

## **University of Missouri – Program Equipment Plans**

### **WGBH Educational Foundation: Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship**

Faculty and students in the Library & Information Science (LIS) Program at the University of Missouri collaborated throughout 2018 on successful participation in the Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship (PBPF), led by WGBH Educational Foundation. We anticipate expanding on the solid foundations established by our Spring and Summer Fellows with KOPN audio collections in years to come. Here we outline efforts to integrate PBPF lessons and insights into current curricular offerings at the graduate level, and intended directions for continuing to expand audiovisual archival education at MU and broadly.

Archival Practice, taught by Professor Sarah Buchanan (Faculty Advisor) is a graduate-level course first offered in fall 2017. In Archival Practice, we introduce particular professional activities with an emphasis on comprehending their interconnectedness and skillsets involved at diverse archival settings. Of note, both Fellows completed the course and its original research paper component – helpful preparation for Immersion Week. During this semester, Buchanan and Professors Denice Adkins, Jenny Bossaller, and Heather Moulaison-Sandy discussed other courses described below where PBPF topics could be integrated, and secured space for our digitization station. Buchanan and Moulaison-Sandy, along with Host Mentor Jackie Casteel (KOPN Community Radio) attended the first Immersion Week, and we found it exceedingly useful to begin strategizing about KOPN's ¼" (magnetic, polyester) tapes and our campus agenda amidst the supportive environment of our PBPF colleagues.

Archival Practice is one of three courses in the Archival Studies specialization within the MLIS degree program. The three courses meet specific components of SAA's GPAS (Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies, 2016) and MU LIS Program's Student Learning Outcomes, 2016, and were designed in sequence prior to the start of the PBPF – with space in each to accommodate planned modules about PBPF topics. Such that when this course was next offered in Fall 2018, Buchanan led a more in-depth class discussion about working with audiovisual file formats. Select material was informed by our third PBPF Webinar of 19 April with four NDSR Residents on digital file formats. Student questions about preserving originals, baking tapes, and the AMS (Archival Management System) metadata ingest process greatly informed the portion of our cohort Digital Preservation 2018 conference presentation on the faculty perspective.

Appraisal & Archival Systems, taught in spring 2018, assesses systems of/in archival work. We introduced MLIS students to our equipment while learning how to create archival records with ArchivesSpace, in part informed by our second PBPF Webinar of 15 March on documentation, and will continue this practice.

We acquired a 1984 Studer A807 reel-to-reel full-track mono recorder deck and a Studer B67 two-track stereo recorder (for which SISLT provides a PC /USB 3.0 and Mac respectively, with Audacity, FFmpeg, and MediaInfo software), two Behringer UMC404HD converters with cables, a pinch roller for repairing KOPN's B67, 7.5 and 3.75 ips calibration/test tapes, 7" and 10.5" tape reels, splicing kit, demagnetizer, magnetic viewer, a food dehydrator, aluminum flashlight, headphones, cleaning supplies, and external storage with our PBPF funds, and set up our digitization station in spaces 12-14 of SISLT's Allen Institute. Many of KOPN's earliest, original women's music programs were recorded in mono, with post-1980 broadcasts in stereo. Visits by our Local Mentor Jim Hone on 20 February and 2 July ensured our playback systems were optimally configured, connected, and modulated, including mic and line level inputs, for audio capture.

Our Society of American Archivists at University of Missouri Student Chapter (SAAMUSC, est. spring 2017) serves the important role of connecting LIS graduate students to the archival profession. A corps of student leaders pursued several activities in its first full year, including campus tours, speaker events, and participation at SAA 2017 and 2018. SAAMUSC hosted our Audio Preservation Workshop at our digitization station on 2 August 2018: our Summer Fellow acquainted attendees, including University Archives colleagues, with our project and the in-progress delivery of 14 (spring) and 77 (summer) digitized tape files to WGBH. SAAMUSC leaders also spoke at the SISLT Spring Conference on 7 April about PBPF (presentation titled "Old News: AV Preservation Training with KOPN"). We see

many continuing opportunities, especially with brochure collections at SHSMO and time-based Missouri public media, to integrate PBPF digitization work with the ongoing program planning and professional development focus of SAAMUSC.

In the fall 2018 initial offering of Data & Records Management, we were fortunate to again have in class both our Spring and Summer Fellow. During a synchronous class session (for both Columbia and online students), we met at our PBPF digitization station, and our Fellow ably and enthusiastically led discussion about handling, organizing, inventorying, cleaning, describing, digitizing, and converting audio files while demonstrating the activities using our mono and stereo equipment decks and computer software. The fellow Fellow, participating with our online students via Zoom, offered further specifics about stereo recording and balancing levels (most controls are doubled), and answered classmates' questions as a prospective AV archivist. Our success here encourages us to continue structuring at least one class session in each Archival Studies course around the station, given students' enthusiasm for spending quality time experientially learning the basics of new equipment, eagerness to apply readings to the logistics of audiovisual preservation, and perspectives on the value and maintenance of community partnerships.

Students in Metadata (ISLT 9429) will apply information about the standards taught during Immersion Week to study metadata for organization of AV materials. Digital Libraries (ISLT 9409) students will use the PBPF projects as examples of cutting-edge work in the field. Introduction to Information Technology (ISLT 7301) will use the projects to demonstrate the evolutionary nature of technology and the need for consideration in both format and content preservation. Diversity in Librarianship (ISLT 9410) may use the curriculum developed in service projects relating to preserving multicultural heritage materials such as recordings, home movies, or other audiovisual materials, and similarly Community Partnerships (ISLT 9412), in outreach projects with the public library. Digital Humanities (ISLT 9439) will address insights from our PBPF work. We required that our Fellows had completed Collection and Access Management (ISLT 7313) where students become versed in all aspects of collections work and maintenance, including the technicalities of acquisitions and description.

Related to expanding the place of audiovisual learning in archival education, we were pleased to present our initial program deliverables to large audiences at the 2018 SAA Research Forum and the Audio and Moving Image Section joint Meeting in Washington, D.C. this August. There, archival faculty colleagues also presented on AV skills, and we as a PBPF program anticipate contributing to their research as it develops as well as related study of the use of GPAS in archival syllabi and teaching, possibly cooperating via AERI (Archival Education & Research Institutes). Professor Buchanan plans to expand on a PBPF poster presented at college Research Day 2018 with a colloquium on diverse storytelling with our AAPB Special Collection.

The LIS Program will be participating in a College-wide expansion of undergraduate course offerings, via subject-area curricula within the Bachelor of Educational Studies encompassing creation, preservation, and storage of analog and digital media (files), and our popular course Information Use and Student Success (ISLT 1111). The BES degree, offered by the College of Education, serves the needs of people working in educational support capacities (e.g., adult education, coaching, organizational leadership).

In summary, we will continue to center audiovisual archives and our PBPF digitization station in several graduate-level courses offered as part of the MLIS degree at MU. Such courses include three in our Archival Studies specialization (Archival Practice; Appraisal & Archival Systems; Data & Records Management), Collection and Access Management, Introduction to Information Technology (both required), Metadata, and Community Partnerships among others. We will introduce both undergraduate students and students in adjacent MU colleges to AV archiving as ongoing efforts make possible, with respect for our students' time and labor. We will continue to coordinate events and programming with our SAA Student Chapter to make frequent use of our PBPF digitization station, and sustain our partnership with KOPN Community Radio.