



OREGON HERITAGE
MENTORCORPS

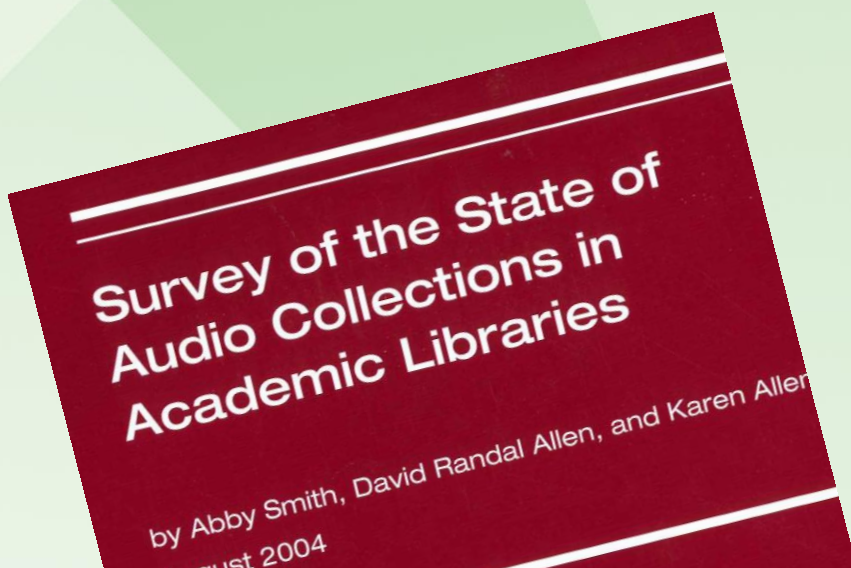
CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS

Historical Sound Recordings

The State of Sound Recordings

Survey of Academic Libraries (2004)

- collections are rich
- barriers to using them are high
- readiness to manage is low



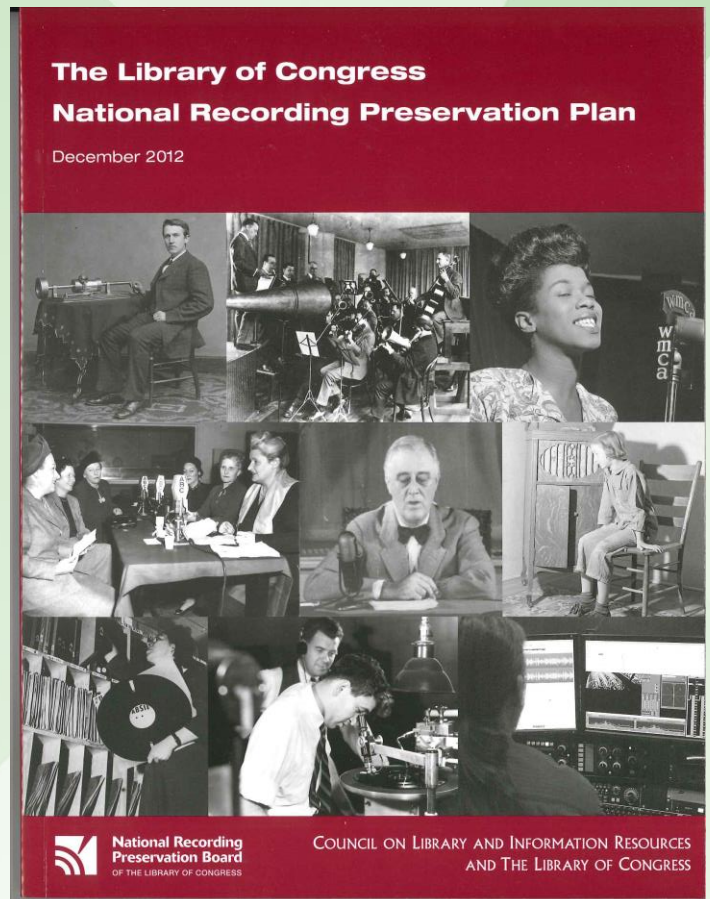
Selected sound recording formats,
1878-2014.

The State of Sound Recordings

“a national legacy at risk”

National Recording Preservation Plan

- building a national preservation infrastructure
- implementing preservation strategies
- promoting broad public access for education
- long term national strategies



Challenges

Sound recordings are at risk of loss due to . . .

. . . chemical and physical instability of materials and composition . .



Modes of degradation: open reel tape

Challenges

Sound recordings are at risk of loss due to . . .

. . . sensitivity to mishandling and poor storage conditions . . .



Records stored like records.



Open reel tape with mold or mildew.

Challenges

Sound recordings are at risk of loss due to . . .

. . .

obsolescence of technology, tools, expertise

. . .



Image courtesy of AudioVisual Preservation Solutions

Formats at Risk

Format	Major Risk Factors	Risk Level
Lacquer/ Aluminum Discs	Catastrophic chemical deterioration	Very High
Digital Audio Tape	Obsolescence factors, mechanical misalignment	Very High
Cylinders	Fungus/efflorescence, obsolescence factors	High
Recordable CD	Degradation, compatibility issues	High
Open reel tape	Cellulose acetate base, Sticky Shed Syndrome, fungus, urgent obsolescence factors, others	Medium to High
Audio Cassette	Tape type, off-brands, obsolescence factors	Medium

the inventor's promise . . . and the archivist's responsibility



“ . . . to store up
and reproduce automatically
at any future time
the human voice perfectly.”

- Thomas Edison, 1877

Digitization for Preservation and Access

... the creation of copies in the form of digital audio files
in order to conserve sound recording carriers
and preserve and provide access to contents

Including ...

- prep of recordings and equipment
- optimized playback of recordings
- quality analog to digital conversion
- creation of multiple files for preservation and access



Hear today and here tomorrow.

Digital Audio Files

preservation master

- Waveform audio file (.wav)
- 16 bit/44.1 kHz (minimum); 24 bit/96 kHz (optimal)
- flat transfer; no editing; no processing; with checksum

duplication master

- Waveform audio file (.wav)
- 16 bit/44.1 kHz (minimum); 24 bit/96 kHz (optimal)
- edited at head and tail, normalized for loudness

access copies

- High res: Waveform audio file (.wav) (16 bit/44.1 kHz) for research, broadcast, etc.
- Low res: MPEG Audio Layer 3 file (.mp3) for web, email

File Management



file integrity



file viability



redundant
storage

Management Activities

Inventory

Risk Assessment

Prioritization for Preservation

Working with Service Providers



Inventory

- gather core data describing:
 - carriers
 - contents
 - recording characteristics
- establish physical, intellectual control
- note equipment, human resources
- prepare for preservation and access



Boxes of reels staged for inventory

Inventory

content:

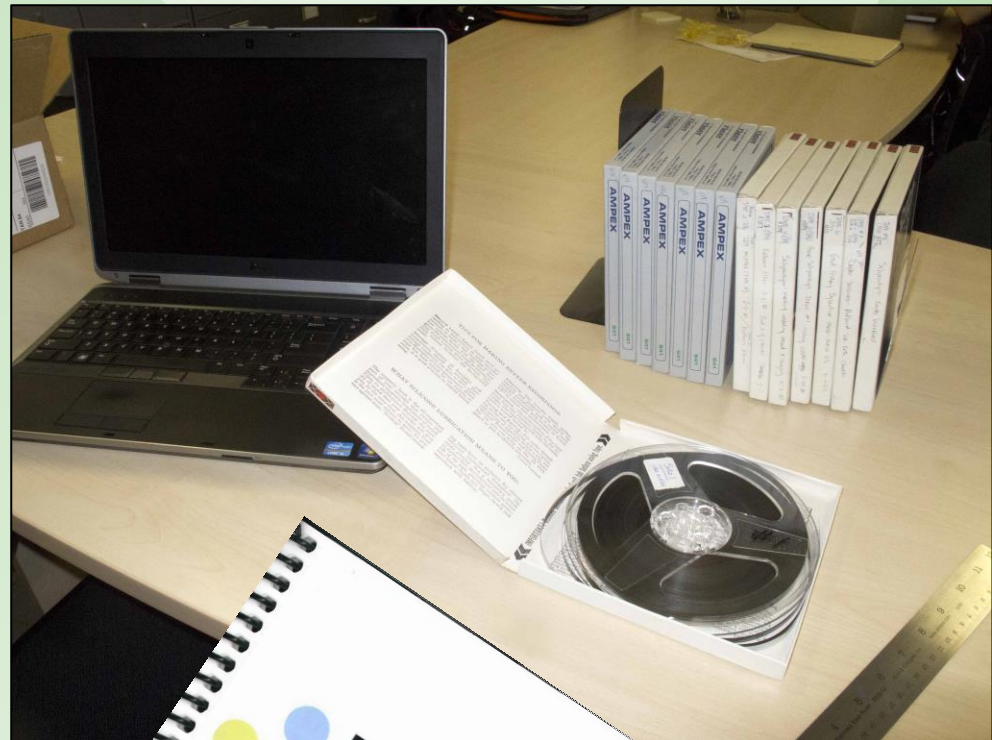
repository, identifier,
title, creator, date
extent, summary,
access restrictions,
language

carrier:

format, dimensions
brand and product note
housing condition

recording:

recording characteristics



Identifiers

purpose

control numbers for sound recordings
support basic management activities
including **security, access**

in preservation projects, **identifiers** help:
shipping and **accounting** with vendors
connect digital copies to originals
when used in **file names**



*Identifiers facilitate
preservation and access
work, shipping and*

Preservation Assessment

physical inspection
and condition assessment
estimation of risk
to **degradation, obsolescence**

data:

format of materials
brand and product
condition
housing condition
storage history

*Lacquer disc on aluminum base.
Do not clean until transfer.*



Prioritization

Inventory



Assessment



Risk

Value



Priority



Lacquer discs

Risk: 4.25

Value: High

Priority: High

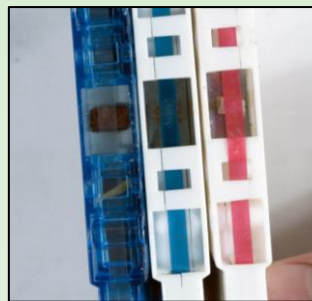


Wire recordings

Risk: 2.75

Value: High

Priority: Medium



Cassettes

Risk: 2.75

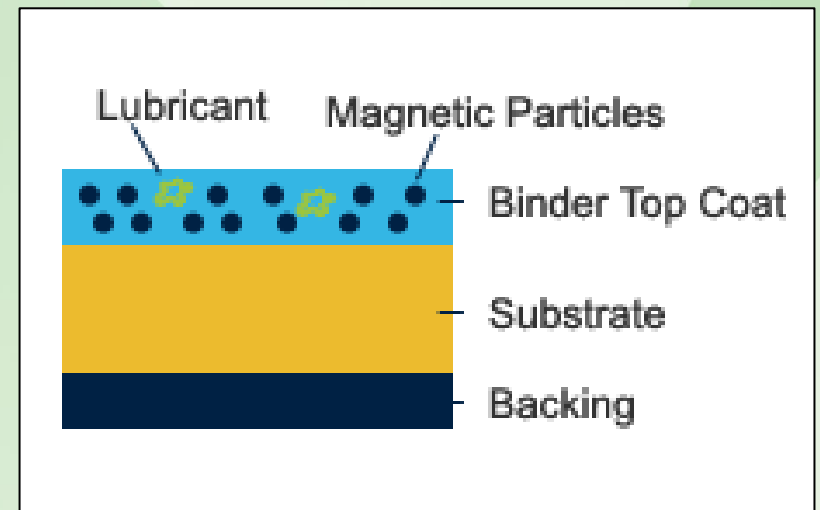
Value: Low

Priority: Low

Magnetic Tape

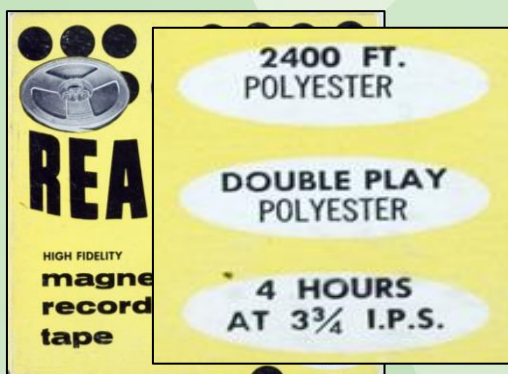
Formats at Risk

- acetate base tapes
 - 1950s-1960s
 - vinegar syndrome
- polyester base tapes
 - 1960s-1980s
 - soft binder syndrome
- digital audio tapes (DAT)
 - mechanical alignment



Anatomy of magnetic tape.

Inspection of Magnetic Tape



Off brand tape, thin tape.



No sign of mold or oxide flaking.

1. note brand and product

- off brands
- thin tapes: “double play”
- tape base

2. inspect box and item

- physical damage
- fungus
- clues of storage history

Inspection of Magnetic Tape



Tape is deformed.



Spoking in tape pack.

3. smell the tape

- vinegar odor
- pungent odor

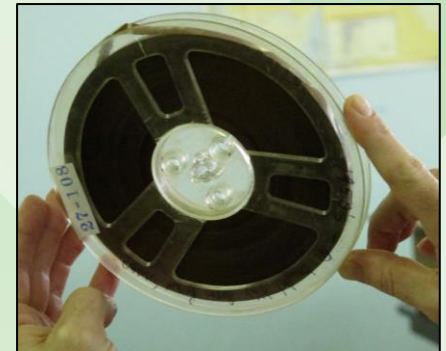
4. note tape pack problems

- spoking, stepped pack
- powder or crystal on hubs and tape edges

5. identify tape base

- clear = acetate
- opaque = poly

6. inspect the tape

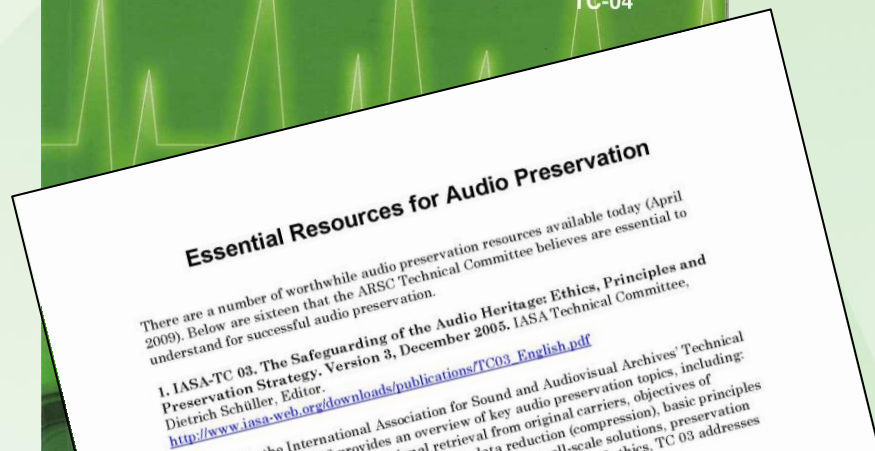
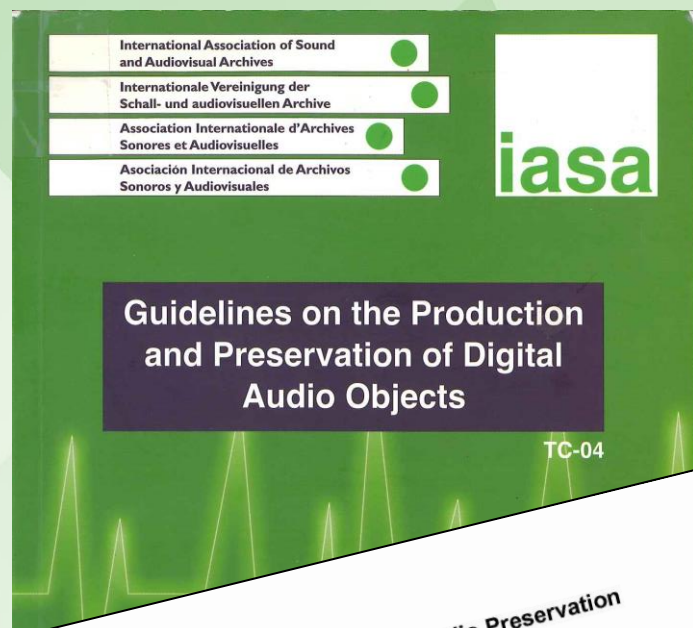


Check for acetate base.



Residue of degradation.

Preservation Projects



Audio workstation in use in tribal archives.

One year of planning and \$5,000.

Working with Service Providers



“Outsourcing Audio Preservation Work”

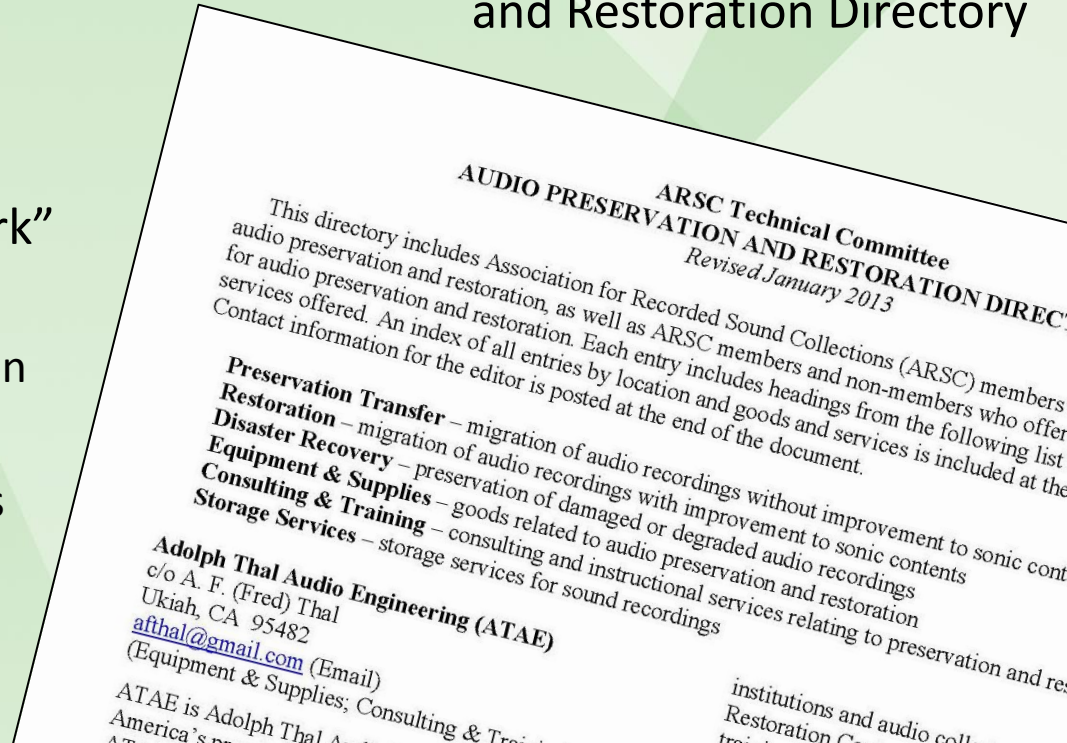


Clip: Preparing a Project Description



Clip: Comparing Costs and Services

ARSC Audio Preservation and Restoration Directory





OREGON HERITAGE
MENTORCORPS

CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS

Historical Sound Recordings

Recorded Sound and Moving Images in Special Collections & University Archives



Photos by Lesli Larson, Image Services

Media Services Audio Production Room



Production suite by Chris Lundberg, Stacy Dehart, Media Services
Photo by Stacy DeHart

Jack Olsen Papers

Welcome to the Jack Olsen Home Page

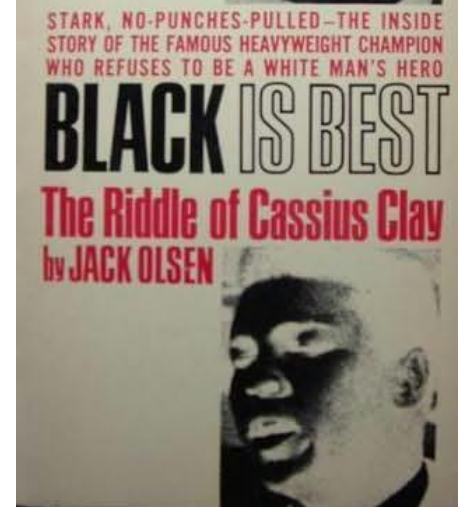


Born June 7, 1925, Jack Olsen was the award-winning author of thirty-three books published in fifteen countries and eleven languages. A former *Time* bureau chief, Olsen wrote for *Vanity Fair*, *People*, *Paris Match*, *Readers Digest*, *Playboy*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Fortune*, *New York Times Book Review* and others. His magazine journalism appeared in thirteen anthologies. His books included *The Misbegotten Son*, *The Bridge at Chappaquiddick*, the eco-thriller *Night of the Grizzlies*, and his monumental study of a Nazi

massacre in Italy, *Silence on Monte Sole*. Three of his works were adapted for the screen, including *Have You Seen My Son?* on ABC.

Olsen's journalism earned the National Headliners Award, Chicago Newspaper Guild's Page One Award, commendations from Columbia and Indiana Universities, the Washington State Governor's Award, the Scripps-Howard Award and other honors. He was listed in *Who's Who in America* since 1968 and in *Who's Who in the World* since 1987. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* described him as "an American treasure."

Olsen was described as "the dean of true crime authors" by the *Washington*





Jack Olsen Papers

Clay comes out to meet Terrell and Terrell starts to retreat.
If Terrell goes back an inch farther he'll wind up in a ring-side seat.
Clay swings with a left, Clay swings with a right.
Just look at Cassius carry the fight.
Terrell keeps backing but there's not enough room.
It's a matter of time until Clay lowers the boom.
Then Clay lands with a right—what a beautiful swing.
And the punch raised Terrell clean out of the ring.
Terrell is still risin' and the ref wears a frown.
But he can't start counting until Terrell comes down.
Now Terrell disappears from view; the crowd is getting frantic.
But our radar stations have picked him up, he's somewhere over the
Atlantic.
Who on earth thought when they came to the fight
That they would witness the launching of a human satellite?

Selections

Ken Kesey Interview, File 1986_028B, Archives of Northwest Folklore,
University of Oregon



Erb Memorial Union Tree Planting, June 12, 1948, UA 180, Special
Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon.



Alice B. Sheldon/James Tiptree, Jr. Papers, Coll 455, Special Collections
& University Archives, University of Oregon.



Selections

Win McCormack Collection on Rashneeshpuram, Coll 406, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon.

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