

Preserving and promoting South Africa's Audio-visual Heritage: the role of the National Film, Video and Sound Archives

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This presentation I will aim amongst others at outlining the role played by the National Film, Video and Sound Archives in preserving and promoting South Africa's audio-visual heritage. This will be presented in line with the broader mandate of the National Archives and Records Service which is to foster national identity and to ensure the protection of rights, stems from the recognition that the racialised fragmentation of South African identity and the violation of rights, which had characterized the Apartheid political system, needed to be redressed in order for a post-apartheid democratic social order become entrenched within the broader vision of the national Department of Arts and Culture. This presentation will further focus on access to and use of the material kept by NFVSA. This will be done through practical examples of the work done by the different sections of NFVSA; namely Clients Services and Special Projects, Film and Video, Legal Deposit and the Sound Preservation (which I am responsible for). This will also detail the relationships which exist between NFVSA and other institutions within the country, as part of the role this institution is supposed to play. As part of the role and work done by NFVSA, mention of the role NFVSA has played in training audio-visual archivists from the region and Africa. This is within the idea of assisting and guiding other institutions in our continent towards a move closer to international and archival practices set by IASA and other organizations. I will in conclusion make mention of the significant role which NFVSA plays, not only in South Africa but in the continent of addressing and meeting preservation standards and moreover share the skills acquired by its staff with other institutions.