them in description– one of the difficulties of describing these materials. You can opt to catalog each side or program and include a "With" or "Issued with" note to tie them together. May be less messy but could take more time.

	Gift; J. David Goldin; 1998.
Subjects	World War, 1939-1945.
	Popular music -- United States -- 1941-1950.
Genre/Form	Radio commentaries.
	Radio news programs.
	Public affairs radio programs.
	Variety shows (Radio programs)
	Radio comedies.
	Popular music radio programs.
	Radio station identifications.
	Radio announcements.
	Nonfiction radio programs.
	Radio program excerpts.
	Radio serials.
Other Authors	Wilson, Don, 1900-1982, Speaker.
	Benny, Jack, 1894-1974, Performer.
	Livingstone, Mary, Performer.
	Stanwyck, Barbara, 1907-1990, Performer.
	Goldin, J. David, Donor.
	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
	Marr Sound Archives.
Includes	Jack Benny program (Radio program)
Other Titles	Jack Benny program. 1942-10-11, Jack takes two cadets to Barbara Stanwyck's house. Part 2.
	Jack takes two cadets to Barbara Stanwyck's house. Part 2.
	I've got a gal in Kalamazoo.
Music/Publisher Number	40,030b Goldin
	46385 Goldin
	68980 Goldin
OCLC/WorldCat Number	702501765

By gathering all of the diffuse data, we were able to provide ALL of these access points. Again, opting to describe at the item-level places very different subject headings and genre/form headings together without distinguishing which side it is referring to (have to look to notes).

RDA is addressing this by providing obvious relationships and connections between the discrete parts.

Title Variations
New York Philharmonic Orch.
New York Philharmonic
New York Philharmonic Symphony
N.Y. Philharmonic
N.Y. Philharmonic Symphony

Here are several Columbia Reference Recording (master lacquer made directly at network facility) discs of the New York Philharmonic.

Note the title variations. Our current rules instruct us to transcribe exactly.

Context: Understand that these discs were not published for mass distribution so it wasn't deemed necessary to provide nice consistent, uniform titles.

Decisions: Look to IASA and LCRI's to understand how to properly handled unpublished materials. Will file under the performing group, but we can use a uniform title or alternative title to bring them together in the title index. Uniform title to collocate and provide a more meaningful display to bring the programs together.

UT could be: New York Philharmonic broadcast performances. 1943-01-21 or New York Philharmonic transcription recordings. 1943-01-21
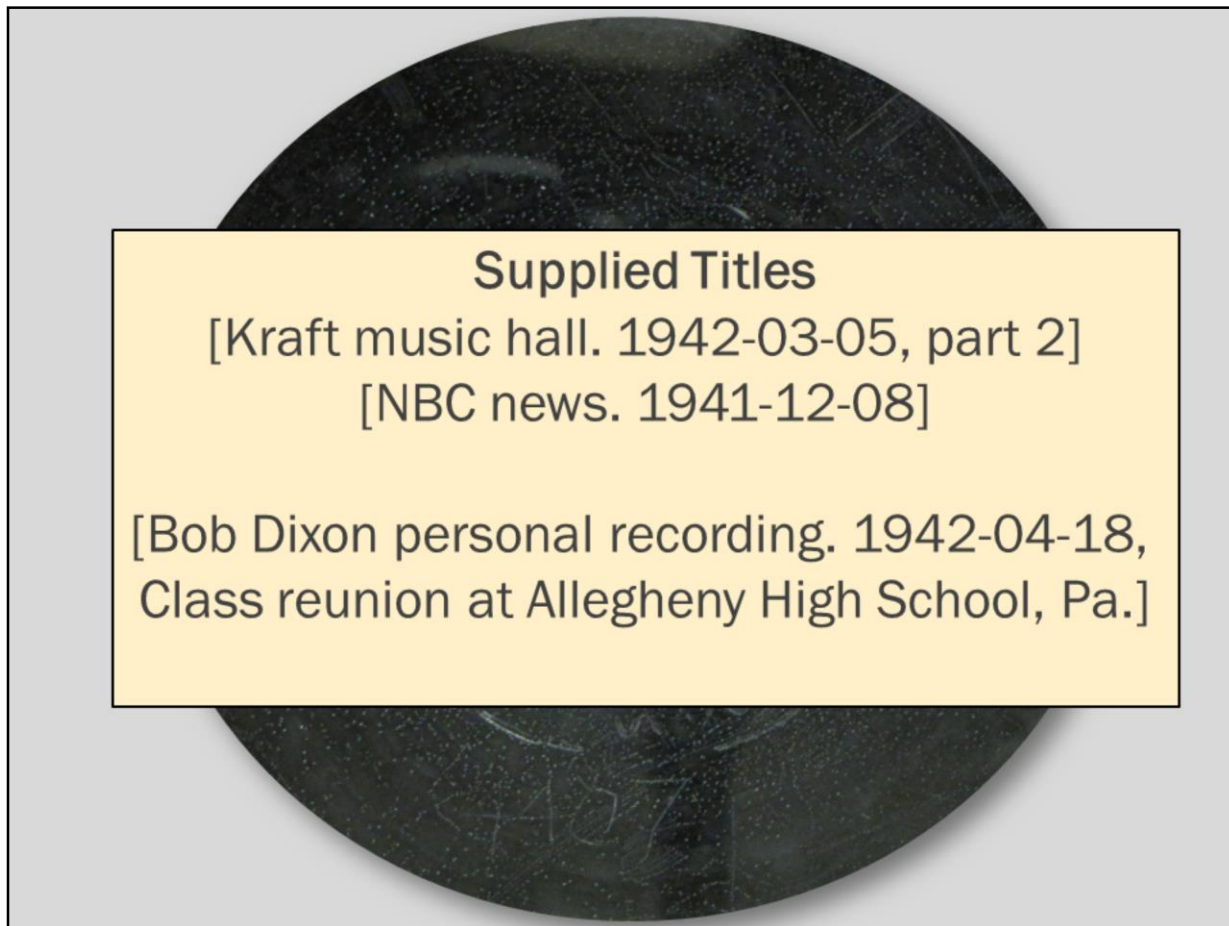
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Supplied Titles
[Kraft music hall. 1942-03-05, part 2]
[NBC news. 1941-12-08]

[Bob Dixon personal recording. 1942-04-18,
Class reunion at Allegheny High School, Pa.]

IASA—helpful in devising titles

1st: Kraft sponsor; program title announced; date from donor confirmed with online resources; part assigned by donor

2nd: Constructed using guidance from IASA and date from donor

3rd: Complete construction from audition.

Discs without label

- It's important to pick up on cues to help in title construction. Sponsors important clues.
- Creative searching

What We've Learned

- Allow time to get familiar with the collection
- Gather helpful resources
- Set parameters
- Identify and utilize expertise
- Evaluate your processes

Invest time to understand the content, the format, what's available, etc.

Expertise—Chuck, ARSC community, OTR community

Set parameters b/c you could spend an inordinate amount of time researching. We do enough research to provide quality access points,…to enable researchers to discover the resources so that *they* may do their in-depth research.

Always evaluate processes: Flexibility in changing the process; approaching our next grant project differently, partially because of content/source and available resources.

**Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra;
Izler Solomon, conductor**

Roy Harris'
Symphony no. 3
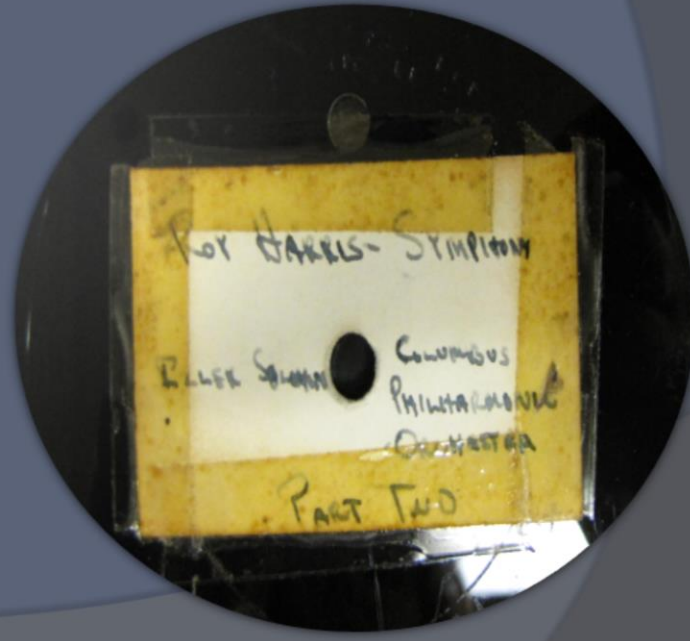
This group only existed for 8 years, 1941—1949, under the direction of Izler Solomon and was the precursor to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

We have recordings of the history of the group in which Izler Solomon is interviewed and some dramatizations are presented with the conductor playing himself.

Very few recordings of the broadcast performances during that time have been released.

This particular clip is an example of an unreleased performance of Roy Harris' great American symphony no. 3. It's a lacquer recorded direct from broadcast so it is not the best sound quality, but it has survived as an artifact, nevertheless.

Context of show history: This aired one year before the infamous 1947 Hollywood blacklist. Discuss the two debators, especially Hays.

Debaters:

Samuel B. Pettengill, U.S. representative from Indiana, published a book on Thomas Jefferson ("Jefferson, the forgotten man")

Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel for the ACLU; took part in many famous cases such as the Scopes trial, the Sacco and Vanzetti case; even the Reichstag trial in Berlin

Debating on House of Un-American Activities Committee

Context: Debating what constitutes un-American activities and the committees who investigate such activities.

Max de Schauensee, music critic

"E lucevan le stelle"
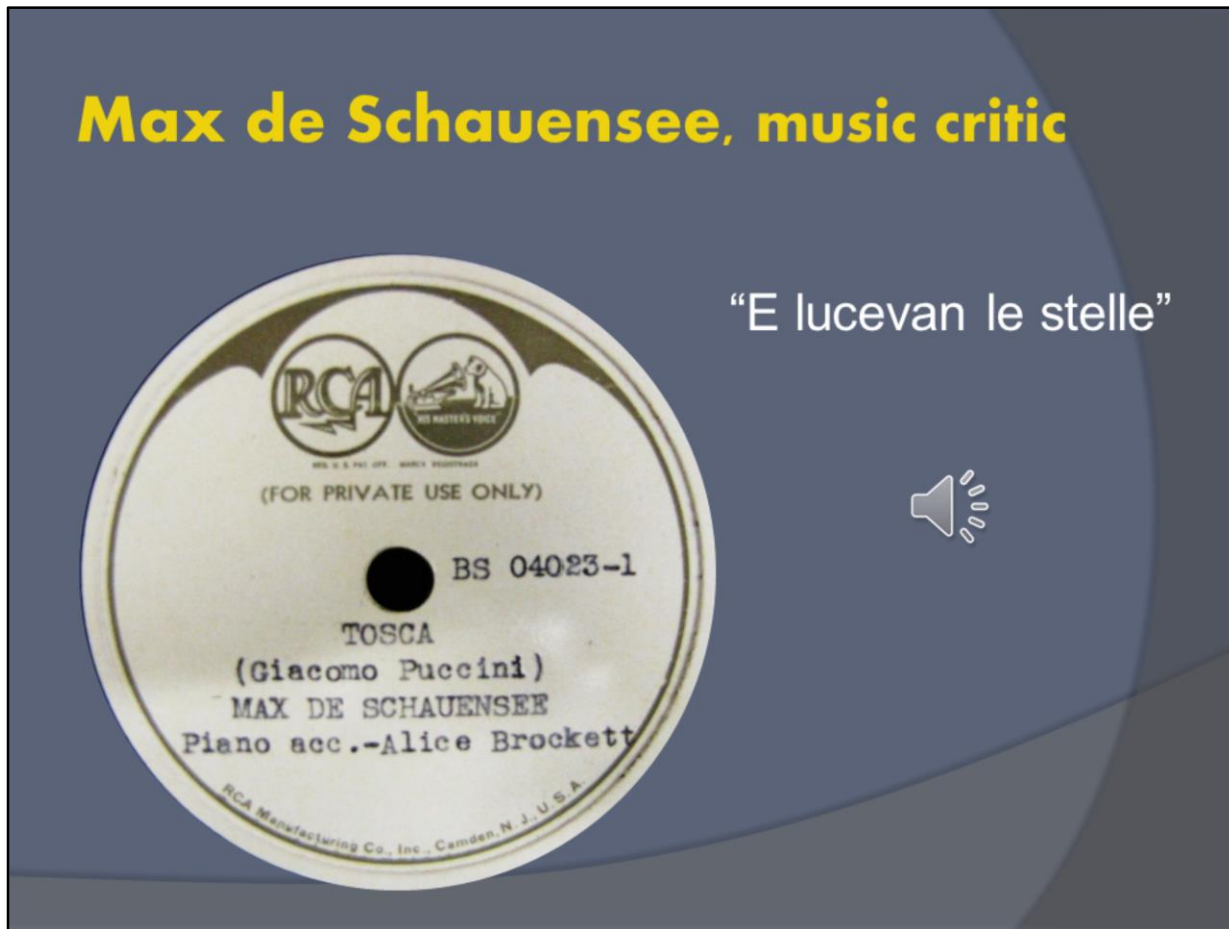
b. 1900, Rome, Italy; d. July 24, 1982, Philadelphia, PA--from *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*

>music critic, *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*

>panelist, *Texaco's Metropolitan Opera Quiz*

>author, *The Collector's Verdi and Puccini*

>tenor, recordings

Mr. de Schauensee was also involved in discussions about the tragedy of Mario Lanza, and was quoted in the book, *Mario Lanza: an American tragedy* by Armando Cesari stating that Lanza was a victim of the commercial music machine. De Schauensee also wrote his own book on Verdi and Puccini in which he discusses the merits of their individual compositions. Relevant to our recordings on that page, voice teacher Craig Mann provides a close look at de Schauensee's overall career: "I believe he was main music critic from the 1940's to the mid 1970's. I think he covered all kinds of classical music, but his great area of expertise, for which he gained world-wide recognition was vocal music-especially opera. As a young man he wanted to be an opera singer and I possess some private recordings of him singing from around 1940. They reveal a small, elegant tenor voice fairly well used, but not, in my opinion, suitable for opera."

Clarksdale, MS
CC Image courtesy of JMazzolaa on Flickr

**VD Radio Project, Program no. 6, "Crossroads Ballad"
sung narration by Tom Glazer (1948)**

Context of show: Media marathon / Erik Barnouw

Singer: Tom Glazer, folk singer; wrote *On Top of Spaghetti*

Context: Man cheats on his wife after they argue and receives a surprise.

Project taken on by Columbia University. The aim was to inform and encourage treatment for this growing numbers of people contracting venereal diseases. Used a number of genres to deliver the message: soap operas, documentaries, spots, ballad dramas. Alan Lomax wrote many of the folk ballads ("hillbilly operas")

"I'm an American!"

"I'm an American!" program, Program no. 7 (1944)
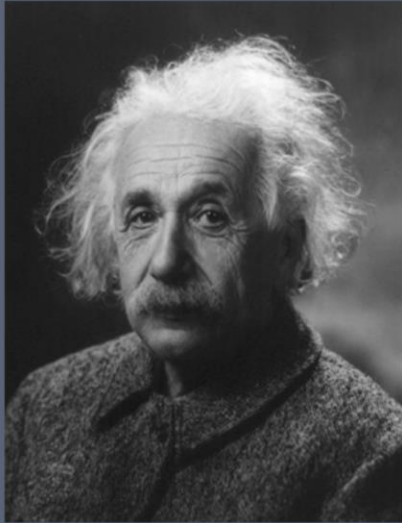
"Science has provided the possibility of liberation for human beings from hard labor, but science itself is not a liberator. It creates means, not goals…

…the fate of humanity is entirely dependent upon its moral development."

Turner, Oren Jack. *Albert Einstein, 1879-1955*, c1947. Library of Congress. Available at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html (viewed Oct. 19, 2009)

Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Program: **Highlighting naturalized citizens**

Context: An interview with Albert Einstein, who has just taken his naturalization test. Einstein discusses some of the reasons for his appreciation of American citizenship as well as the progress of man and how America is the land of opportunity. During the Manhattan Project.

Addressing the Future

- Digitization of content

- More robust web presence

- Written transcription of verbal content

- DACS (Describing Archives: a Content Standard)

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