Local Music in Cultural Heritage Institutions: Research from the Sounds of Home Project

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Outline

1. Project background
2. Survey
3. Interviews

*Also part of this project not discussed today - geovisualization of local music collections
1. Project Background
Local Music in Cultural Heritage Institutions

- Local music **artifacts:**
  - tangible representations of the connection between music and space/place
- Local music **collectors:**
  - help build and promote music communities
- Local music **culture:**
  - connects people and places
Research Model

Theoretical Frameworks

- Music Scenes
- Special Collections

Methods

- Survey
- Interviews
- Geovisualization
Theoretical Frameworks

Music Scenes
- Sociology of music/cultural production
- Considers various aspects of a music scene as related to broader cultural forms, including the network of people involved in creating and maintaining it

Special Collections
- LIS/archival sciences
- Focus on the value collecting of rare/unique artifacts
- Examines the history of the transmission, use, and reception of texts
Local Music Collectors
the network of people whose cooperative activity, organized via their joint knowledge of conventional means of doing things, produce(s) the kind of art works that art world is noted for

(Becker, Art Worlds, 1982: x)
2. Survey
Research Questions

1. What are the local music collection management practices in Canadian libraries?

2. Where may practices for collecting local music be improved?
Method

- Electronic questionnaire in English/French
- 20 questions (18 closed/4 open ended): demographics, collection scope, collection development, promotion, access, preservation
- Follow up questions: identifying collections, follow up interviews
- Participants from Canadian libraries (105 selected)
- Open for 3 weeks
Results Highlights

*Dataset available at: https://doi.org/10.7939/DVN/WAJ9UG

*Paper coming out this month in CAML Review
Library Location/Type

- **Special**: 15.4% (2)
- **Public**: 23.1% (3)
- **Academic**: 61.5% (8)

Canada

- 3 locations in Toronto
- 2 locations in Montreal
- 2 locations in Newfound and Labrador
- 1 location in Saskatoon
Survey Conclusions

1. Local music work falls outside of traditional professional competencies
2. May intersect more with archival practices
3. Preservation and online access are facilitated primarily through digitization and online hosting
4. Potential challenges: donor relations, community outreach, working outside skillset
3. Interviews
Purpose

1. Understand the values, lived experiences, and perceptions of local music collection managers in Canadian cultural heritage organizations

2. Gather diverse perspectives on local music collecting, collections, and their impact on communities
Method

- Aiming for 30 participants (2/3 complete)
- Qualitative research interviews
- Semi-structured interview guide approach
- Questions focus is on value and significance of collecting local music from their perspective
- Photo documentation and site visits
Initial Findings

1. Local music is collected in a wide variety of cultural heritage organizations and often considered rare or on the verge of being lost.
2. Collectors consider local music to be underrepresented in academic conversations.
3. Collection managers work closely with or as a part of the local music community.
4. Challenges include: funding, infrastructure, time, interest.
Thanks for listening!

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https://research-groups.usask.ca/soundsofhome/