

Digitization of audio archives - The Greek experience

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The digitization and preservation of the archives of a country constitute a necessary and very important procedure against the current trend of the globalization marked by its homogeneity and its lack of specific cultural characteristics, the musical audio archives capturing the particular attracting elements of cultural and creative music of a large historical period. Simultaneously, the new opportunities in terms of valorization and exploitation for educational, commercial or other purposes opening for the information society require a well planned and correctly digitized audio archives. In this regard, we explore the Greek experience through the partial or complete digitization of a very important Greek audio archives, as for example the archives of the Hellenic Radio, the Musical Folklore Archives, the audio archives of Giannis Christou, M. Hatzidakis, M. Kalomiris, Simona Kara, the archives of various discographic companies and many others. The particularities of each archive, the different formats used, the different methods of realization of the projects, the technical problems that aroused, and their solutions, will all be mentioned, as will be the efforts produced for a new filing system and the organization of metadata. The " digitization quality " of an audio archive will be particularly mentioned, a parameter which is not considered seriously enough, even though it answers to the question of whether the audio archive has been digitized correctly or not, whether we have captured the entire information included in the original material, which is the fundamental and mandatory criteria that decides if the document has a historical value for the future generation. Finally, a connection of the «digitization quality» with the future treatment will take place in view of the " restoration " optimization.