THE MUSEUM OF THE OCCUPATION
OF LATVIA

The Audio-visual Archive: Example and challenges of content of descriptive information

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10.10.2019.
THE AUDIO-VISUAL ARCHIVE

- From 1994 – audio testimonies
- From 1996 – video testimonies
The Audio-visual Archive consists of:

- Audio testimonies (~70 hours)
- 2390 video testimonies (~4200 hours)
- 536 video materials, commemoration (~617 hours)
- Film documents (16 mm, 8 mm)
1994-1996

1996 - 2004

2004 - 2017

2017 - ????
VIDEO TESTIMONY – as a historical source - narrative/life story of a person whose life was dramatically influenced by the Soviet and/or Nazi occupation policies
Data base I:

- Video testimonies
- Additional information in file format;
- Microsoft Access
Data base II:

- For internal use;
- Searchable;
- Challenges:
  - Personal data protection/sensitive data (GDPR);
  - Restricted episodes.
- Metadata:
  - Geographical places (linked to Google maps);
  - Administrative reforms in Latvia (interwar period, Soviet occupation period, Administrative reform of 2009, ...).
Challenges of content I:

- Latvian language:
  - Dialects;
  - «Old names»; language used locally;
  - Mix of languages (example in the video);
  - Structure of the sentences used by interviewees;
  - Sentences/ideas without ending -> transcription -> translation (example in the video);
Challenges of content II:

- Collection and transcription and translation programs
  - «Old names», dialects, mix of languages;
  - Quality of sound;
  - Volume of the speech.
Digitization I:

- Was done from 2015 to 2016
- Was done by MEMNON, Belgium;
- 2228 video testimonies were digitized from old formats to files;
- Testing of every video file if it is correct and matches with original;
- Two formats – MXF format and MP4 640:480

- MiniDV: native DV 25Mb/s
- VHS: IMX 50Mb/s

With MXF or other wrapping, compliant with Adobe Premiere Pro.
Digitization II:

- **3061 video tapes** (497 S-VHS and 2564 MiniDV);
- Three batches – test, first and second batch;
- On every video cassette and box – barcode;
- Excel tables with all information (tape brand, format, length, recording time (SP, DVCAM) etc.) about the tape and recorded material.
Digitization III:

- Easy access and usability to digitized files;
- Original tapes are stored according to requirements;
- Safety of collection - copies also in the SUL;
- Data for SUL catalogue in English (basic data and abstracts);
- Possibility to use video testimonies in the SUL.
Thank you!