Audiovisual material in ‘traditional’ archives: a problem or a challenge?

Dr Michael J. Pearson
Head of Modern Records
The National Library of Wales
Archives
where memory is preserved and history is made...
Also...

- Audiovisual tapes
- Floppy discs
Case studies

- Brith Gof
- Clifford McLucas
Brith Gof

- ‘Faint Recollection’
- 1981 - 2002
- An experimental Welsh theatre company
- Site-specific, often open-air and large-scale productions
- Themes included:
  - The nature of place and identity
  - Cultural resistance to external forces
  - Community
  - The environment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>West Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eire</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
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Prosiect Archif
BRITH GOF
Archive Project

Rhwnig Cof ac Archif
Between Memory and Archive

Symposiwm undydd ar lwyfaniad PAX
yng ngorsaf rheilffordd Aberystwyth

A one day symposium on the staging of
PAX in Aberystwyth railway station

Sadwrn Rhagfyr 1 / Saturday 1 December - 10.00-16.30
Y Drwm - Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru / National Library of Wales
Gododdin

Sadwrn Rhagfyr 6 / Saturday 6 December 10:00 - 16:00
Canolfan Chapter, Caerdydd / Chapter Arts, Cardiff
Deep mapping

“Reflecting eighteenth century antiquarian approaches to place, which included history, folklore, natural history and hearsay, the deep map attempts to record and represent the grain and patina of place through juxtapositions and interpenetrations of the historical and the contemporary, the political and the poetic, the discursive and the sensual; the conflation of oral testimony, anthology, memoir, biography, natural history and everything you might ever want to say about a place …”
Monte Polizzo, Sicily
Hafod, mid-Wales estate
The San Andreas Fault
How do we approach cataloguing these collections?

- Accepted archival practices
- Linking from the Library’s online catalogue to video, audio and digital material
- A move away from conventional methods of cataloguing and presentation?
Proposed plan

- External funding to cover:
  - Replacement archivists
  - Copying from tape to disc
  - Digitization
  - Migrating and preserving digital material
  - Additional server space
Delivery?

- Linking from the Library’s catalogue to audiovisual and digital material
- MARC21 field 856?
- Follow internal procedures regarding metadata
- Streaming audio and video
Websites as archives?

http://www.siobhandaviesarchive.com/

- Interactive
- Inviting comments from users
- ‘Archiving the archive’
Web 2.0 and the Cloud

http://www.artbabble.org/

- Indianapolis Museum of the Arts
- Other partners include:
  - Smithsonian
  - Museum of Modern Art
  - Guggenheim
- The YouTube of the Arts
Michael Shanks

- Archive 1.0
  - Inscription as an instrument of management
- Archive 2.0
  - Archival databases
- Archive 3.0
  - The animated archive
These are the remains of The Dante Hotel.
Strange Culture, 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audio</th>
<th>Visual</th>
<th>Digital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 x 2” master tapes</td>
<td>3 x reels of film</td>
<td>77 x 3¼” floppies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 x Ampex 456 ¼” master tapes</td>
<td>26 x Betamax cassettes</td>
<td>60 x Zip discs</td>
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<tr>
<td>243 x audio cassettes</td>
<td>202 x VHS cassettes</td>
<td>9 x SyQuest cartridges</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 x Digital Audio Tapes</td>
<td>6 x Umatic cassettes</td>
<td>177 x CD-Rs</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 x Mini discs</td>
<td>87 x camcorder cassettes</td>
<td>AppleMac, MacBook and external hard drives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62 x Mini DVDs</td>
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