



International Association
of Music Libraries, Archives
and Documentation Centres

IAML 2018 Post Congress Report - AV Subject Section

Current Membership

Chair: Jonathan Manton (Yale University)

Vice-Chair: Houman Behzadi (University of Toronto)

Secretary: Eric Mortensen (The Juilliard School)

IAML 2018 Report

After review by the Chair and Vice Chair of the submitted abstracts for the 2018 IAML Congress, the AV Subject Section presented two sessions at the 2018 IAML Congress, held in Leipzig Germany, July 22-27th 2018.

The first, on Monday 23rd July, focused on new approaches to collection development for AV, chaired by Jonathan Manton. It included presentations from Filip Šír (National Museum, Prague) on the International Association of Sound Archives' (IASA) [International Bibliography of Discographies](#); Hanna Sophie Frey (Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Munich) on a project she has led to digitize AV for open access publications at the library of the University for Music and Performing Arts Munich; and finally Sophie Rölle (Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden) who discussed her work at the Department of Media and Sound at the Saxon State and University Library, Dresden, which is a specialist center for the Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek (DDB), or German Digital Library.

The second session, on Tuesday 24th July, again chaired by Jonathan Manton, outlined a number of important ongoing projects to preserve piano rolls and shellac discs. Pietro Zappalà (Università di Pavia, Cremona) outlined the extensive work he has done in recent years to research and digitize piano rolls produced by the largest Italian factory of the beginning of the past century, the F.I.R.S.T. company (Fabbrica Italiana Rulli Sonori Traforati). Zappalà also brought along a new version of a piano roll scanner he has built as part of this project, which the audience were able to view after the session. Jerry McBride and Craig Sapp (Stanford University) then discussed the Player Piano Project at Stanford which has been ongoing for about five years now and has recently also started work on digitizing the vast collection of piano rolls Stanford now holds. This included developing and building a new preservation grade scanner to digitize the rolls, and work by Sapp to analyse and convert the punched holes in the rolls into various forms of encoded data, including MIDI, which can be used to play the rolls back virtually. Finally, Paweł Nodzak (Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music, Gdańsk) provided an overview of a project he has led to resleeve and resshelf a notable collection of shellac discs held by Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music, which includes recordings on numerous rare Polish record labels.

Additionally, the section presented a panel of guest speakers to discuss AV access systems. The session, entitled "Can I listen to that online? Building AV access platforms," was chaired by Houman Behzadi.

The panel brought together two music librarians (Jonathan Manton, Music Librarian for Digital and Access Services, Yale University) and Philip Ponella, Director of the Music Library at Indiana) and a music library database vendor (André Avorio, Head of Open Music Library) to discuss the process of scoping, designing and in some cases actually building digital AV access systems or the AV components of larger digital access systems. The principal goal of the session was to outline how Music Librarians can be actively involved in the development of AV Access Systems, as well as how Music Library database vendors develop their AV Access Systems and how and when they engage Music Library stakeholders. Open Music Library is perhaps one of the most successful examples of this type of collaboration. [Open Music Library](#) is a music focused

research interface which combines open access content with materials in subscription databases provided by Alexander Street Press (now part of Proquest)

Jonathan Manton presented on work that a recent Yale University Library AV Access Task Force did to suggest a possible single solution for access to Yale's AV Digital Collections. The focus of his presentation was on the work done to create requirements for a system, map out a potential solution and present this in a way that was beneficial to both administrators and developers who might build this system. Jonathan discussed how the Task Force adopted an Agile approach to this work, using the SCRUM methodology which assists in developing systems in iterative stages.

Phil Ponella presented an overview of the history of Avalon Media System, which is now widely used by many institutions in the USA to provide access to AV materials for course reserves and special collections research. Phil discuss the origins of the project which go back to a former project for a platform called Variations, developed by Indiana University in collaboration with IBM.

Andre Avorio provided an overview of Open Music Library and then went on to discuss his next goal for the platform which is to incorporate materials from digital (special) collections at different institutions into Open Music Library. To demonstrate this idea, Andre in fact built a prototype of what this might look like just for the session, using materials from a recently digitized collection of non-commercial recordings at Yale University. He demonstrated a search on Open Music Library for Ives' Concord Sonata, which brought back audio content and articles etc from Alexander Street Press / Proquest, Open Access journal content, AND a live non-commercial recording of the work from 1969, held by Yale. He then also demonstrated how you could play this recording back while simultaneously looking at a digitized copy of the 1920 printing of the score which is in Harvard's special collections and made available through their digital collections platform. Open Music Library in this context then becomes a music focused presentation layer for content from numerous digital (special)collections from across the world, open access content and subscription database content, all in the same space.

IAML 2020 prospect with IASA

During the 2018 IAML congress, the section discuss the possibility of some form of collaboration with IASA for the IAML 2020 congress in Prague. Filip Šír suggested possibly including a series of workshops, professional visits, and papers focused on sound archiving. The IAML AV Materials Section would very much support this collaboration with IASA for the 2020 meeting and would be happy to work with Filip and IASA on IAML's behalf on details and develop a proposal for the Forum of Sections to consider next year.