How Special is Special? A 21st Century Approach to Music Special Collections Assessment

Kirstin Johnson
Head, Music and Performing Arts Library
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (US-U)

IAML Conference August 4, 2023

Music collections



Special Collections



Collection assessment

Music Special Collections Assessment



Connected, not overlapping, literature

Today's Outline

Part 1

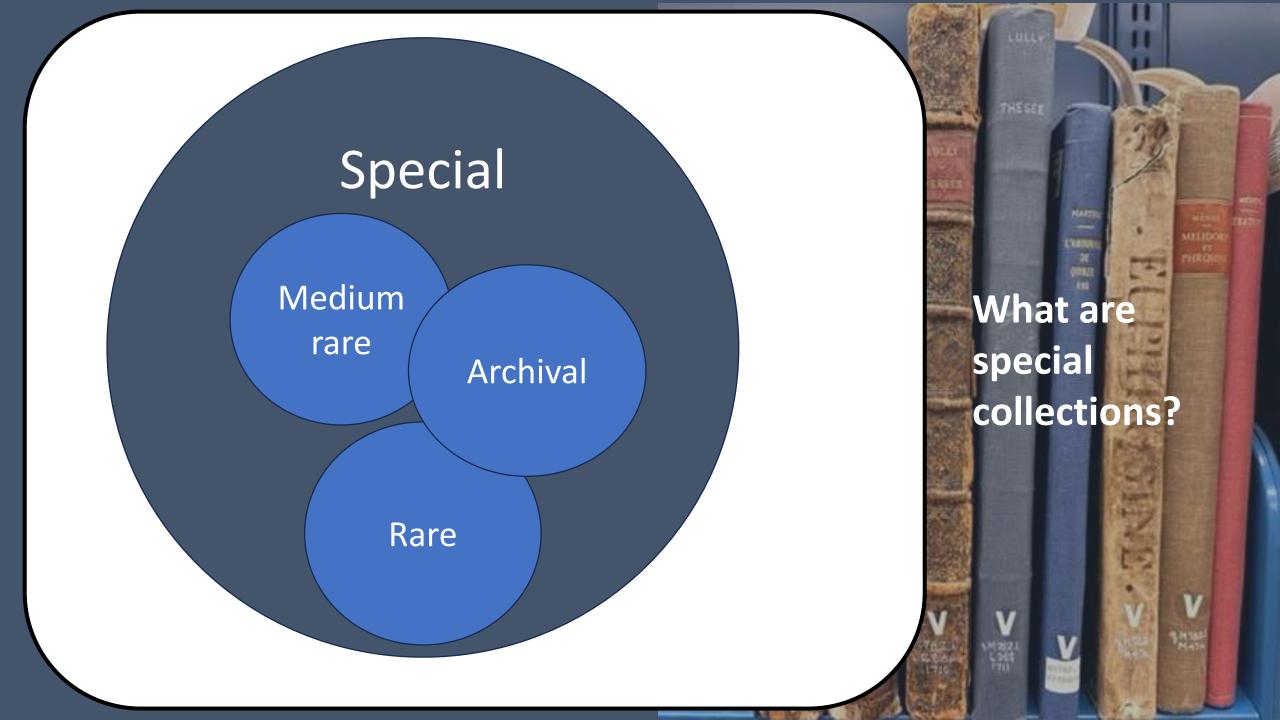
Special collections: their definition, purpose

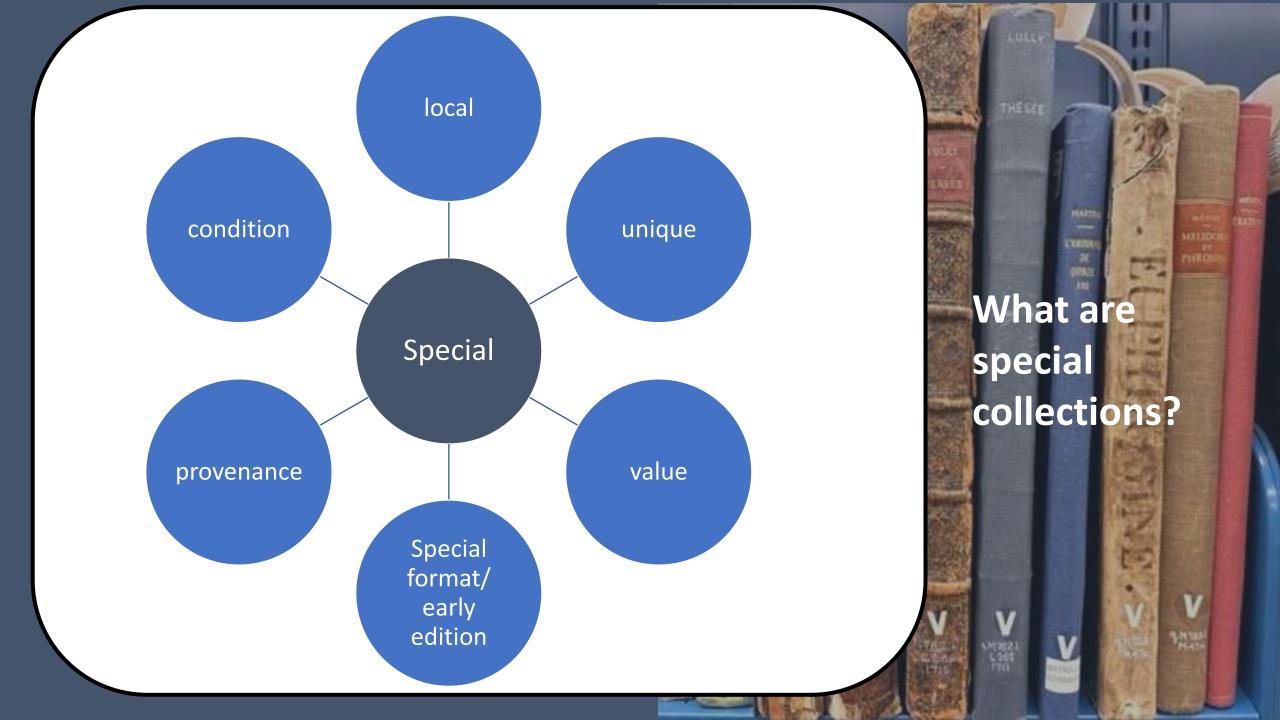
Part 2

Special collections at University of Illinois' Music & Performing Arts Library

Part 3

Assessing music special collections





What does "rare" mean when referring to things other than books?



Considering why we have special collections



What is good stewardship?

THESE

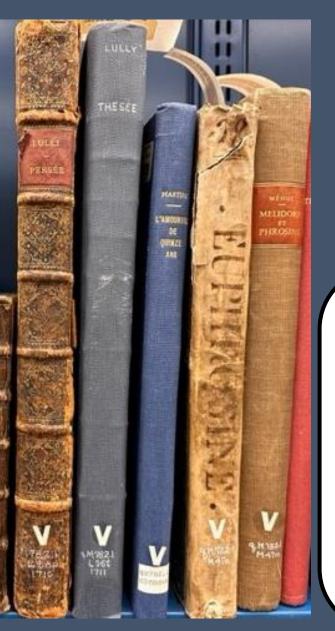
- Preserving items
- Keeping items secure
- Facilitating discovery, access, and use

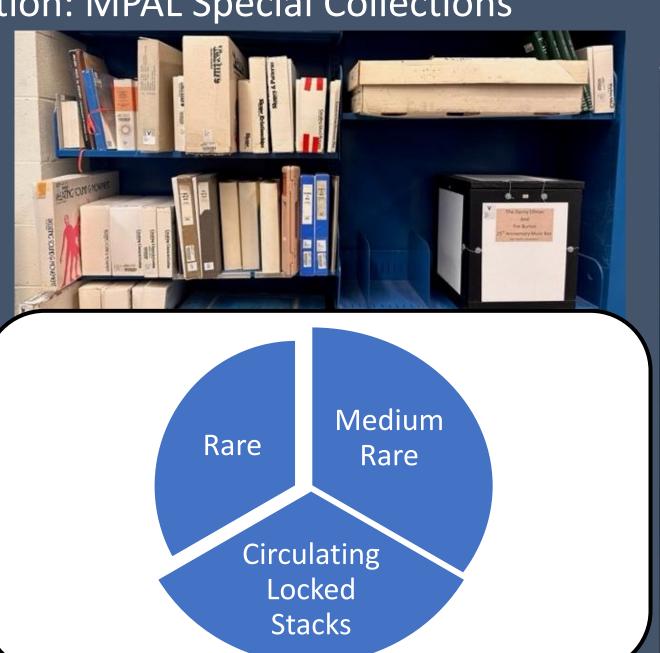
Context & Collection: University of Illinois Music & Performing Arts Library



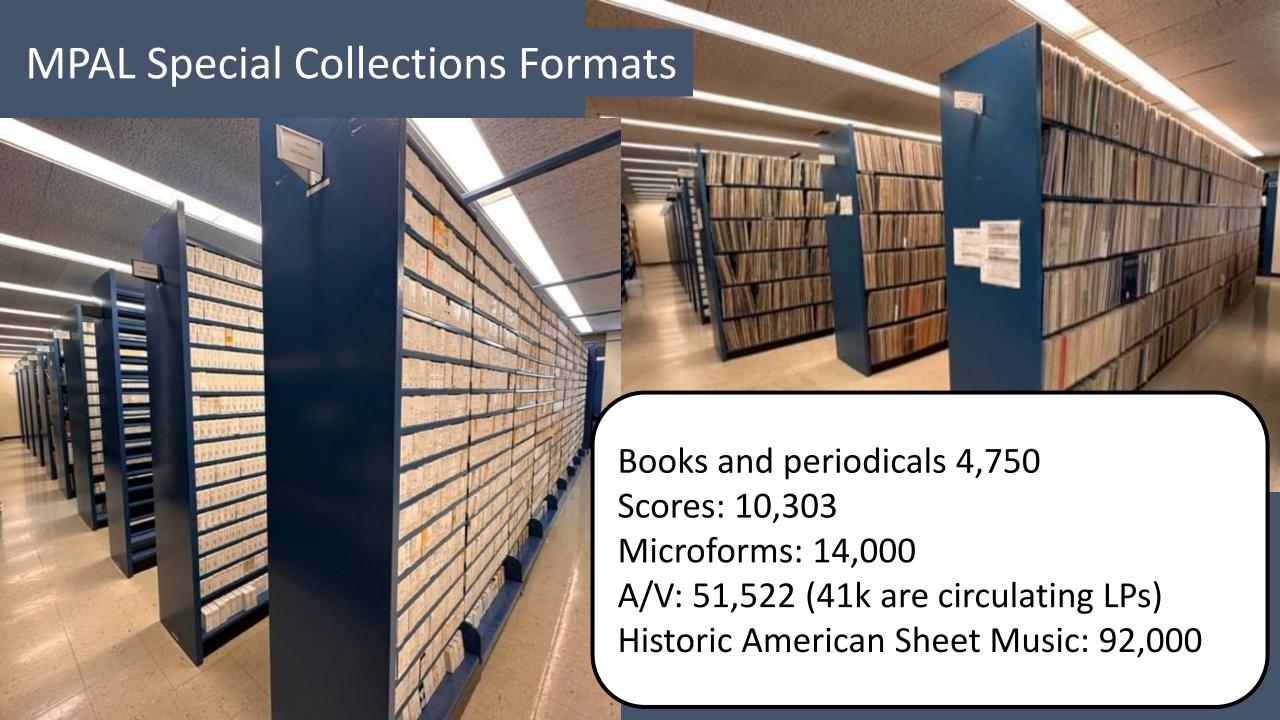
- Large public research university (R1)
- Second largest academic library in the US
 - Branches for rare books and manuscripts, archives, music, and others
- Comprehensive School of Music
- Departments of Dance and Theatre

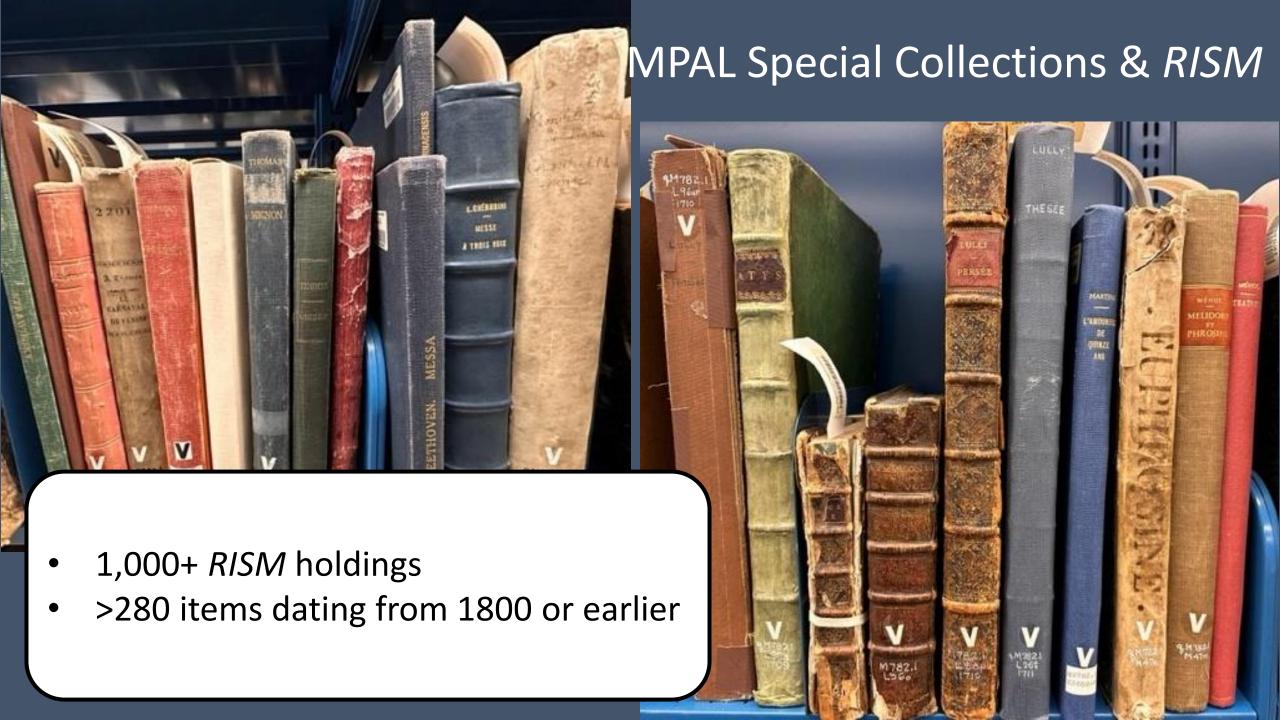
Context & Collection: MPAL Special Collections



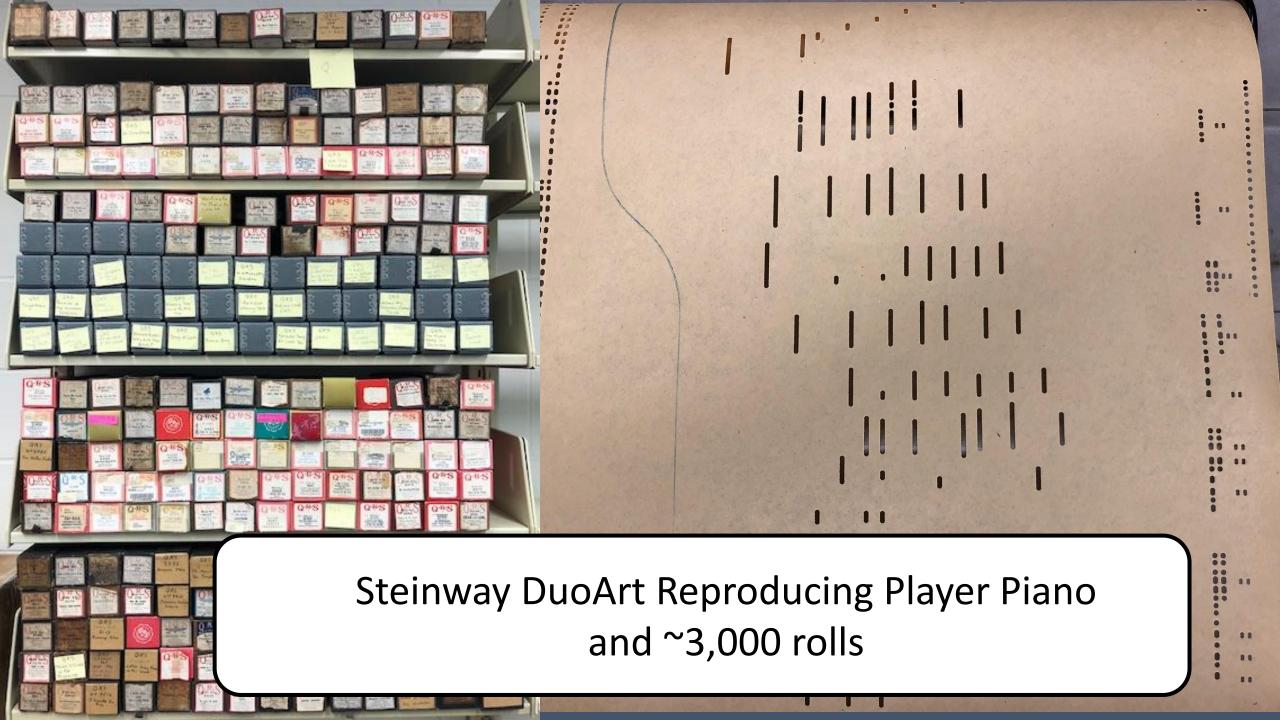










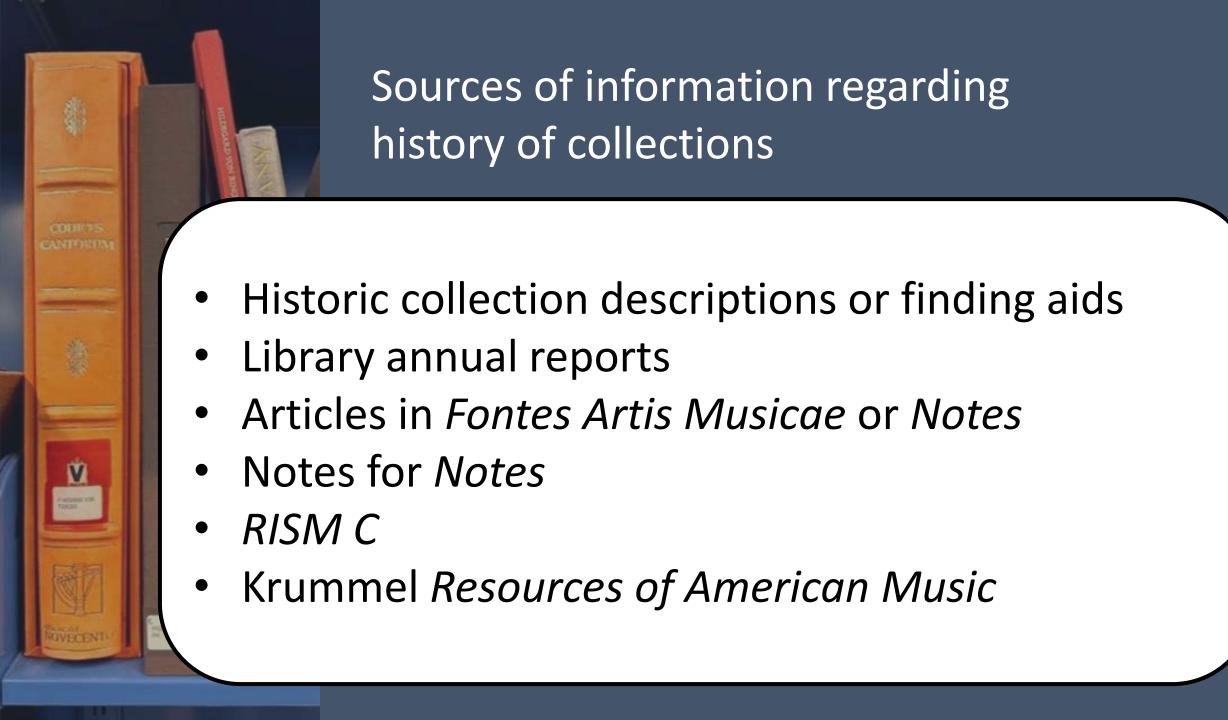


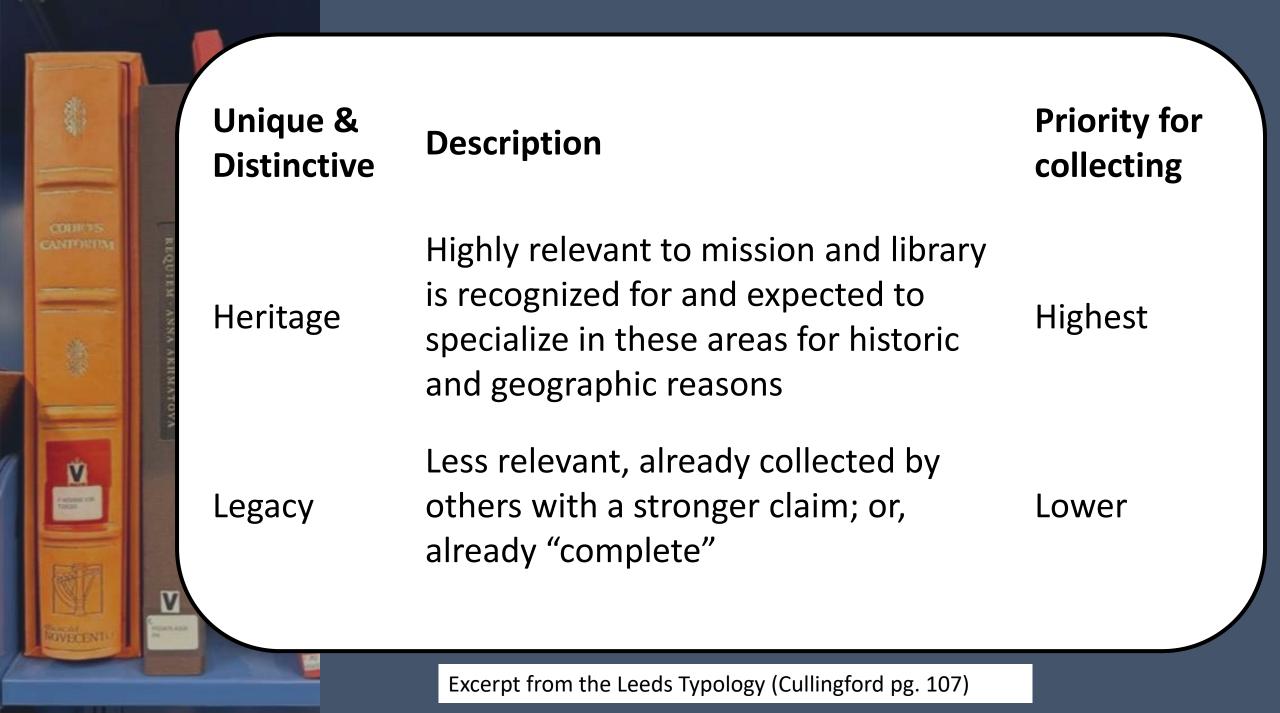




Why do we assess collections?

- Growth
- Stewardship





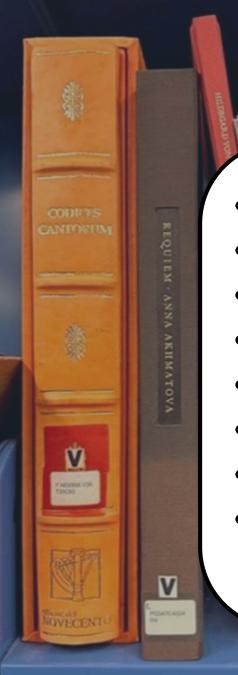


Approaches to assessing special collections

- 1. Condition assessments
- 2. Identifying processing and cataloging backlogs
- 3. Measuring the impact of collections on users and value of collection



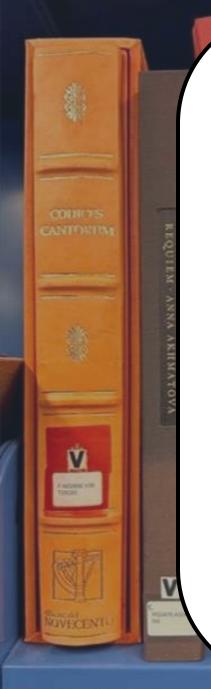
Inventory is not content assessment, but a crucial first step



Data points of particular use

- Format /sub-format (book, score (vocal score), recording)
- Composer/creator
- Publisher
- Place of publication
- Date
- Edition, enumeration
- Copy number
- Genre/subject

Local record IDs and barcodes



276 muq-nc

277 mug-nc

278 muq-nc

279 muq-nc

280 muq-nc

281 muq-nc

282 muq-nc

283 muq-nc

Material Type 🔻 Permanent Call Number Location -LOO MUYTIC 267 muq-nc M784.3 R26W Music Score 268 muq-nc Book 821.08 F948P 821.08 F948P 269 muq-nc Book Book ML54.7 B82 270 mug-nc M1503 K35P545 271 muq-nc **Music Score** 272 muq-nc Music Score M1530 .V64T7 1799 **Music Score** M1628D418 B4 273 muq-nc Music Score Q. M782.1B46 N 274 mug-nc Book PR1134 C65 275 muq-nc

Music Score

Music Score

Music Score

Music Score

Music Score

Music Score

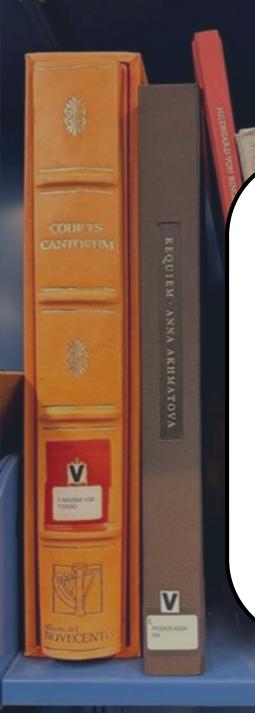
Music Score

Music Score

Data cleanup: Material Types

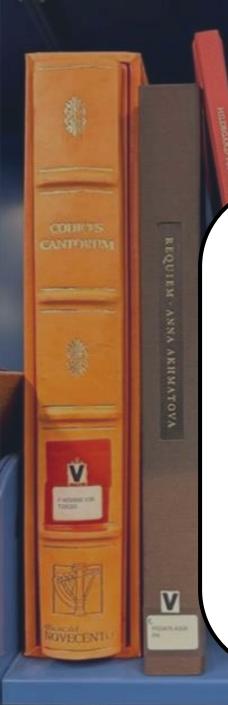
Q. M782.1B46 N		Α	В	С
PR1134 C65				- · · · · · · ·
M1500 M84D64	1	Location Code 🔻	Material Type ▼	Permanent Call Nun -1
M1500 M84D64	68	muq-nc	Other	GV1767 .T46S5 1949
M1503 A7402	69	muq-nc	Unknown	M048108 .
Q. M782.1 M47	70	muq-nc	None	M1 F266
	71	muq-nc	None	M1.A2 VV61
Q. M784 W5820	72	muq-nc	Unknown	M1010 .L54F3 1900
M784.4 N2133	73	muq-nc	Unknown	M1012 .R83op.46P4 1
MT875J45 N4	74	muq-nc	None	M1205 .M477 1939
	75	muq-nc	Unknown	M1503 .L562C4 1907
	76	muq-nc	Unknown	M1503 .P24A9 1901

1			Publication Date	Publication	
		Publisher	Cleaned 🚅	Date ▼	
	CODICUS	Imprimé par Guillaume Pearson	1722	1722.	
	CARTOSTM	Publish'd by the author	1723	[1723]	
		Chez M Charles Le Cene	1725	1725.	
	*	Chez M Charles Le Cene	1725	1725.	
		Engrav'd printed and sold by J Cluer in Bow-Church-Yard London	1726	[1726]	
		Gennaro Muzio	1727	1727.	
		: Francesco Ricciardo	1727	1727.	
	V	JB Christophe Ballard	1727	1727.	
п	Factors on Tables	Alberts & van der Kloot	1728	1728.	
1	-	Francesco Ricciardo	1728	1728.	
		Printed for J Watts	1729	1729.	
	NOVECENT				



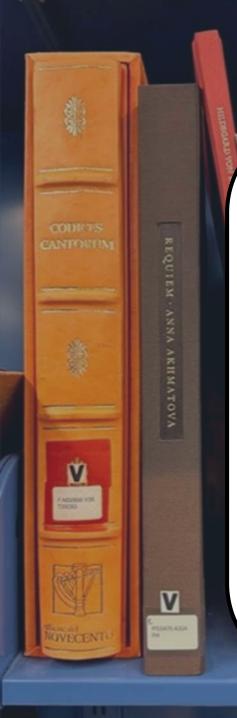
Assessment Musts

- 1. Start from goals and chose methodology and part of collection.
- 2. Communicate with other units if needed to determine logistics
- 3. Prioritize based on resources/capacity
- 4. Work in small areas, keeping resources in mind
- 5. Avoid scope creep
- 6. Document steps and outcomes



Ways to segment assessment efforts

Date
Composer
Country of publication
By subject/genre (or by call number)

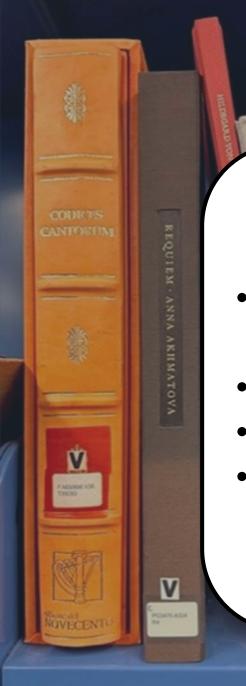


Criteria for determining location

- Content
- Use potential
- Number of holdings
- Has it been digitized?
- Edition/ Date
- Condition
- Provenance
- Preservation needs
- Cataloging needs
- Housing needs (boxes vs

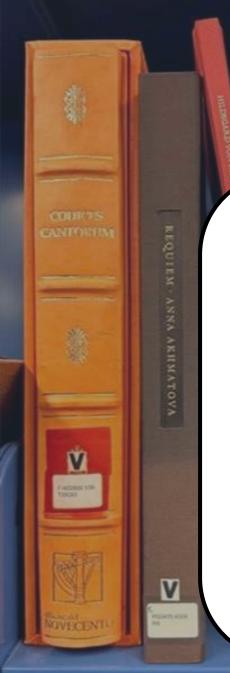
items)

Risk assessment (theft....)



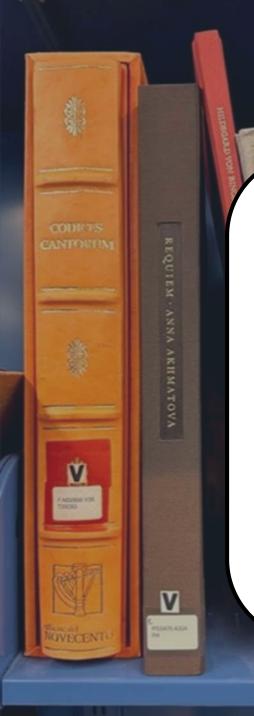
Bibliographic research resources

- Krummel, Donald. Guide for Dating Early Published Music: A Manual of Bibliographical Practices, 1974.
- Hofmeister19
- WorldCat
- Publisher and antiquarian catalogs



Finding the unique

- RISM
- WorldCat and national library catalogs
- Universal Short Title Catalogue https://ustc.ac.uk/
- Karlsruher Virtuelle Katalog KVK Karlsruhe Virtual Catalog <u>https://kvk.bibliothek.kit.edu/index.html</u>
- Various subscription tools (OCLC, JISC, etc.)



Tools for checking for digitization

- DIAMM
- RISM
- Europeana
- National library sites
- Google

Special Collections and Assessment Resources

ALA Special Collections Resources https://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/specialcollections/specialcollections

Guidelines on the Selection and Transfer of Materials from General Collections to Special Collections https://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/selctransfer

Rare Books and Special Collections by Sidney E. Berger https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/rare-books-and-special-collections

The Special Collections Handbook (3rd ed.) by Alison Cullingford https://www.routledge.com/The-Special-Collections-Handbook/Cullingford/p/book/9781783305377

Total Cost of Stewardship: Responsible Collection Building in Archives and Special Collections https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2021/oclcresearch-total-cost-of-stewardship.html

The Complete Collections Assessment Manual: A Holistic Approach by Madeline M. Kelly https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/complete-collections-assessment-manual-holistic-approach

Conway, Martha O'Hara and Merrilee Proffitt. 2011. *Taking Stock and Making Hay: Archival Collections Assessment*. Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Research. http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2011/2011-07.pdf.

Thank you! Any questions?

Kirstin Johnson Head, Music and Performing Arts Library University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

dougan@illinois.edu