Our battlefield
Checking Out Czech Records: A Model Gateway for Sound Documents or Just a Portal?

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What we would like to say...

The Virtual National Phonotheque is a web portal that aims to fill a gap in understanding the national sound cultural heritage of the Czech Republic. Prior to this project, no comprehensive resource on Czech sound heritage existed – there was no complete discography of relevant recordings, and no union catalogue of sound documents held by institutions in Czech territory. The Virtual National Phonotheque will serve as a gateway to collections of all types sound documents in many different types of memory institutions. Our biggest challenge is that we still do not have a Czech National Sound Archive, primarily because we lack systematic preservation policies in this field on a national level. But that is the past. Today we have a platform that can provide information about the existence, location and content of all audio documents published or housed in the Czech republic. We now have our first discography on the Czech record label ESTA, and we are pushing forward in many directions related to the preservation of audio recordings. Can we inspire others to do the same? Can we be inspired by examples abroad? Can we co-operate?
Our battlefield

Problems

Portal

History

Background
Welcome

• we hope that the Czech Republic will no longer fall behind in preservation of sound documents in Europe
• now in the Czech Republic we start in the nick of time
• of course, we have similar problems to you
  • inaction on many levels (government, memory institutions, people…)
  • problems with money = less manpower
  • end of life for many sound carriers = irreversible destruction
• we are a part of the European Culture Heritage, and are striving to preserve, share and make sound documents accessible for future generations
The Working Group for the Protection and Accessibility of Audio Documents in Czech Republic (WGPAADCR)

- first meeting October 2014
- initiated by staff at The Moravian Library
- members from different types of institutions
- including participants and stakeholders from the 90s
- e-conference, web, meetings
- setting primary goals and steps
- result: A National Sound Preservation Strategy
- be a consulting body for Ministry of Culture
- need to expand, connect and activate old and new members
- promote understanding between old and young colleagues

National Sound Preservation Strategy (NSPS)
Our History:

There has never been a National Sound Archive in the Czech Republic
History of Czech sound...

- a brief history of sound documents in the Czech Republic (Czech Lands) where there has been a very strong tradition of gramophone recording since the early twentieth century

1891 first known sound recordings on wax cylinder on Czech territory

1901 first known recordings on gramophone disc in Czech language

1923 Czech Radio's (originally called Radiojournal) first broadcast

1930 first Czech recording companies (ESTA and Ultraphon) are established
Basic info about VNF

- Virtual National Phonotheque (VNF) is an online portal with approximately one half million metadata records
- around 20 institutions are transferring their catalogue records
- also included are the Supraphon record label, Czech Radio, the audiobook portal Audioteka and discographic data
- added value? link to e-shops, digital libraries, discography records, audiobooks
Karel Čapek calls for establishment of “…a national discotheque in every country, acquiring and preserving both national folklore and exceptional works of local composers or performers and ensembles, when recorded on gramophone records. That way, a real archive of national music in authentic and peak performance are archived, serving to promote the national art, broadcast by the radio, research etc. – certainly a desirable thing.

Karel Čapek

About the project

Content and objectives of VNF

Virtual National Phonotheque of the Czech Republic aims to provide information about the existence, location and content of audio documents published or located on the territory of the Czech republic.
About the portal

technical details:
- based on VuFind open source library resource portal software
- integrating duplicate records and much more
- individual institutions can provide their own metadata records via OAI-PMH or through metadata exports in MARC21 (preferred) or other formats
- provides information about the existence, location and content of audio documents published or located on the territory of the Czech Republic
Data providers

- libraries, museums, archives, commercial institutions and private collectors
What type of sources are included?

- information about sound documents = metadata records
- direct links to local catalogues
- in case of digitized items - a direct link to digital libraries
- links to the Supraphon, Czech Radio and Audioteka eshops (audiobooks portal)
- discographic data from the ESTA record label
Jaroslav Hašek: Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka

Švéjka

Přehraj

Textové informace:

Zdroj: 5 hod. 45 min. 36 sek.
Dostupné formáty: MP3

Přehrávání:

Nahraje

Cena: 199 Kč

YouTube
Dvanáct pohádek
Mahen, Jiří,
Kniha

Do not weep, child I am he whom you called: "The demo...
Rubinštejn, Anton G...
Zvukové n...

Máj
Mácha Karel Hynek,
Our priorities with portal

- present all sound documents not only from memory institutions
- be a national aggregator for sound documents
- help with czech register of digitization
- respect of copyright law
- cooperate with commercial subjects
- present in and connect with Europeana Sounds
- prepare new function for sharing records
- deal with deduplication and updates
- make portal more friendly and enrich by new tools and services (covers, booklets, etc.)
Introducing ESTA book

• one of the oldest, biggest and first Czechoslovak record label company
• history of record label ESTA and gramophone records produced for the Czech market, during its independent existence from 1930 to 1946
• wide range of genres on ESTA discs
• discography data also imported to portal VNP
• is it new direction to have discography data in databases?

Český katalog nahrávek gramofonové firmy Esta 1930–1946

Gabriel Glössl

Metodická zpráva

Štěpán

2014
National Sound Preservation Strategy (NSPS)

- statement of Working Group (WGPAADCR)
- warning about sound documents physical degradation = unreadable and lost
- sound documents are now in National Culture Strategy
- survey of historical sound carrier and his weak points
- main topics to solve: evidence, cataloguing, digitizing, preservation, access
- methodics and standards
- what we need to digitizing
- inspired from abroad plans and standards (IASA, BL, LoC, Harvard)
- necessarily of cooperation many kind of professionals
- describing basic technology provides and tools
- institution = role of coordination and knowledge centre
Our main problems

- without systematic financing to supporting portal
- NO part-time job in 2016 - financing only via projects
- very small active action team
- lost chance to move fast forward with portal - unaccepted big project
- very low measure in evidence sound collection in the Czech Republic
- missing czech interpretation of metadata describing standard
- little bit problem with cooperation through different types of institutions - different rules (laws, metadata, etc.)
- small amount digitized sound documents - endangered carries
- low feedback from survey
- need to join all ages and colleagues across sound institutions
- good relations and sharing information with Ministry of Culture
What are our plans?

- work out and fill our Strategy
- translate IASA standards
- collect data from other institution
- continue with survey by students
- help and incite with evidence and cataloguing
- educate: workshops, seminars, tutorials
- prepare data from Czech Radio and Czech TV
- be not only an aggregator but even a knowledge centre
- media promotion
- cooperate with commercial and private subjects
- prepare international projects, especially with Slovakia
Thank you for your attention.

Any questions?
Feel free to ask and contact us.
Our team at home
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RECORDED SOUND in Czech Lands 1900–1946
1891–1900: Prehistorie

V českých zemích se vůbec poprvé s Edisonovým fonografem a fonofonickými válečky1 mohli seznámit návštěvníci v roce 1891 konané Zemské jubilejní výstavy v Praze, a to ve stánku berlínského zastoupení Edisonovy společnosti, ozdobeném americkou vlajkou (obr. 01). Tento zázrak techniky zde předváděl užívaným davom paradoxní inženýr z konkurenční americké firmy Columbia. Dobový snímek2 zachytí při narážení zábavných scén a vlastencích písnií mj. činoherce Rudolfa Innemannu, komik Josefa Šváby-Malostranského a operního představení Viléma Hele, které měl na klávě doprovázet Adolf Krössing (obr. 2). Žádné z tehdy natočených fonoválek se nezachovaly.

Koncem devatenáctého století informoval český tisk o několika dalších domácích událostech spojených s zaznamenáváním a reprodukováním zvuku. V roce 1895 prodávala Edisonův fonograf na patentovaný mekanický pohon (tedy ne pohoněný elektrickými články) na Národní výstavě Československé3 v Praze firma Jandaerek a Duffek. V prosinci roku 1896 byl v Praze předveden kinematografonárau seznámil jí projekci filmů provázených zvukem z fonografu a narážávelem známých pražských, bohatě nejmenovaných pražských umělců. Časopis Dalibor v roce 1897 referuje, že firma Josef Hoffmann, závod elektrotechnický na Smíchově, započala provádět výrobu Procházky, jež byly nejmenované pražského umělce. V Praze bylo také například firma c. k. dvorního optika a mechanika A. Rosenthala (obr. 03-a, b, c) se sídlem v ulici Na příkopě, dále velkoobchod Josefa Vrbky (obr. 04) na adrese Pofč, firma Max C. Steiner (obr. 05) na adrese Pofč 25, tovární sklad hudebních nástrojů Viléma Hoffmanna (obr. 06-a, b) na Královských Vinohradech, J. Puschl (obr. 07) na adrese

1Své vynález fonografu přihlásil Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931) k patentování v roce 1877.
3Konala se od 15. května do 31. října 1895.

053-a, 053-b
EDISON RECORD
Matrices Edison, 25 cm, 1912–1928
Out of the Czech interpreters, beside ethnic recordings of a few Czech-American bands, we find on these labels only recordings of Emma Destinová and Václava Příhodová.

054
E REKOK
Matrices Artlophon, 25 cm, 1928–1932
Manufactured by Hermann Maassen. The “E” stands for “electric”, since the angular flashes on either side of the logo suggest that the new technology of electrical recording was used in the production.

055
E. BERLINER’S GRAMOPHONE
Single-sided records, 17 cm, 1900–1901 (recordings in Czech)
These shellac discs recorded in Vienna present historically the very first recordings of Czech singers.