LEARNINGS FROM A 10 YEAR COLLABORATION
BUILDING A DIGITAL COLLECTION WITH THE MUSIC ARCHIVE OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

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INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CURATION CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE
MAMU | Music Archive of Monash University

• A physical and digital collection of musical instruments, scores, field recordings, puppets, and much more. Acquired since the foundation of the University's Department of Music in 1965.

• A unique and valuable resource for the wider research community

• MAMU presents regular exhibitions, as well as lectures, seminars, conferences, and concerts by local and international scholars and musicians.

• Run by two permanent staff members and a constant rotation of volunteers and research assistants.
LONG-TERM COLLABORATION

• 2008: approached by Professor Margaret Kartomi from the University’s Sir Zelman Cowan School of Music.
• Library used its expertise to describe, digitise and upload individual items into the VITAL repository.
• This was inefficient, so Library provided a space where MAMU staff could upload material and create metadata without the Library as an intermediary.
• More effective but not without issues.
• Now have a slightly altered service model that aims to be a happy medium between full support by the Library and self-service by MAMU.
• From a small base of 8 recordings the digital collection has grown to over 500 items and continues to grow.
LEARNING 1

EXPECTATIONS HAVE TO BE REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED

• Realities of staffing and resources
• Best practice versus good practice
LEARNING 2

THE “SOLUTION” WILL CHANGE

- Metadata | collection structure | workflows
- Platform developments
- Evolving Library team
LEARNING 3

BE PREPARED TO CHANGE POLICY

- **2008 – 2015** Complete management by Library
- **2016 – 2017** Self-managed by MAMU
- **2018 –** Something in-between
THANK YOU

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W| https://monash.figshare.com/mamu