

How is intellectual property management relevant to audiovisual archival practice? Legal and ethical issues

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Intellectual property (IP) issues play an important role in the core activities of curators and archivists. In this context, WIPO's Creative Heritage Project is developing resources and practical tools for the strategic management of IP rights and interests by archives and other collecting institutions, and in particular, when documenting, digitizing and disseminating elements of intangible cultural heritage.

Examples of such resources and practical tools include, amongst others, surveys on practical experiences with IP in the archival practices of institutions and of indigenous and local communities, a searchable database of codes, policies and practices, a draft compendium on IP management for museums, archives and libraries and mediation and arbitration services that WIPO offers, and their possible utility in resolving disputes that may arise in relation to the preservation of and access to archival materials.

This short presentation will thus touch base on these IP issues and present some examples ('good practices') of how such issues are managed by archives and other collecting institutions around the world. Reference will be made to both conventional IP issues (principally copyright and related rights) as well as to IP questions around the protection of "traditional" knowledge and cultural expressions.