

Best practice for online delivery of ethnomusicological field recordings

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In March 2009 the British Library launched the second phase of its Archival Sound Recording project. This large digitisation project (funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee) aimed to present via the internet, among other things, approximately 25,000 unpublished field recordings of traditional music from England and abroad. This short presentation will describe the learning curve and outcomes of our attempts to establish workable methods for legal and ethical inclusion of this large body of material for worldwide distribution. In part it will focus on issues relating to the politics of cultural repatriation of the material back into communities (both in England and abroad).