

6 April 2009

Librarians Association of the University of California
Research & Professional Development Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to request \$500 in travel funds to present as a panel speaker at the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) annual conference. The conference will take place in Athens, Greece from 20-25 September 2009, and I was notified this past Friday of the acceptance of my proposal. An abstract for my presentation, titled *Hybridity is the Future: Negotiating Life as an Archive-Library*, is attached.

The \$500 in Professional Development funding I am requesting from LAUC will help offset the total cost of attending and presenting at the IASA conference, including the costs of airfare and registration fees:

Budget Item	Cost	Notes
Airfare: r/t LAX – AHN	\$834	lowest available rate quoted by Travelocity.com, 5 April 2009
Conference Early Registration Fee	\$295 (€220)	
TOTAL	\$1129	

I am a member of the bargaining unit represented by the UC-AFT. I have not yet requested funds from other sources but plan to do so in the coming days; one such source is the IASA travel grant, which covers a portion of travel expenses for conference attendance.

Thank you for your consideration of my funding request. Please contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Bittel
Archivist-Librarian
UCLA Ethnomusicology
Archive

Title

Hybridity is the Future: Negotiating Life as an Archive-Library

Presenter

Aaron M. Bittel, Archivist-Librarian, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive

Abstract

One way to understand the existence of a hybrid repository -- one which balances library, archive, and (at times) museum identities -- is as a bundle of functions uniquely matched to the needs of its various constituencies. These functions are often centered around specialized collections that serve niche communities. But in light of current trends among information organizations (particularly the restructuring of university libraries), is this model ahead of its time, or is it anachronistic? A repository that is so highly focused can seem out of place in an era when libraries are exchanging reference collections for coffee shops, and specialist research librarians are being retrained as generalists. In many institutions consolidation is the order of the day; yet there is much value in being small and agile enough to quickly adapt the shifting paradigms of the information world to the needs of specific user groups.

This presentation will discuss the existence and roles of audiovisual repositories as they relate to practices of hybridity and consolidation. In this discussion the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive will serve as a case study of the specialized hybrid repository. The presentation will incorporate research on the founding and early history of the Archive, an analysis of the roles it has played throughout its history, and some observations on its current and future existence in the context of rapidly changing university and information environments. Questions to be addressed include:

- Where has this hybridity been successful, and where could it be improved upon?
- What are audiovisual archives doing now to manage the flux between analogue and digital content, between on-site and on-line delivery, and between library, archive and museum roles?
- How has hybridity impacted or been impacted by the need to balance copyright with access and preservation imperatives, competing descriptive and organizational schemes, and funding issues?
- Where does this particular formulation fit within current trends among information organizations?

Because hybridity has been the past, present and future reality for the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive since its founding, this discussion aims to envision one possible direction that could be taken by other specialized audiovisual repositories as they navigate today's landscape.