

Reel-to-Reel Digitization Workshop: August 2, 2018

I. Introduction

- A. The overall project
- B. The KOPN project
- C. Why this is important
- E. Encourage participants to ask questions, remind them I only have 2 months experience with this technology, let's learn together
- D. (if time permits) Find out where everyone is from and / or why they are interested in the workshop

II. Inventory / Appraisal / Cataloguing Demonstration

- A. Walkthrough of reel selection process
- B. Notes on reel cataloguing

III. Digitization Demonstrations

- A. Studer A807 (mono)
 - 1. explain the general setup with this machine, as it's the slightly simpler of the two tape machines
 - a. tape machine – behringer – computer : mention all auxiliaries, including headphones, speakers, external HD, etc.

- b. show the back of the tape machine, how it connects to the Behringer interface in one channel (this might be better as an image projection, as turning the heavy machine around is unwieldy)
2. Demonstrate the tape playback-to-generate (Audacity) digitization
 - a. show the VU and Audacity levels and explain what they mean
 - b. Listen to the recording on external speakers so everyone can hear
3. (if time permits) Listen to other examples of recently generated recordings
4. (if time permits) let the participants try their hand at digitizing

B. Studer B67 (stereo)

1. Differences in setup: two channels instead of one, resulting in dual controls on the overbridge and control panel, also on the Behringer and in the recording software (Audacity), briefly explain the differences between stereo and mono, with two pre-prepared audio examples if possible
2. Demonstrate the tape playback-to-generate (Audacity) digitization: this time let the workshop participants pick the example
 - a. show the VU and Audacity levels and explain what they mean, how they differ from the mono
 - b. Listen to the recording on external speakers so everyone can hear
3. (if time permits) Listen to other examples of recently generated recordings

4. (if time permits) let the participants try their hand at digitizing

IV. Cleaning and maintenance demonstration: briefly show how all the cleaning equipment is used on the machine, after each reel and each session. If time permits, demo the de-magnifier. If not, show and briefly explain the de-magnifier. Show and briefly explain the tape dehydrator.

V. Processing Demonstration

1. Spreadsheet demo

2. AMS / Mint demo

3. Checksums / File transfer demo

4. Conclude this section with mentioning the external HD, possible thoughts on digitization and transfer across media and through time

VI. Problems encountered corner: begin with a brief discussion of how magnetic tape works physically: the binding, the magnetic molecular arrangement of iron oxide fixed by that binding (this is the section where a magnetic viewer would come in handy)

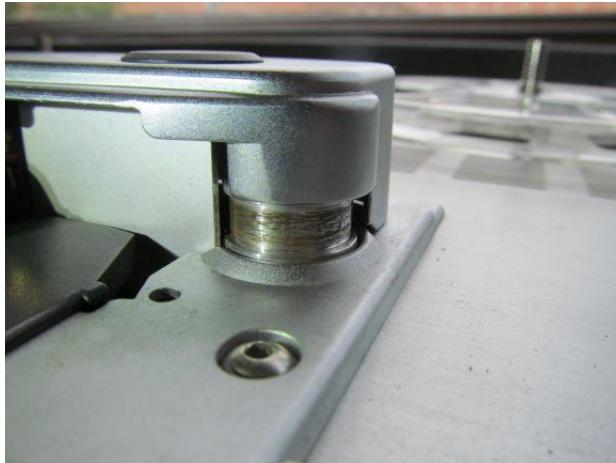
1. Stickyshed Syndrome: explain reasons, show images, play audio example

2. Print-through AKA Bleedthrough: explain reasons, play audio example

3. Crossstalk : explain reasons, play audio example

VI: Conclusion: Make concluding remarks about digitally preserving at-risk audio, if time permits and is appropriate, share a choice audio clip digitized during the project that the group will appreciate, perhaps an audio example of an earlier point made by a participant or coalesced from the group

Images of sticky shed used during workshop (all from the MU digitization station unless otherwise indicated):





(Above image from “Sticky-shed syndrome in Audiotapes” from Archivist Apprenticeship, <https://archivistapprenticeship.wordpress.com/2017/12/13/sticky-shed-syndrome-in-audiotapes/>).





(Above image from “Magnetic Tape Binder Breakdown”, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Preservation Self-Assessment Program, <https://psap.library.illinois.edu/collection-id-guide/softbindersyn>).

