DMA Acquisitions Policy

The Digital Media Archive (DMA), currently housed in room 005 of the Social Science Research Building (SSRB), will be transferred to the University Archives (UA) in ca. FY2014–2015 as outlined in the Library-DMA Memorandum of Understanding. The University Archives’ Collection Development policy guided the Library’s initial decision to accept this transfer.

This policy will aid staff and faculty in the Division of the Humanities when assessing what should be added to the DMA Collection, whether housed in SSRB or in the Library. University Archives will accept all items that the DMA Steering Committee has evaluated and deemed worthy of inclusion. (In the University Archives each additional transfer to the DMA Collection in the UA is known an "accession.")

Digitization, Archiving, and Online Accessibility

The DMA Acquisitions policy covers digitization services only as related to the long-term preservation, archiving, and accessibility of donated collections. All items acquired by the DMA per this policy will be deposited in the DMA until they are transferred to the University Archives or deposited directly in the University Archives, digitized as needed, and made available in the DMA online database to the extent permitted by intellectual property and ethical rights restrictions. Items submitted to the DMA for digitization only are subject to the DMA Digitization Policy.

Parameters

Based on the following parameters, acceptance of new materials into the DMA Collection will be determined by the DMA Director in consultation with the DMA Steering Committee Chair. Materials that fall outside the following parameters will be presented to the members of the DMA Steering Committee for further review and discussion.

1. Depositor Affiliation
   • Whether the depositor is a University faculty member, graduate student, or other faculty-sponsored affiliate, and/or whether the materials are related to a University-sponsored research project.

2. Content
   • The content of the recordings fits within the identity of the DMA Collection in that it includes research audio, video, or other data related to language and/or ethnographic music research (including supporting multimedia cultural materials such as field notes, biographical material, transcripts).
     • While there is no restriction by sub-field or geographic area, items relating to endangered languages, linguistic fieldwork, Mesoamerican linguistics, and other emphases of the UChicago Linguistics Department or Music Department—past, present, or future—are particularly welcome.
   • The depositor provides a description of the content to meet the minimal DMA metadata requirement, including any documentary materials associated with the project.
   • The depositor can confirm the rights status of the recorded content and/or recording itself, or it can be determined by the depositor in consultation with the DMA Steering Committee at the time of deposit.
     • This includes both the intellectual property rights of the depositor as well as the ethical rights of speakers and communities of speakers.

3. Medium
   • Recordings in most urgent need of preservation will be given precedence.
   • All media—analogue or digital, audio or video—are acceptable.
     • Ideally, new deposits to the DMA will be digitized and already converted into archival audio/video formats. For details, see the DMA Acquisitions Guidelines.
     • If new analog media are proposed for inclusion into the DMA without accompanying funds for digitization, the DMA Steering Committee will evaluate the feasibility of underwriting the digitization costs in relationship to the size of the project and the intellectual, pedagogical, or historical value of the materials.
   • Supplementary non-audio materials (field notes, forms, tables, etc.) will be accepted if the depositor provides clear indications regarding their relationship to other media and/or how the information will help to enrich the collection; for guidance on acceptable file formats, see the DMA Acquisitions Guidelines.