

## **Compass course - safeguarding. Navigating new policy waters in a new archival archipelago**

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In this paper I will present and discuss the changing situation for archives with audio-visual folk music collections in Sweden. On an international as well as a national level, convergence of memory institutions (archives, museums and libraries) is encouraged at present. The Swedish Centre for Folk Music and Jazz Research, which I represent, is going through this process right now. This has led to a decrease in our ability to act independently and our possibility to work according to our own priorities. On a regional level, we have in Sweden, during the last decade, witnessed a new wave of setting up regional folk music archives. These institutions ambitions about creating their own original collections vary, and they are often focused on making collections from their region accessible locally. When a relatively large government initiative started in 2006 to decrease unemployment among academics by making culture-historical collections more accessible, funds were allocated partly based on regional concerns. As a result, several regional institutions got funding for in-house digitisation of recordings with music from their areas. A huge part of these tapes are kept in our archive. This process changed the more common centripetal movement of collections - from the periphery to a central institution with some resources - to a centrifugal movement where outsourced digitisation has become a new possibility for safeguarding parts of the collections, due to allocation of resources outside of the central archives. This new situation also affects our possibility to select and prioritise the digitisation of our collections, and it partly changes the role of the archive: from safeguarding through in-house digitisation to safeguarding by commissioning outsourced digitisation.