

## **Hybridity is the Future: Negotiating Life as an Archive-Library**

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One way to understand the existence of a hybrid repository - one which balances library, archive, and (at times) museum identities - is as a bundle of functions uniquely matched to the needs of its various constituencies. These functions are often centered around specialized collections that serve niche communities. But in light of current trends among information organizations (particularly the restructuring of university libraries), is this model ahead of its time, or is it anachronistic? A repository that is so highly focused can seem out of place in an era when libraries are exchanging reference collections for coffee shops, and specialist research librarians are being retrained as generalists. In many institutions consolidation is the order of the day; yet there is much value in being small and agile enough to quickly adapt the shifting paradigms of the information world to the needs of specific user groups. This presentation will discuss the existence and roles of audiovisual repositories as they relate to practices of hybridity and consolidation. In this discussion the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive will serve as a case study of the specialized hybrid repository. The presentation will incorporate research on the founding and early history of the Archive, an analysis of the roles it has played throughout its history, and some observations on its current and future existence in the context of rapidly changing university and information environments. Questions to be addressed include: - Where has this hybridity been successful, and where could it be improved upon? - What are audiovisual archives doing now to manage the flux between analogue and digital content, between on-site and on-line delivery, and between library, archive and museum roles? - How has hybridity impacted or been impacted by the need to balance copyright with access and preservation imperatives, competing descriptive and organizational schemes, and funding issues? - Where does this particular formulation fit within current trends among information organizations? Because hybridity has been the past, present and future reality for the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive since its founding, this discussion aims to envision one possible direction that could be taken by other specialized audiovisual repositories as they navigate today's landscape.