



FACILITATING DISCOVERY OF HISTORIC SOUND RECORDINGS: RETHINKING SUBJECT ACCESS

SOPHIE RONDEAU AND JENNIFER VAUGHN
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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BACKGROUND : CYLINDERS AND BELFER

➤ THE FORMAT


➤ THE BELFER

➤ THE ERA



BELFER CYLINDERS DIGITAL CONNECTION

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
Digital Library Collections



BELFER CYLINDERS digital connection

ABOUT

The Belfer Cylinders Digital Connection provides online access to digital audio files of cylinders in the Belfer Audio Archive. Belfer's cylinder collection includes over 22,000 cylinders, 12,000 of which are unique titles.

With initial funding from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Syracuse University Libraries have been able to digitize over 1,400 cylinders. Work is ongoing, so please check back regularly for newly added titles.

The digital recordings, provided in both MP3 and WAV file format, can be searched or browsed by genre/subject.

[Read more about us »](#)

WE WELCOME CYLINDER DONATIONS

SEARCH

BROWSE

By Subject / Genre ...

- Vocal quartets
- Vocal quartets with orchestra
- Vocal quartets, Unaccompanied
- Vocal trios
- Vocal trios with orchestra
- Von Tilzer, Harry, 1872-1946
- Waitresses
- Waltzes
- Watermelons
- Weddings
- Whistling
- Whistling music
- Wit and humor
- Women
- World War, 1914-1918
- Xylophone music
- Xylophone with orchestra
- Yodeling
- Yodels
- Zarzuelas

MENU

- » [FAQ](#)
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- » [Syracuse University](#)
- » [Libraries](#)

2,015 RECORDINGS

MARC → DUBLIN CORE

FEATURES AND SEARCHING

PURPOSE

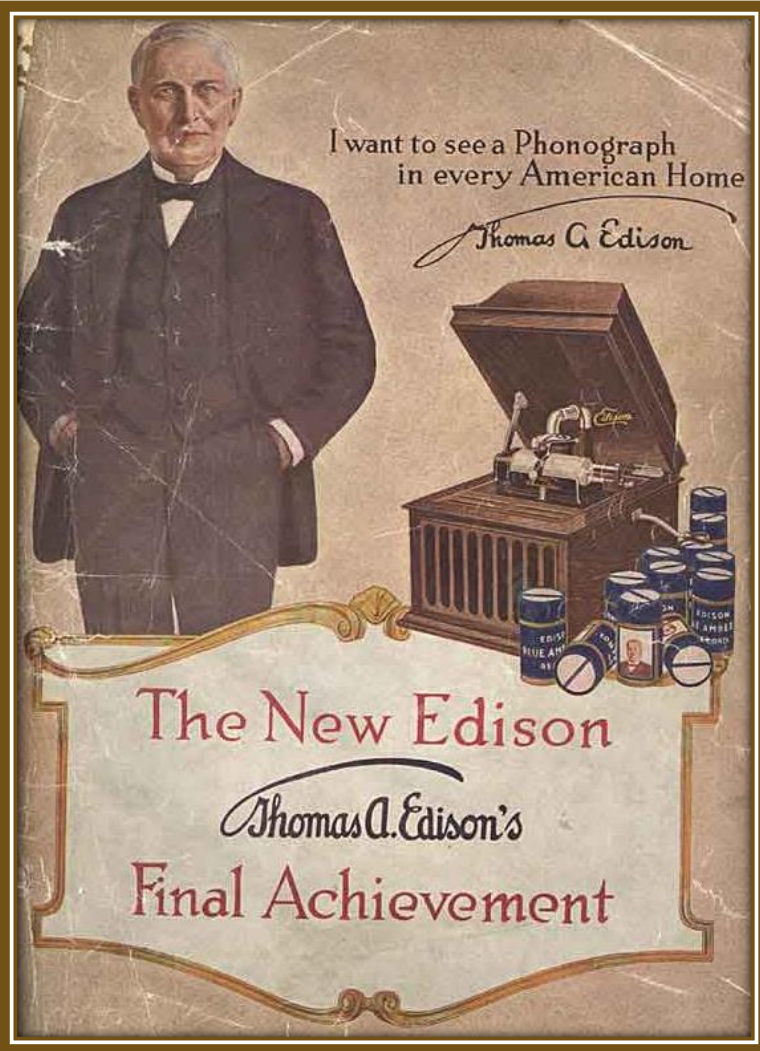
MOVING TO NEW PLATFORM

NEW VOCABULARIES AND HISTORIC SOUND
RECORDINGS

CONDUCT USER TESTING

MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

USING LCSH TO BETTER REFLECT TOPICAL
CONTENT



SAMPLE

- 10% (203 RECORDINGS)
- MOSTLY EDISON BLUE AMBEROL

MIX OF:

- GENRES AND FORMS
- VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL, SPOKEN WORD, AND SPOKEN WORD AND PERFORMED MUSIC
- ETHNICITIES AND CULTURES



CHANGES MADE — BEST PRACTICES

- CONSISTENCY OF PRACTICE FOR CHANGES AND ENHANCEMENTS
- 382, 6XX, 655...336
- CHALLENGING RECORDINGS LED TO DISCUSSIONS



INTERFACE FOR TESTING

- CREATED FOR PILOT ONLY
- SIMPLE DB/GUI
- 4 VALUE LISTS + KEYWORD
- CAN SELECT 1 VALUE IN EACH BOX
- DISPLAYS RECORD WITH URL

The screenshot displays a web-based database interface. At the top, a toolbar includes navigation icons, a record count of '1 / 203 Found (Unsorted)', and buttons for 'Show All', 'New Record', 'Delete Record', 'Find', and 'Sort'. A search bar is located in the top right corner, with a blue arrow pointing to it. Below the toolbar, the main form is organized into sections. The top section contains fields for 'Bib No' (1554439), 'Leader' (im a22004571a), 'Fixed 007' (se\immznnp\h\la), 'OCLC No 035' (40109878), and a 'Preview' button. The middle section contains fields for 'Personal Name 100', 'Uniform Title 240', 'Title Statement_SOR 245' (Flanagan's troubles in a restaurant.), 'Publication No 028' (3969 Edison Blue Amberol), 'Pub statement 260' (Orange, N.J. : Edison Blue Amberol, [1920]), 'Pub statement date', 'Extent 300' (1 cylinder (ca. 4 min.) : 160 rpm ; 2 1/4 x 4 in.), 'Content Type 336' (performed music AND spoken word), 'Medium of Performance 382' (Medium of performance: speaker, 1 (doubling male voice, 1) ; instrumental ensemble), 'Performers note 511' (Steve Porter.), 'Summary Note 520' (Vaudeville specialty.), 'Subject Heading 650' (Vaudeville ; Irish wit and humor ; Restaurants--Humor), 'Personal Names 700' (Porter, Steve, 1864-1936.), and 'Corporate Names 710'. On the right side, a search panel is visible, containing a 'Search Box', four 'VALUE LIST' dropdowns for 'Medium of Performance', 'Genre Forms', 'Subject Heading', and 'Content Type', and a 'Perform Search' button. Blue arrows point from the main form fields to the search panel, indicating the selection process. The bottom right corner shows the 'Genre Forms 655' (Humor ; Vaudeville songs) and 'URL 856' (http://diglib.syr.edu/u7/cylinder,546).

USER TESTING

THREE SUBJECTS

TALK-ALoud AND OBSERVATION

TESTING VOCABULARIES

FIVE UNKNOWN ITEM QUESTIONS



Findings of user tests

- Favor access to audio
- Genre/form for broad searches
- Medium of performance not fully exploited
- Specific terms related to question



Tab. XIII.

OUR
OBSERVATIONS



LCGFT

VAUDEVILLE!

A DAZZLING DISPLAY

 **OF** 

HETEROGENEOUS SPLENDOR

DESIGNED TO EDUCATE, EDIFY, AMAZE, AND UPLIFT



Filmed performances (Not Subd Geog) ☐

UF Performance films

Performances, Filmed

BT Nonfiction films

NT Concert films

Filmed burlesque acts

Filmed comedy sketches

Filmed dance

Filmed literary readings

Filmed musicals

Filmed operas

Filmed operettas

Filmed plays

Filmed stand-up comedy routines

Filmed vaudeville acts

**LCGFT FILMED
PERFORMANCE EXAMPLE**

LCSH

- CHRONOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SUBDIVISIONS
- SUBJECTIVITY / OBJECTIVITY



FINDINGS (CASE IN POINT)

Title	My Blue Ridge Mountain home
Performer	Dalhart, Vernon, 1883-1948 Robison, Carson
Subject	Vocal duets Blue Ridge Mountains
Recording Content	Vocal
Time Period	1921-1930
Composer	Robison, Carson
Label	Edison Blue Amberol
Issue Number	5414
Date Original	1927
Issue Date Source	Year of release from "Edison Blue Amberol Recordings" by R. Dethlefsen, v.2 (1981).
Cylinder Condition	Good
Format Original	1 cylinder (ca. 4 min.) : 160 rpm, 2 1/4 x 4 in.
Technical Specifications	Specifications Speed 160 rpm ; Sampling 44.1 KHz/24 bit ; Equalization- Flat ; Software : ProTools Benchmark ADC-1 converter.
Date Digital	2010
Source	Belfer Audio Archive, Syracuse University
Language	English
Rights	Intellectual Property Statement : http://library.syr.edu/information/belfer/cylinders/permissions.html
MP3 File	http://digilib.syr.edu/cylinder/image/877.mp3
WAV File	
Summon Content Type	Music Recording
Format Type	audio/mp3 Sound

My Blue Ridge Mountain home

000 01573cjmaa22003971a 4500
001 1566379
005 20150415131701.0
007 se immznnmph|a
008 981207s1927 njuppnng n eng d

382 01 |a male voice |n 2 |d whistling |n 2 |a banjo |n 1 |a guitar |n 1 |a harmonica |n 1 |a Jew's harp |n 1
|a whistle |n 1 |2 lcmt

100 1_ |a Robison, Carson.
245 10 |a My Blue Ridge Mountain home |h [sound recording] / |c Carson Robison.
260 __ |a Orange, N.J. : |b Edison, |c [1927]
300 __ |a 1 audio disc (4 min.) : |b 45 rpm. ; 12 cm. ; 1 disc

Medium of
Performance 382

Medium of performance: male voice, 2 (doubling whistling, 2) ; banjo, 1 ; guitar, 1 ;
harmonica, 1 ; Jew's harp, 1 ; whistle, 1

650 _7 |a Vocal duets. |2 fast |0 (OCoLC)fst01168352
651 _0 |a Blue Ridge Mountains |v Songs and music.
651 _7 |a United States |z Blue Ridge Mountains. |2 fast |0 (OCoLC)fst01243051
655 _7 |a Songs. |2 lcgt
655 _7 |a Old-time music. |2 lcgt
655 _7 |a Popular music. |2 lcgt
655 _7 |a Music. |2 fast |0 (OCoLC)fst01423855
700 1_ |a Dalhart, Vernon, |d 1883-1948.
856 41 |z Audio file of Syracuse University cylinder |u <http://digilib.syr.edu./u?/cylinder,1523>
948 21 |a 20150325 |b jlv |l _ |f r |t z |p 1
994 __ |a C0 |b SYB

FINDINGS – MISSES THE MARK

IN JAIL / TWO DARK KNIGHTS

EDISON BLUE AMBEROL CYLINDER 5437, 1927.

Filmed vaudeville acts  Vaudeville acts (Sound recordings)
RT [Minstrel shows \(Sound recordings\)](#)

Comedy sketches.

Ethnic wit and humor.

Prisoners – Humor.

African Americans – Humor.

African Americans.

Prisoners.

Genre/Form:

Humor

 FAST HEADING

WHAT'S NEXT

- USE / REFINE NEW VOCABULARIES
- TOOLS AND COLLABORATIONS TO MAKE AUDIO MORE ACCESSIBLE
- UNIFIED PUBLIC SERVICES, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND FACULTY



THANK YOU!

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PHOTO CREDITS

SIDE 1: EDISON ROLL II, ALISON LYONS PHOTOGRAPHY.

SLIDE 2: THE DAWN OF LOVE, ALISON LYONS PHOTOGRAPHY.

SLIDE 4: THOMAS EDISON AD FOR PHONOGRAPH, AMERICANLIBRARY.GOV

SLIDE 5: LIT BROTHERS, MIAMI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, FLICKR.COM

SLIDE 6: 1893 NICKELODEON, PAINTING IN LIGHT, FLICKR.COM

SLIDE 8: BLANK MALE HEAD PROFILE, BISHOPEA.COM

SLIDE 9: THOMAS EDISON, WIKIPEDIA.ORG

SLIDE 10: TULP'S MEDICAL OBSERVATIONS, ELSEVIER.COM

SLIDE 11: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SPRITEDPROPHIRE.CO.UK

SLIDE 12: VAUDEVILLE, XROADS.VIRGINIA.EDU

SLIDE 13: AFFICHES POSTERS PHONOGRAPHE EDISON 1899- 041, JALAL GERALD ARO, FLICKR.COM

SLIDE 18: AFFICHES POSTER EDISON PHONOGRAPH, JALAL GERALD ARO, FLICKR.COM

SLIDE 19: AT BROAD CHANNEL -- JOY UNCONFINED. THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, FLICKR.COM