

The 'digital butterfly net' of ethnomusicologists and its impact on audiovisual archiving

Gisa Jaehnichen, Universiti Putra Malaysia

The paper discusses the changing self-understanding of ethnomusicologists from enthusiasts pioneering in forgotten areas of the world to a species of networking researchers using all facilities of the World Wide Web and audiovisual databases. Aside from some unclear interpretations of user rights, there are important ethical challenges to observe, which are based on a fast re-positioning of humanities in the actual field of scientific efficiency. What will remain from the sublime discoverer's attitude and what will be the substance of another quality in ethnomusicological research? Talking about the "digital butterfly" we should focus on what do we call a "butterfly" and how does it change its shape rather than re-examine its digital being. Finally we have to restudy our supposed universally valid parameters of "scientific efficiency" from different viewpoints and we should become aware of prospective demands, which need to be met by audiovisual archivists and ethnomusicologists in their socio-functional context.