Development of an Application Profile relevant to specialised music collections in an African context

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Digital Imaging South Africa (DISA)
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Digital Imaging South Africa (DISA)

- Supporting scholarly research
- Skills in digital technologies
- Capacity building

- Collaborative effort
- Anti-apartheid journals
- Archival documents
- Multimedia ……
Music as part of the struggle

… resistance is …. also about staying human in the face of inhumanity … affirming life in the face of a rigid denial of it .. (Rhythms of resistance)

- Political use of popular music
- Music as “hidden history” / “popular history”
- Music and musicians often banned and censored ….
Digitisation

- Fractured private collections
- Difficult to access
- Physical media deteriorating
- Online access to support scholarly research
The music projects

- SAMAP (South African Music Archive Project)
  - South African music
  - HYMAP (Hidden Years Music Archive Project)

- ILAM (International Library of African Music)
  - Largest archive of African music in sub-Saharan Africa
VISION AND MISSION

The digital conversion of South African music archives will provide a valuable research resource for postgraduate study, and will also undoubtedly nurture considerable public interest in this material.

The project aims to create an online resource on indigenous South African music and associated cultural heritage, so as to promote multidisciplinary research into the field of popular music and culture.

The development of a national resource will require the survey of potential collaborators and institutions that work in similar domains, so that knowledge and resources can be shared.

The project will network with South African collectors to gather, preserve, and make accessible through electronic services South African indigenous music in digital form, for research, teaching and learning. In the process, academic research will engage with other systems of knowledge, and thus expand research capacity in the field of indigenous knowledge in South Africa.
3rd Ear Music's Hidden Years Archive Project is a unique collection of alternative SAfrican music. Live recorded desk-mixes from Township to City Festivals, Concerts, Clubs & independent Studios - 1964 to date. For archive re-issues & current 3rd Ear productions speak to us! - we can customize copies provided all the necessary permission, copyright & licensing is cleared. See copyright notes below. 

3rd Ear reissues:
- Sipho Mchunu - umHlaba uzoRuya 1990 (The World is Coming Back)
- Hugh Masekela - Live in Lenrho 1980
- Finch & Henson - The Very Best of 1974 to 1980
- Mike Dickman - As Yet Unreleased: 1968 to 1974 - Work in Progress

> Hidden Years Music Archive for 2 John Lennon Books
Hidden Years Music Archive Photos, taken from the soundmixer at gigs - in the USA & SAfrica - now featured in various international productions, as stills for TV / Film documentaries, in biographies, academic studies, books & websites.

> HY Woodstock & USA Photos
1569 photos by David Marks / John Brody (RIP)

> 3rd Ear Music's Hidden Years Music Archive Project & the University of KwaZulu-Natal announce the National Research Foundation Grant
The project is expected to generate multidisciplinary research interest in the fields of Library and Information Studies, Law, English, History, Politics, Music and Education, amongst others.

> Juluka's Sipho On Comeback Trail
Sipho Mchunu is a brave man. Two years ago he broke with partner Johnny Clegg to be with his large family and to till the soil. Juluka was no more.
The music projects

- SAMAP (South African Music Project)
  - Southern African music
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Welcome to ILAM
the largest archive of African music in sub Saharan Africa

More about ILAM

Founded in 1954 by Hugh Tracey, ILAM is the greatest repository of African music in the world. A research institution devoted to the study of music and oral arts in Africa, it preserves thousands of historical recordings going back to 1929 and supports contemporary fieldwork. It is currently digitizing its collections. Its journal, African Music, is nearly into its fourth decade.

ILAM aims to discover, record, analyze, and archive the music of sub-Saharan Africa, with the object of establishing a theory of music making in Africa and assessing the social, cultural, and artistic values of African music. It is a subdivision of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the Rhodes University campus in Grahamstown, South Africa.

quick search

latest news

ILAM Outreach Concert
04.04.07

As a way of preserving African heritage and also as part of our outreach programme, ILAM hosts quarterly concerts featuring both well known and local artists. Here, an excerpt from a local newspaper "Grocotts Mail", reporting on the concert held on Friday, 16th March 2007.
Photo courtesy of ILAM
Aims

- *create* an online resource of Southern African music
- *record* indigenous knowledge
- *promote* multidisciplinary scholarly research
  - supported by National Research Foundation (NRF)
  - a theory of music making in Africa
  - assessing the social, cultural, and artistic values of African music
- *preserve* cultural music collections
- *contribute* to multimedia archive of struggles for freedom
An African context

- Open source
- Open access
- Open standards
- Open data
Greenstone Digital Library Software

- Version 2.72; 2.73 (unstable); 2.74 (available for download)
- Open source and licence-free
- Fully-searchable, metadata-driven digital library
- Easy to install and manage
- Each collection is built separately to retain own identity
- Customisable to search across collections or on one collection
About Greenstone

Greenstone is a suite of software for building and distributing digital library collections. It provides a new way of organizing information and publishing it on the Internet or on CD-ROM. Greenstone is produced by the New Zealand Digital Library Project at the University of Waikato, and developed and distributed in cooperation with UNESCO and the Human Info NGO. It is open-source, multilingual software, issued under the terms of the GNU General Public License. Read the Greenstone Factsheet for more information.

The aim of the Greenstone software is to empower users, particularly in universities, libraries, and other public service institutions, to build their own digital libraries. Digital libraries are radically reforming how information is disseminated and acquired in UNESCO’s partner communities and institutions in the fields of education, science and culture around the world, and particularly in developing countries. We hope that this software will encourage the effective deployment of digital libraries to share information and place it in the public domain. Further information can be found in the book How to build a digital library, authored by two of the group’s members.

The complete Greenstone interface, and all documentation, is available in...
Dublin Core (DC)

- Descriptive metadata

Metadata creation

- Students funded by NRF
  - Music training
  - Interest in music

- Student training
  - Skills acquisition

- Controlled vocabularies (format; genre)
  - Minimise errors

- International standards
  - date
  - time
Development in progress

- African music thesaurus
- Guidelines for description
- Quality control guidelines
Development of a Profile

- Dublin Core
- Additional elements?
- Minimum requirements for good records?
- Audio recordings only?
- Text documents (e.g., sheet music)?
Challenges

- Keep it simple but
- Rich metadata
- Oral traditions
- Not well documented
- Large amount of Optional elements
### Guidelines and observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dc Term</th>
<th>Guidelines and observations</th>
<th>Required/Optional</th>
<th>Repeatable/Non-repeatable</th>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Title</td>
<td>Often no available title</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:Creator</td>
<td>Lyricist/Composer/Performer/Arranger</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Contributor</td>
<td>Engineer/Producer/Musician</td>
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<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Subject</td>
<td>Preferably from a controlled vocabulary</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:Description</td>
<td>Text description or list of contents</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:Publisher</td>
<td>Publisher of the recorded music</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:Date</td>
<td>Date of recording, date of event ISO format</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:ResourceType</td>
<td>Select from a controlled vocabulary</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Format</td>
<td>Physical format, recording length ISO format, digitisation hardware and software</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Identifier</td>
<td>Institutionally defined. Preferably a URI/URL</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Source</td>
<td>Album, Event</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Relation</td>
<td>Track</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dc:Coverage</td>
<td>Geographical area from which the music originates and about which the music covers</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>Copyright symbol</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc:Language</td>
<td>Language of the lyrics</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
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Profile as a means to ensure quality

- Enforce standards across the collections
- Ensure accuracy and integrity
- Work flow – tracking
  - Accountability
  - Seamless
  - Production figures
<table>
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<th>Element</th>
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<td>dc.Title</td>
<td>Síluma sonda na moto</td>
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<td>dc.Subject and Keywords</td>
<td>Topical song</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc.Subject and Keywords</td>
<td>Kathandi</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc.Subject and Keywords</td>
<td>Mbira</td>
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<tr>
<td>dc.Description</td>
<td>Translation: The train goes with fire. Topical song with kathandi mbira and f...</td>
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Community of Practice

- group of practitioners sharing a common interest
- willingness to work together
- specific area
- common goals
- hasten skills transfer
- virtual collaboration
Requirements

- Collaboration
- Training
- Testing
- Feedback
- Publishing
Contacts

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- SAMAP:
  http://aboutdisa.ukzn.ac.za/samap/search.htm

- ILAM
  http://ilam.ru.ac.za/index.php