

Acquisition Ethics

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Every collection that an audiovisual archive acquires comes with a history. Many acquisitions are straightforward. But occasionally archives become the custodians and curators of collections that include, for example, materials obtained without permissions of rights-holders or having encumbrances that make access difficult. In order to facilitate a discussion of the resulting issues, this presentation will provide examples of acquisitions that have raised ethical concerns as archives try to balance their responsibilities simultaneously to the creators of the materials, to the donors, and to the end users, seeking both to preserve materials and make them available.