**Tune Chasin’ the Past**
Unlocking the Hidden Contents of a Disc Stamper Collection

*Sandy Rodriguez, Christina Tomlinson*
*University of Missouri—Kansas City*

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**Introduction**

**What are stampers?**
Metal plates used to press or “stamp” grooves to produce vinyl records

**Value**
- Access to content when the vinyl is not available or, in some cases, lost
- Historical significance of the format

**Our Collection**
- 1,427 stampers, 1935-1950
- Musical and dramatic performances from radio station KMBC, Kansas City

**Problem**
- Obsolete -- never intended for playback
- Inverted grooves -- negative
- Heavy -- 3-5 lbs. each (1.35-2.27 kg)

**Options**

*Option 1: Acquire special bi-radial stylus*
- Issue: Single source manufacturer -- a “waiting game”
- Issue: Possible damage to stylus is high

*Option 2: Leverage existing resources -- act immediately*
- Stamper sleeves, identification cards, special collections manuscripts (e.g., transcripts, song lists, labels), related pressings, online sources

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**The Process**

**INVENTORY the collection**

Use available sources to create spreadsheet

**Use the Inventory Spreadsheet to CATALOG the collection**

For *exact- and near-matches*, derive a new record from the related transcription disc bibliographic record and edit for stampers.

For *non-matches with source material*, use sources to create a new record.

For *non-matches without source material*, create brief bibliographic records or collection-level records.

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**Outcomes**

**Cataloging** Sept. 20, 2011—Apr. 4, 2012

Full-level bibliographic records in WorldCat: 1,069 (75%)
Cataloged using transcription disc collection: 66%
Cataloged using source material: 7%
Music and/or musical-drama programming: 56%

**Unexpected Discoveries**
- Found recording and sputtering dates (improved access)
- Identified strengths/weaknesses and scope of our collection
- Rediscovered radio serial and music collections believed to have been largely lost