

Digital heritage: Preserving and sharing Saskatchewan's Music

The **Saskatchewan Music Collection (SMC)** is Canada's most comprehensive collection of music from the province of Saskatchewan. The SMC digitization project is an initiative of the University of Saskatchewan Library to digitally share this collection with the wider music community. The digital collection will allow interested scholars and community members the opportunity to access streaming audio, sheet music, texts and images online.

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History of Saskatchewan Music Collection

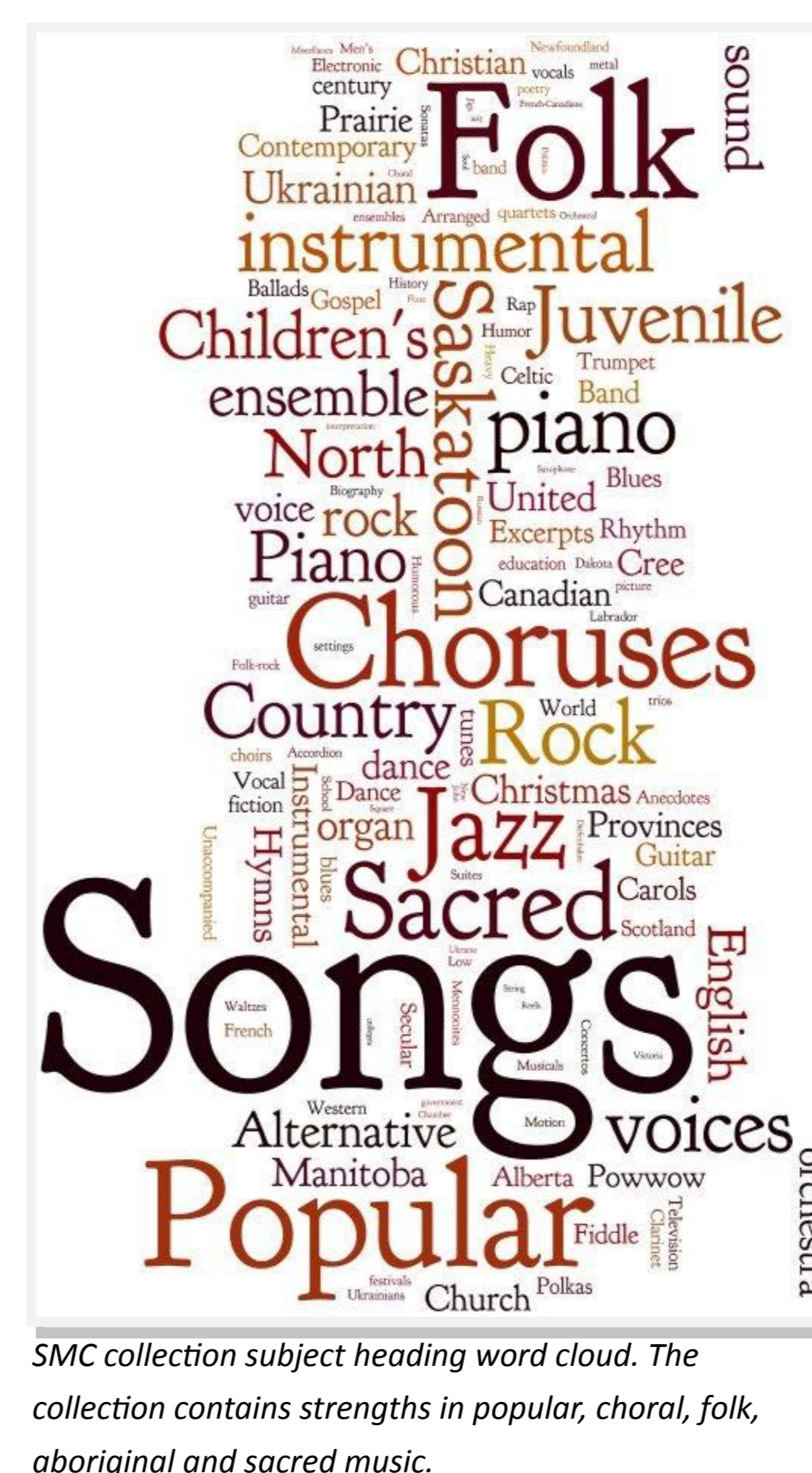
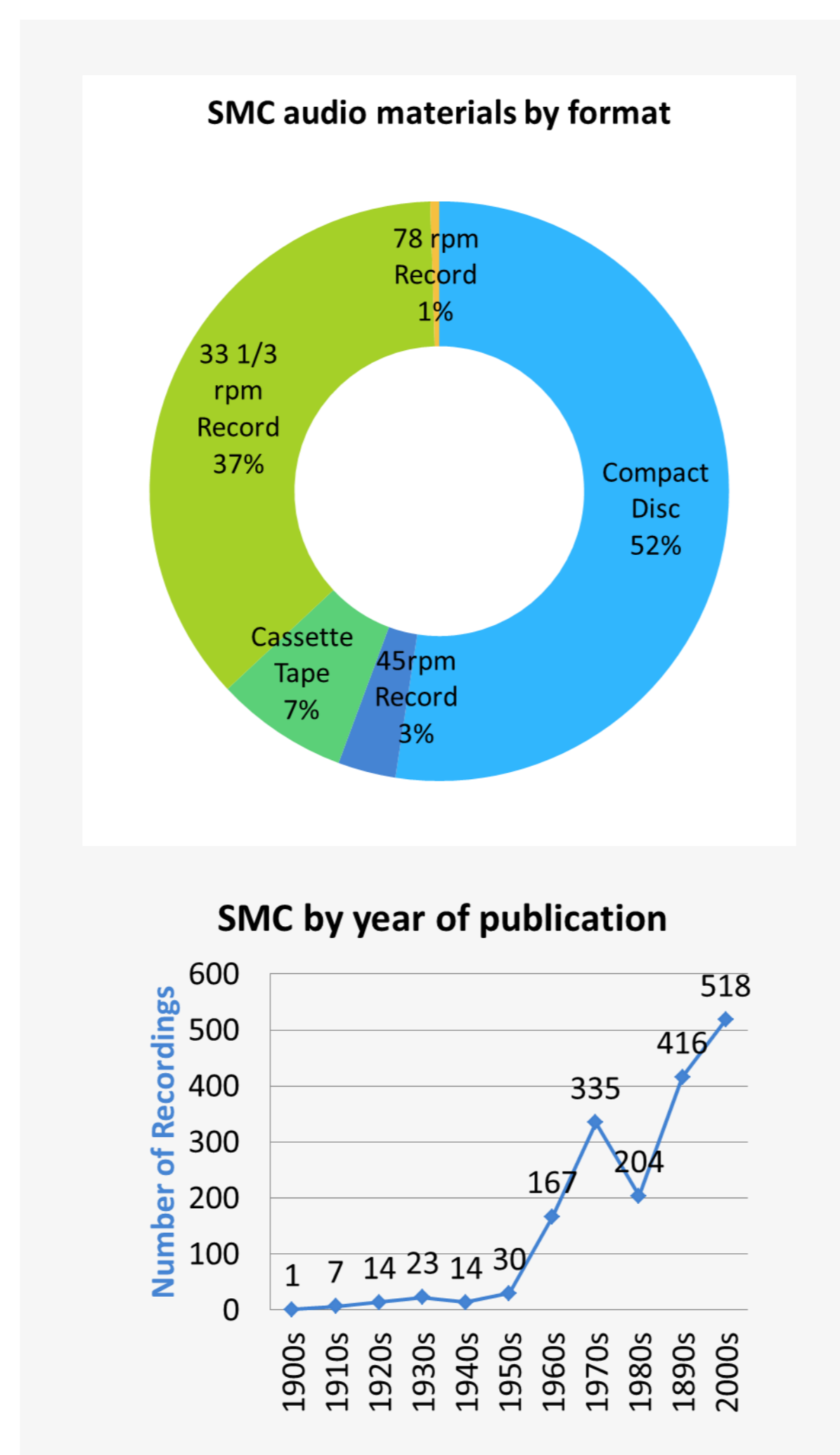
The SMC began due to the eclectic interests of one University of Saskatchewan employee who donated his personal collection of Saskatchewan music and ephemera to the University Library in 1997. The collection is currently housed in the Education and Music Library where patrons are able to listen to CDs, LPs and tapes. In order to increase access to the collection, a digitization project was proposed in 2010. Musically, the SMC provides evidence of reception of both the music and the artists, the trends and styles of a number of genres, and supports the Music Department's courses in popular music.

Collection Scope

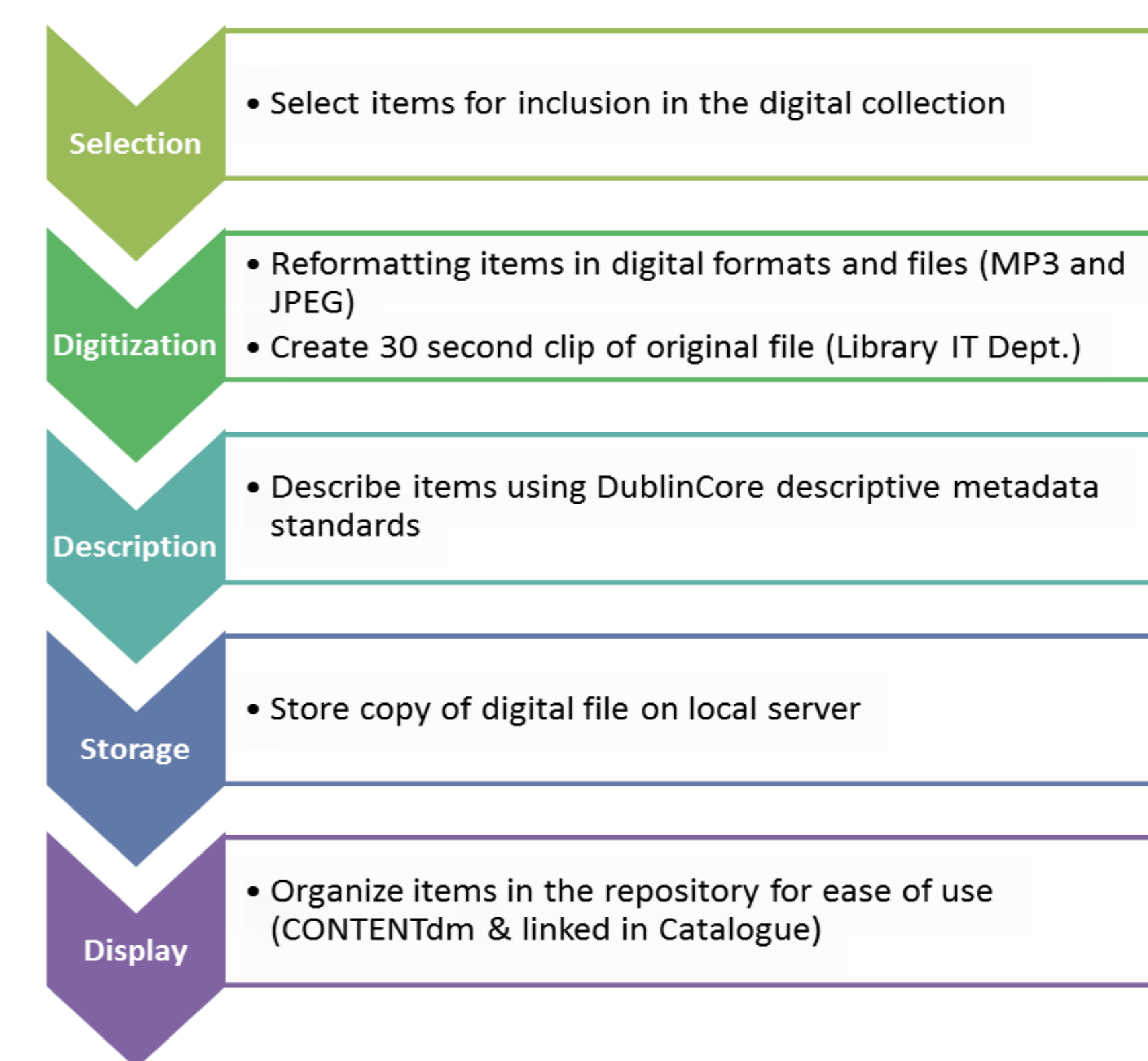
All items in the collection have a Saskatchewan connection including musical material written by, or performed by, or in some cases produced or recorded by, a person with a strong link to the province.

Collection Scope & Strengths

- Over 2000 items
- Concentration in sound recordings (45s, 78s, 33 1/3, CDs, and cassette tapes) and sheet music dating back to the early 1900s
- 100 items digitized and available online
- Strengths in popular, choral, aboriginal and sacred music



DIGITIZATION WORKFLOW



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS MANAGEMENT

The 30-second clip

At the time when the SMC digital collection was created, the 30-second clip was the subject of a Canadian court case that was brought by the music collectives against the use of such clips in iTunes and similar services without payment. The court ruled and the court of appeal agreed that the use of such clips in that context was fair dealing under the research purpose of customers deciding which recording to buy. In light of the non-commercial, educational aspect of the our use, it would seem that 30 second clips would also apply to this type of online access to audio.

Digitization Standards

"Knowing your purpose and expected outcome for users are two basics in getting started with a digital project, and both should inform your choice of technology and formats for creating content" (Make it Digital)



JPEG (images)

JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) is the most common image format used for storing and transmitting photographic images on the Web. JPEG uses lossy compression algorithm to provide faithful representation of the original image with economical use of space. (Wikipedia)



MP3 (audio)

MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer III) is an audio-specific format that uses a lossy compression algorithm designed to greatly reduce the amount of data required to faithfully represent the audio recording. When performing lossy audio encoding, there is a trade-off between the amount of space used and the sound quality of the result. (Wikipedia)

Metadata Standards

The **Dublin Core** Metadata standard was developed to describe and organize information resources in a digital environment. It consists of 15 fields known as the Dublin Core Metadata Element Set. Due to its simplicity and versatility, Dublin Core Metadata has been used from simple resource description to providing interoperability for metadata vocabularies.



Digital Collection Management Software

The selection of an appropriate repository software is influenced by factors including existing infrastructure, staff skills, budget, etc.

SMC Digitization facts:

- Over 1000 SMC albums have been digitized.
- 100 albums have been uploaded to the CONTENTdm platform, accessible through the USask OPAC for online use.
- OCLC's CONTENTdm is being used to manage, describe and provide access to the SMC digital collection.

<http://library.usask.ca/education/SaskMusic.php>



The digital SMC can be accessed online through computer or mobile browsers

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Pedagogical	Presentation	Collections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special projects by Music Graduate students • Integration into classroom activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online exhibit space • Digitization and hosting of complete digital collection • Special exhibit in University Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued acquisition of used and new items for inclusion in the collection. • Focus on development of classical genre materials.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- DigitalNZ. *Make It Digital*. <http://makeit.digitalnz.org/>
- Belford, Richard. 2007. "Building a Regional Music Collection: The Saskatchewan Experience" in CAMEL Review, Vol 35, No 1.
- SOCAN v. Bell – The 30-Second Preview: Infringement or Fair Dealing? <http://www.thecourt.ca/2012/01/30/10131/>
- Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative. 2009. Digitization Activities Project Planning and Management Outline. <http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov>
- Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada v. Bell Canada, 2010 FCA 123 (CanLII), <<http://canlii.ca/f/29rts>> retrieved on 2012-06-19
- ALA. 2010. Metadata Guidelines and Standards Related to Digital Audio. http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org/alcts/files/content/resources/preserv/audio_metadata.pdf