



LEARNINGS FROM A 10 YEAR COLLABORATION

BUILDING A DIGITAL COLLECTION WITH THE
MUSIC ARCHIVE OF MONASH UNIVERSITY

ANDREW HARRISON, DAVID GROENEWEGEN, BETH PEARSON

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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

E| researchdata@monash.edu

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