

## **Report of International Summer School at the Hochschule der Medien Stuttgart, Germany**

### **Workshop Music in Digital Libraries and Archives (03-08 May 2010)**

Lecturers: Jürgen Diet, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich  
and Silke Sewing, Deutsches Musikarchiv, Leipzig

Last May, the Summer School course in *Music in Digital Libraries and Archives* was held at Stuttgart Media University (Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart), Germany. For three participants, including the representative of the Dominican Republic, their presence was made possible through sponsoring from the organization BI-International that partly funded their attendance.

The Summer School forms part of the master course on Library and Information Management taught at Stuttgart Media University.

The Summer School course *Music in Digital Libraries and Archives* was composed of 19 chapters, which were held from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May until Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of May, from 9 am to 5 pm. The course curriculum was as follows:

- 1 **Welcome and Organization** (Diet)
- 2 **Introduction to Digital Music Libraries** (Diet)
- 3 **Digital Music Formats** (Diet)
- 4 **The Virtual Library of Musicology** (Diet)
- 5 **Entity-Relationship-Modeling** (Diet)
- 6 **Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Records** (Diet)
- 7 **The Probado-Project** (Diet)
- 8 **The Variations-Project**
- 9 **Digital Music Distribution** (Diet)
- 10 **The Project SoundDirections** (Diet)
- 11 **The Competence Network "nestor"** (Diet)
- 12 **Long-term Preservation Activities at the Bavarian State Library** (Diet)
- 13 **Audio Material in Europeana** (Diet)
- 14 **Digitization and Preservation of Analogue Material (Vinyl, 78s, Cylinders, etc.)** (Sewing)
- 15 **The Problematic CD-family** (Sewing)
- 16 **Long-term Preservation** (Sewing)

- 17 **Metadata and Persistent Identifiers** (Sewing)
- 18 **The Theseus-Projects Contentus and Alexandria** (Sewing)
- 19 **A License Model from Denmark** (Sewing)

The course was organized in an excellent manner and of high academic standards of both the lecturers and the participants, who were representatives from Canada, Croatia, England, Estonia, Finland, Kenya, Poland, South Africa, and the Dominican Republic. In their presentations, the participants discussed their respective professional experience, current projects and expectations on the course.

The course was comprehensive and gave an updated overview of the current status of digitization, with emphasis on the various formats with music content, its usage and major projects worldwide. All the information was distributed through the Moodle system, a valuable e-learning tool to help academic education. Each chapter provided information on digital media and some printed resources.

The course included visits to the music departments of the Wurttemberg State Library and Stuttgart City Library. At Wurttemberg State Library, we could appreciate the technological advances of its digitizing area, and the importance they give to digitization projects and the creation of digital libraries.

The findings suggest that the digitization of content and not just a tool that contributes to the preservation of the original documents because they minimize handling and the risks that are involved, but also as the digitization of information through retrieval systems information, and for music pattern recognition, form an increasingly large network of knowledge, more accessible to people anywhere in the world.

With digital content, projects of training and distance training can be carried out, the known repositories for information organization and access, studies in various academic and research levels. Through the digitization of content and of course after its organization, processing and systematization increasingly expand their usage and benefits within the paradigms of information society. Once again the least developed countries are in debt to provide time and organize content, but no doubt these technologies are increasingly at hand, though not in recent generations.

This course presented the most significant and important projects, as well as solutions to small and less developed institutions. It revealed that the important thing is to have the vocation and the spirit to start undertaking such projects.

Developing countries, coincidentally suffering from the most hostile climates for the preservation of documents, are most at risk of losing their heritage and the least likely to spread these techniques, so it is important to allocate part of resources to promote these types of projects and seek funding and partnerships through projects of cooperation and collaboration. Libraries and archives are in a race against time, as they do not only have to digitize documents which are older than 50 years or a century, but also need to digitize documents as recent as CD and DVD which do not have the longevity they claimed to have when they emerged.

Without doubt it was a course of great value, which gives the Biblioteca Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña tools to encourage the development of their digital collections and the creation of their art and music rooms, and their media library. With the strengthening and balancing of this type of project in the BNPHU they could undertake projects not only nationwide, but with a greater vision of cooperation among the various Caribbean countries, a possibility which will help to position the BNPHU as one of the leading libraries in the area and the continent.

This report may serve as a thank you to the altruistic work of the organization BI-International through its cooperative projects, the participation of people from less developed countries and most in need of these tools. Thanks also to all those who participated in organizing this important event, lecturers and all participants who were there to receive and contribute their knowledge and receive the knowledge of others, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lic. Rolando Delgado Miranda  
Biblioteca Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
Santo Domingo, May 14, 2010