Will you remember me?

A scientific approach to the preservation of the research material of a music anthropologist in Emilia-Romagna in the 1970s and 1980s

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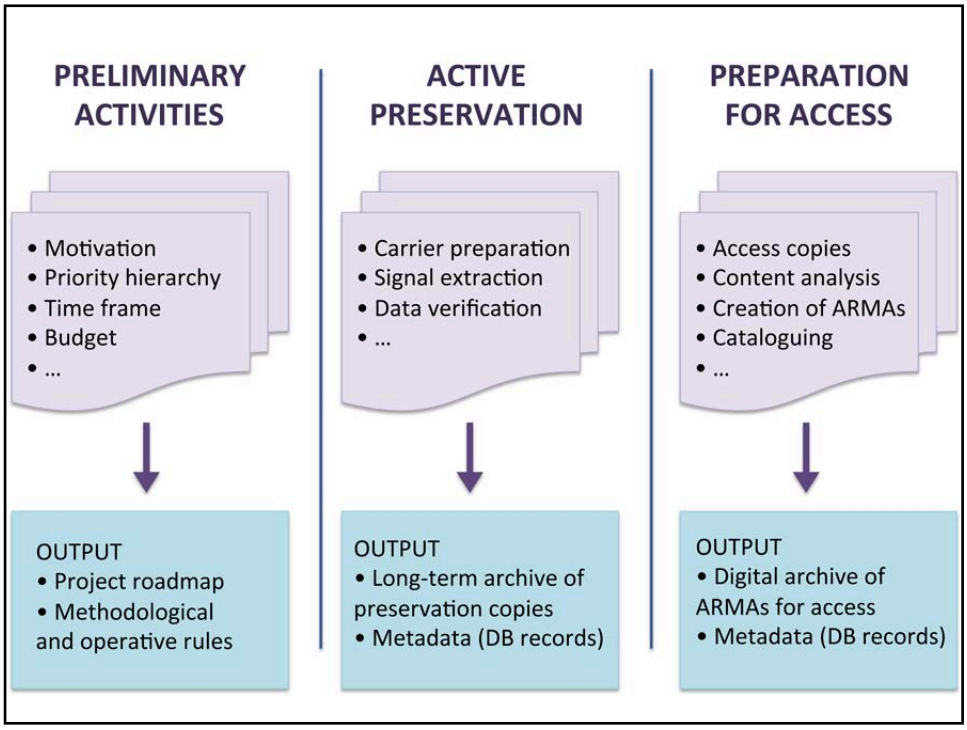
IAML Conference – Rome, Italy – July 4th 2016 – Selection of slides

Oral history preservation

Centro per il dialetto romagnolo | Fond. Casa di Oriani, Ravenna
www.fondazionecasadioriani.it www.casafoschi.it

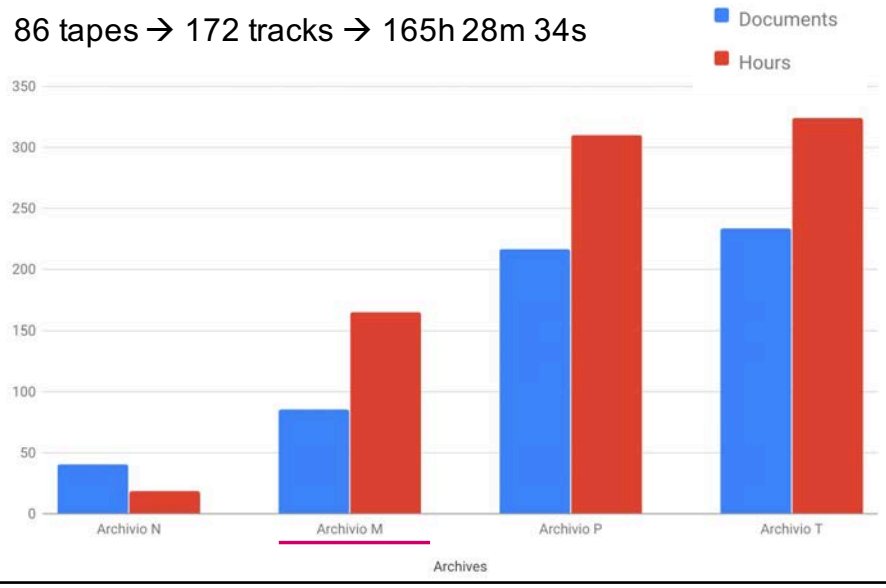
- Recordings by:
  - **Tullia Magrini** (1975-1985 ca., traditional music in Emilia and Romagna)
  - Giuseppe Bellosi (1970 ca. - 1990 ca., dialects of Romagna, traditional music, oral history, folk tales in Romagna)
  - Alessandro Sistri (1975-1985 ca., traditional music in Romagna)
- Other minor collections (local rice workers choirs and family recordings)

- Active preservation of 86 tapes (2013-2015)
- Dept. of Information Engineering, University of Padua



Number of documents vs. number of hours

86 tapes → 172 tracks → 165h 28m 34s



Tape transfer speed

PHILIPS LP15 LONGPLAY

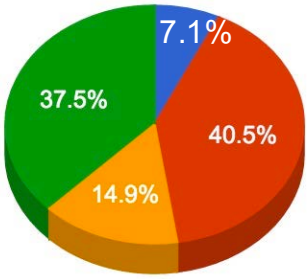
	15/16 ips	2.4 cm/sec	1 7/8 ips	4.75 cm/sec	3 3/4 ips	9.5 cm/sec	7 1/2 ips	19 cm/sec
MONO	2 x 240 min 4 x 240 min		2 x 120 min 4 x 120 min		2 x 60 min 4 x 60 min		2 x 30 min 4 x 30 min	
STEREO	1 x 240 min 2 x 240 min		1 x 120 min 2 x 120 min		1 x 60 min 2 x 60 min		1 x 30 min 2 x 30 min	

- Min. 30 min → Max. 16 hours!

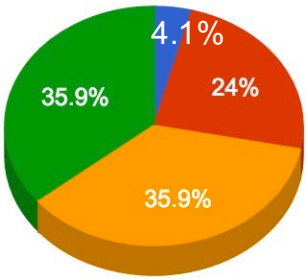
IPS	cm/s
3 ¾	9.5
7 ½	19
15	38
30	76

Number of documents vs. number of hours

Number of documents



Number of hours (audio)



Hermeneutic implications of encoding cultural objects

- The way in which inscriptions are photographed and text corpora are transcribed and encoded is **crucial** for the way in which these research objects will be studied in the future.

W. van Peursen, "Text Comparison and Digital Creativity: An Introduction". In: Text Comparison and Digital Creativity – The Production of Presence and Meaning in Digital Text Scholarship. Volume 1 of Scholarly Communication. Brill (2010) 1-28.

- Cultural interfaces, trans-cultural encoding

L. Manovich, "The language of new media" Peursen, MIT Press (2002)

- Organization and presentation of data: not neutral

→ Digital philology

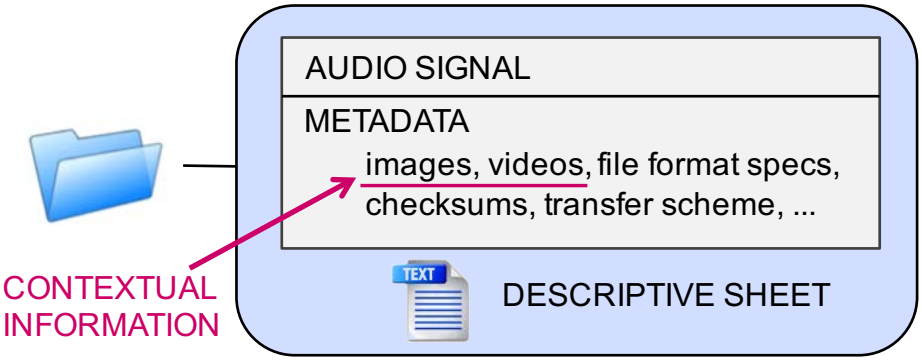
Massive vs. Customized approach

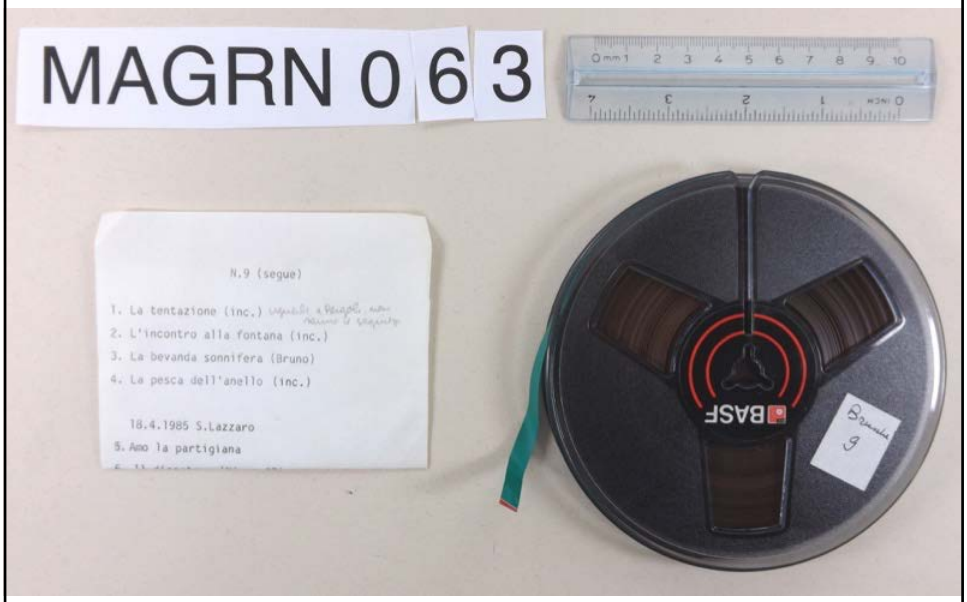
- Many aspects in common, but key differences:
  - importance of the carrier (vs. broadcasting archives)
  - full monitoring during signal extraction
  - audio and video recordings of the transfer process
  - each tape is treated individually → impacts workflow
- Observation: tapes with special problems are so common that **they cannot be considered exceptions**
  - the workflow design needs to consider this fact

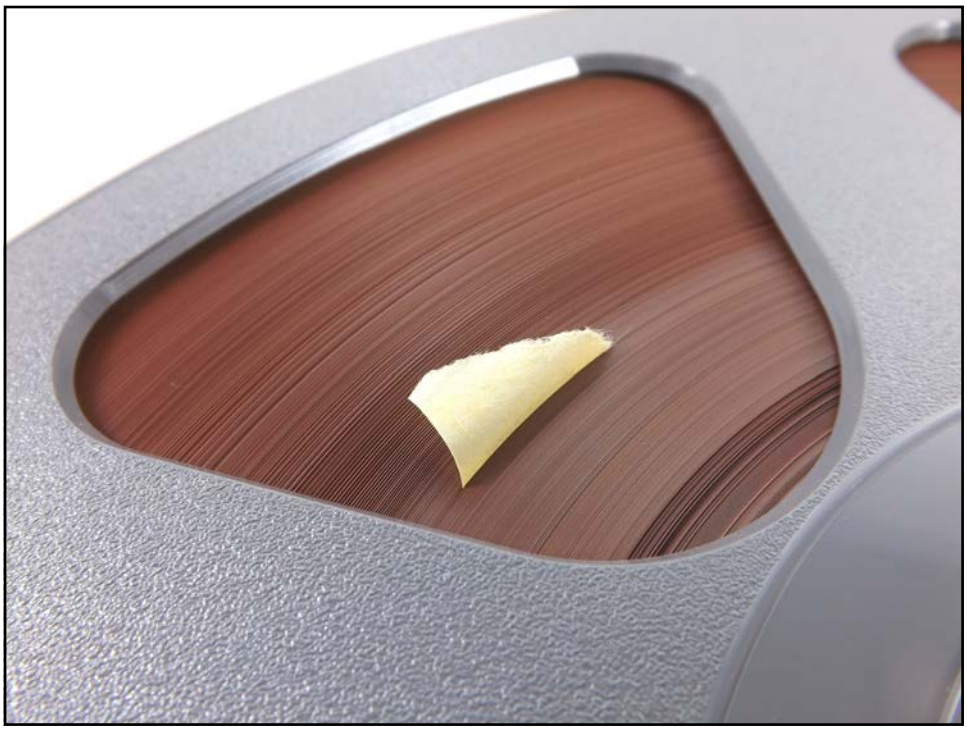
Preservation copy

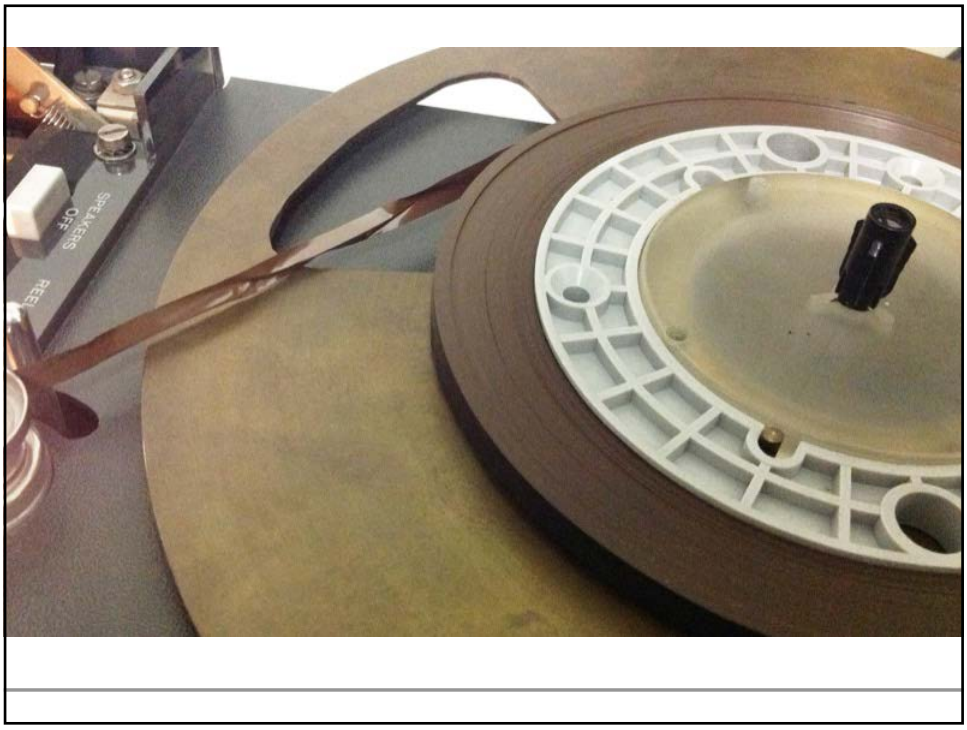
"A preservation copy (or archive copy) is the artifact designated to be stored and maintained as the preservation master. [It must be] used only under exceptional circumstances."

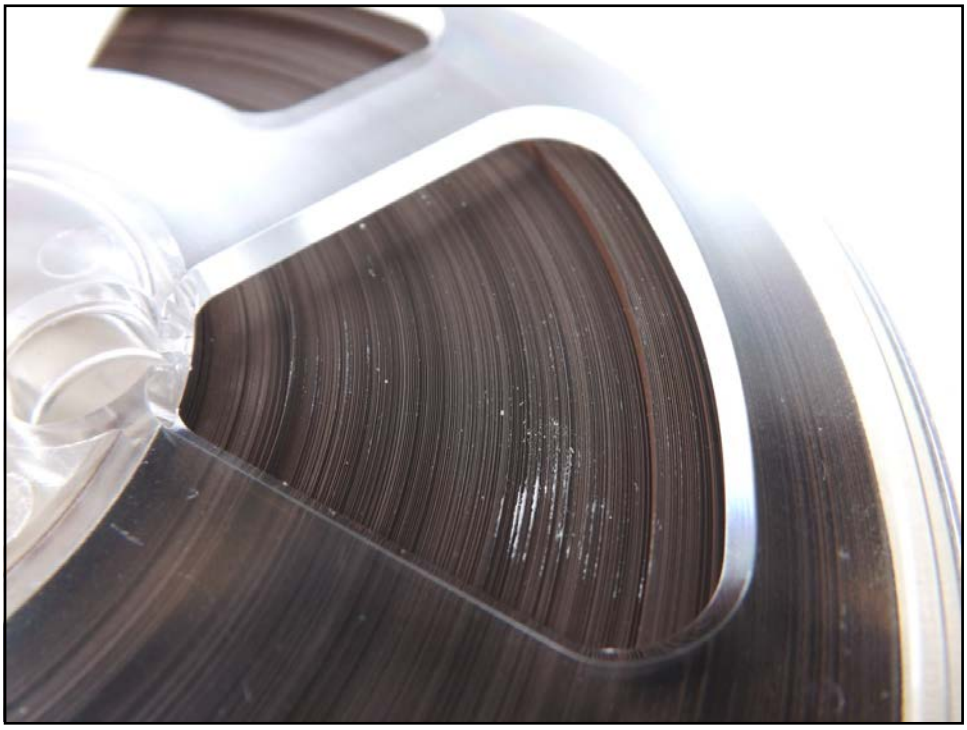
The IASA Cataloguing Rules, IASA (1999).

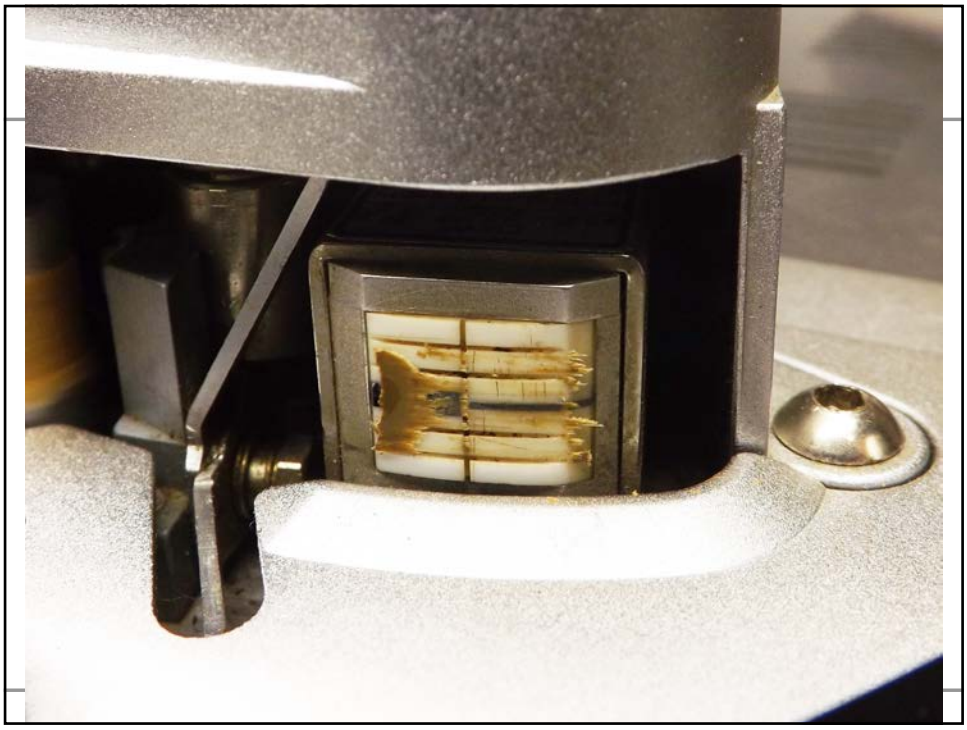






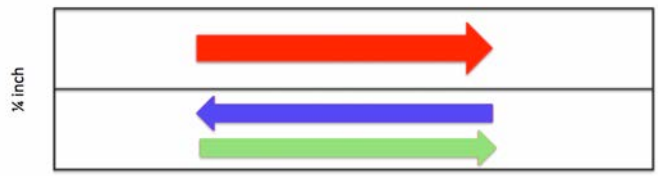

SPEAKERS
OFF
REEL



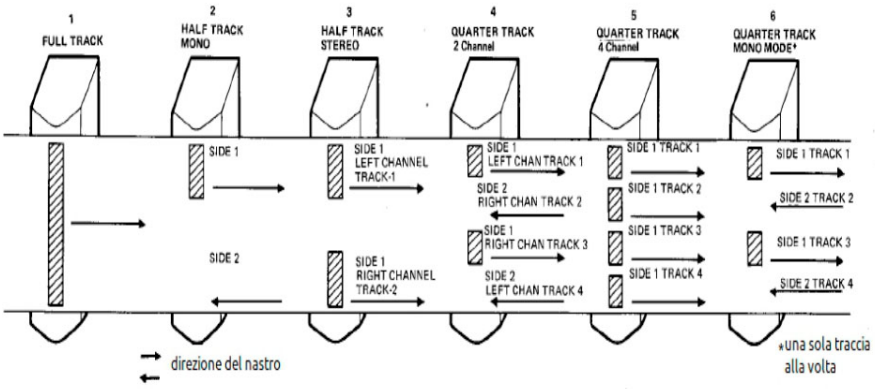


Audio examples

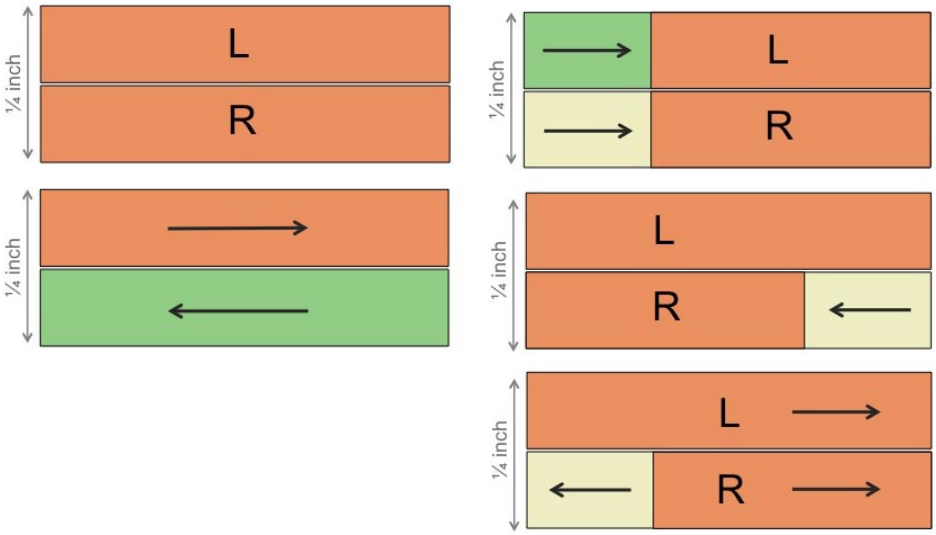
1. Decreasing speed
2. Dirty tape-reading heads
3. Channel configuration



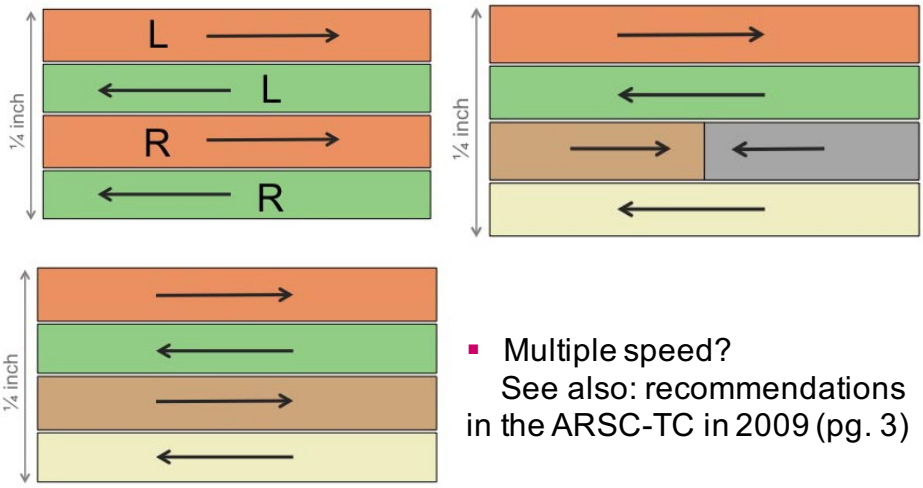
Channel configuration



Channel configuration (2 tracks)

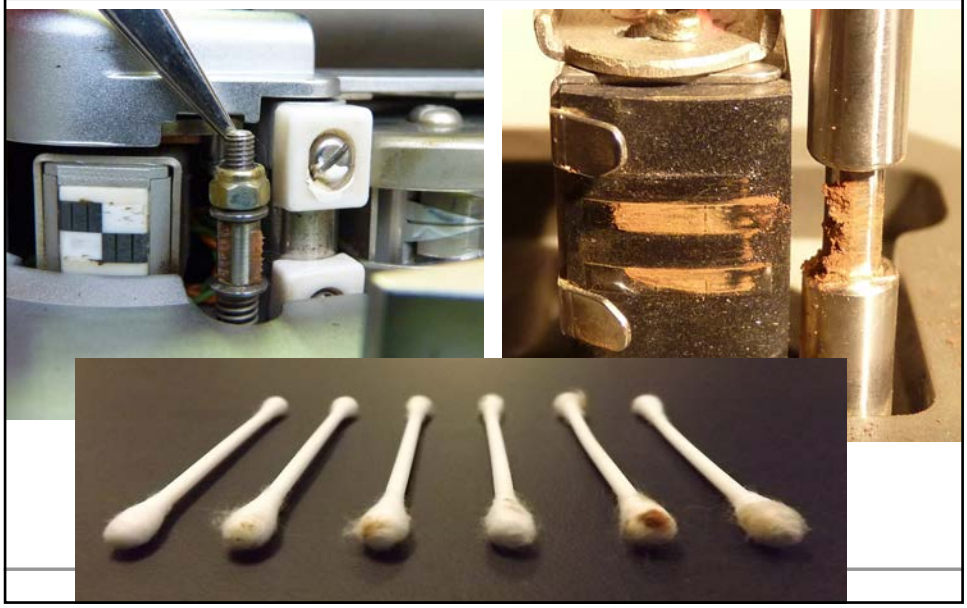


Channel configuration (4 tracks)



- Multiple speed?
  See also: recommendations in the ARSC-TC in 2009 (pg. 3)

SBS-SSS



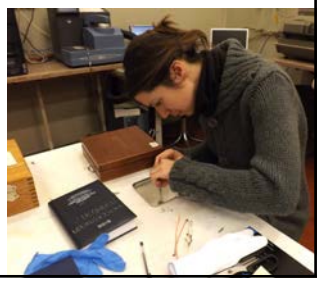
Thermal treatment

- Precision incubator: MEMMERT INP 400

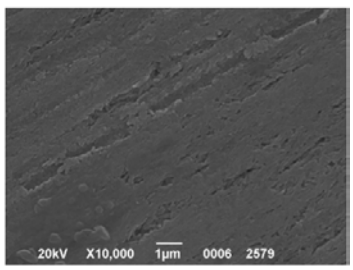
- Bressan, F.; Canazza, S. and Bertani, R. **Honey, I burnt the tapes! A study on thermal treatment for the recovery of magnetic tapes affected by Sticky Shed Syndrome**. In IASA Journal, 44: 53-64, 2015.
- Bressan, F.; Bertani, R.; Furlan, C.; Simionato, F. and Canazza, S. **An ATR FTIR And ESEM Study On Magnetic Tapes For The Assessment Of The Degradation Of Historical Audio Recordings**. In Journal of Cultural Heritage, 18: 313-320, 2016.

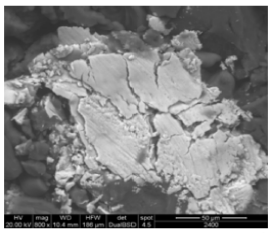
Chemical analyses

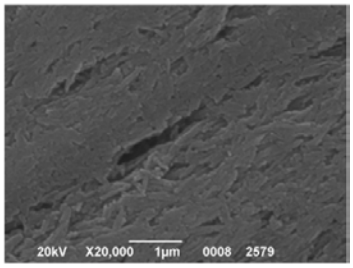
A. FTIR Spectroscopic analysis in ATR
B. ThermoGravimetric Analysis (TGA)
C. Electronic Microscopy
   - SEM and ESEM
D. Acetone extraction test
E. Tensile test

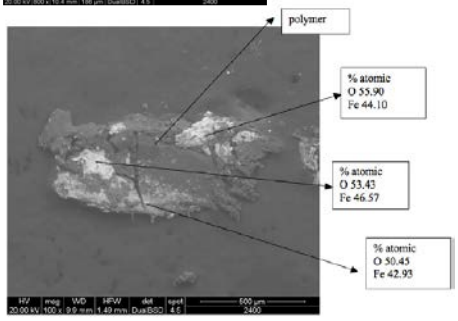


Chemical analyses

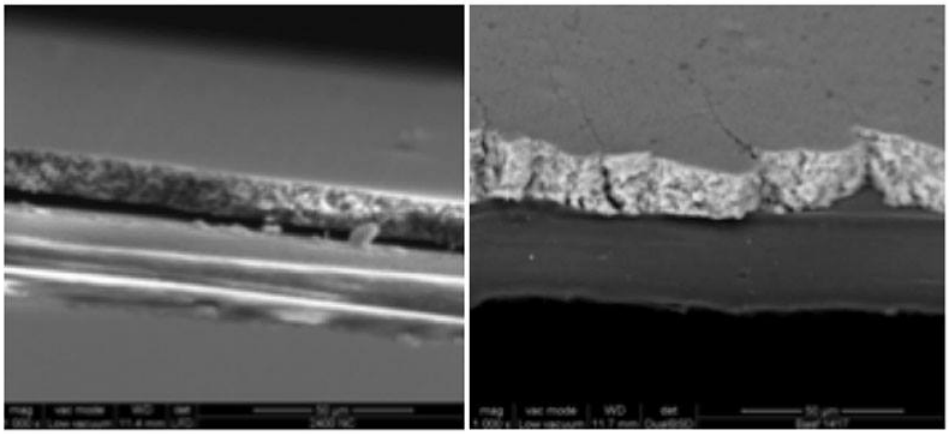






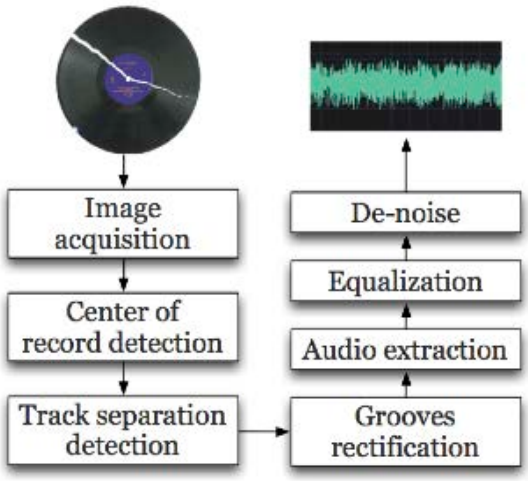


Chemical analyses



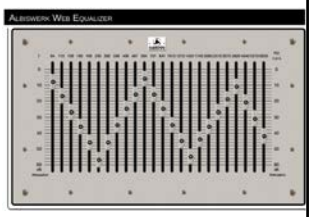
Photos of GHOSTS

Photos of Grooves and HOles, Supporting Tracks Separation



New paradigms for access

- Faithful reproduction of historical equipment
- Aim: re-introducing the controls and gestures
- Technology: Web-based (LAMP; HTML5, PHP, CSS3, Javascript: *JQuery* e *Web Audio Api*)



Conclusions

- Massive vs. **Customized** approach: **conscious choice**
- The **cost** is directly proportional to the value of the objects → it is an **investment**!
- **Types** of archives that normally require a customized approach: linguistics, anthropology, (ethno-)musicology, sociology, jazz and electro-acoustic music…
- Never lose sight of the motivation behind digitization: the goals determine the actions → and the results
- Hihly specialized **technical** skills + **research**

Dynamic Preservation of Interactive Art:
The Next Frontier of Multimedia Cultural Heritage

This project addresses the **theoretical and methodological questions of embodied interaction** through body movement and the use of mediation technology, **in the context of multimedia installation art**. The long-term goal is the definition of a framework for the preservation of interactive artworks, ensuring future re-use and flexible access.

http://daphnet.federicabressan.com/

H2020-MSCA-IF-2015 (2016-2018)

DaphNet research project