



Role of Libraries in Music



Dr. Kaushal Chauhan

Librarian, MDS College, Ambala City

Abstract

Music libraries preserve recordings and digitized scores or literature in a variety of electronic formats. They are the dedicated part of their duties to digitizing parts of their collection and maintaining digital files. The library community has the potential to play an influential leadership role in shaping the music publishing life cycle, making scores more readily discoverable and accessible, and establishing itself as a force that empowers a wide range of creativity and scholarship. This Paper is an attempt to provide the information of music libraries in India and abroad. In addition, this article will help research scholars about these libraries. This paper mainly focuses on libraries and Music, Library Facilities on Music, Best Music Libraries around the World, Best Music Libraries in India followed by Role of Librarians and suggestions. This paper is a discussion of roles and factors of libraries contributed in music till this moment and it also suggests the critical next steps by the academic library community can be played for the influential results together with people associated with music.

Keywords: Library, Music, Library and Music, Libraries and Music, Librarian and Music, Music Libraries

Research Paper

Introduction

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the establishment of conservatories created a need for music collections that supported learning at those institutions, while the proliferation of classification schemes has given music a suitable position in academic collections. Librarianship for Music has grown alongside modern librarianship, but with more unique, dedicated facilities for materials. The impact of electronic books and databases literature on musical scores has been scarcer, reflecting the format's state of integration into library collections with electronic sheet music publishing on the rise.

Libraries and Music

Libraries are positioned at the focal point of creative production, music publishing, performance, and research. Libraries collect and preserve materials related to various disciplines. They contain print collections include dictionaries and encyclopedias, indexes and directories, printed music, music serials, bibliographies, and other music literature. The current environment of video sharing sites like YouTube, and direct to consumer digital music distribution models, presents challenges to academic music libraries (Kirstin Dougan). Music

libraries are the hopes of finding "that perfect piece of music" for a specific job or need. Music Users, Advertising Agencies, Film Directors, Composers, Scholars, and performers all make extensive use of library material for learning, analyzing and creating music. Libraries Collections may also include non-print materials, such as digitized music scores or audio recordings. Users also seek to compare editorial annotations, instructions, guidance, suggestions, and translations added to the musical notation, which are useful for realizing the score as well as for historical performance study (Scott, Rachel). Many academic libraries already support electronic text by providing scanners, content management, and software tools.

Library Facilities for Music

Libraries work as an interface between a population of heavy music and library material. A music library contains music-related materials for patron use. Collections may also include non-print materials, such as digitized music scores or audio recordings. Use of such materials may be limited to specific patron groups, especially in private academic institutions. Libraries take several forms, and often are maintained as a part of a larger collection or institution. The nature of a music library facility depends heavily on the role of the library

within its parent institution. In colleges or universities where music is only one aspect of academic focus, the music collection may be integrated into the greater library system, or a separate collection from the main library. Performance music libraries serve a unique function and are often housed with performance spaces. Many music libraries in the process of digitization have facilities for such services.

Best Music Libraries around the World

- **Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, USA** <https://www.nypl.org/> The Music & Recorded Sound Division is one of the world's preeminent music collections, documenting the art of music in all its diversity, classical and opera as well as the whole spectrum of popular music including spirituals, ragtime, jazz, musical theater, film, rock and world music. While the division contains many scores and manuscripts from centuries past, its curatorial mandate is an activist one, placing major emphasis on capturing the creative output of contemporary composers. Recent collections of note include the papers of Jerry Bock, John Cage, Meredith Monk and Lou Reed. A vital center for music scholars and students having Resources available for study free of charge including: Printed Books, Scores, and Periodicals; Clippings and Programs; Iconography; Archival Collections; Autograph Music Manuscripts; Sheet Music; Electronic Resources; Class Visits etc.
- **The British Library Sound Archive, United Kingdom** <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> The British Library is continuing to experience disruption following a cyber-attack. As with other departments, access to the sound archive's resources, and the services we are able to offer, have been affected. Most online systems, such as the Sound and Moving Image catalogue and the Sounds website, are currently unavailable. At present, we do not have any information that suggests material archived in the sound archive has been affected. Teams across the Library are working hard to restore our systems and services and we will be making regular updates on recovery via website. The Library buildings are still open as usual, and Wi-Fi is now available again at both sites. The Sound and Vision Reference Team are open for your enquiries, but are not currently able to offer any access to our material through the Listening and Viewing service. Please use the email address given at the foot of this post. Visitors to our London site may enjoy the Sound Gallery on the Lower Ground Floor.
- **Columbia University Libraries:** <https://guides.library.columbia.edu/sasia-music/media/> Columbia University Library has various recordings of Indian music. To locate them, search the catalog with format set to "music recording." Here are a few representative recent acquisitions: Immortal music of the great master, God's own breath, Raga on flute, Flowers of Southern India: classical carnatic music, Footprints in the desert, Pandit Shankar Ghosh & Bickram Ghosh: classical instrumental, tabla duet, Gundecha Bandhu (Chorus group), Sacred chants of Jainism, South India: Music of the Nilgiri Hills, Indian ragas & medieval song: modal melodies from east to west, Hare Krishna, hare Rama: the mahamantra for higher consciousness, Tribute to M.S. Subbulakshmi, Hindustani Vocal, Nach Goa nach: Mande, Dulpods, Dekhanis, Kunnbis, Scintillating sounds of nadaswaram, Ranjishen: magnificent expression of ghazals, Khayal: classical vocal, The Living Room Sessions, Sufi kalam, The tribal rhapsodies [musical treasures of Rajasthani tribes].
- **Music Library, South Korea:** <https://www.gensler.com/projects/hyundai-card-music-library-understage/> this library comprising the Music Library home to one of the largest specialized music collections in the world and the understate an underground performance venue the project's design echoes the texture and imperfection of the analog media it celebrates. Material selections possess a timeless character and the ability to age naturally. Artworks by international street artists provide a fitting combination of grit and beauty that blend seamlessly with the modernity of the space.



- **Stuttgart City Library, Germany:** <https://www.archdaily.com/193568/stuttgart-city-library-yi-architects>. The opening ceremony for the new Stuttgart City Library by Yi Architects was on October 21, 2011. After winning a competition for the project in 1999, the new library for Stuttgart in southern Germany has finally been unveiled.

Music Libraries in India

- **National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA):** <https://www.ncpamumbai.com/> is to maintain the continuity of the great masters of Indian classical and folk music, dance and drama and to record and preserve the finest performances in these arts which were handed down through oral tradition over generations.
- **All India Radio** <https://prasarbharati.gov.in/> can be called as the National Audio Archive of the nation as it is the treasure house of precious recordings of more than 17,000 hours containing music and spoken word recordings in different categories. It is the largest library of Indian Music recordings.
- **The National Archives of India:** <https://www.nationalarchives.nic.in/> was established in Kolkata in 1891 as the Imperial Record Department, is the country's primary records repository. It is a custodian of the records of enduring value. It is the biggest archival repository in south asia. It has a vast corpus of records ViZ Public Records, Private Papers, Orient Records, Cartographic Records and Microfilms, which constitute an invaluable source of information for scholar and users of archives.
- **The National Museum, the National Archives, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art (IGNCA):** <https://ignca.gov.in/>
IGNCA contains important pieces of rich history and civilization. These structures are currently in need of modern facilities for a variety of reasons, including increased demand for space, the necessity for contemporary infrastructure, and the preservation of historic and rare antiques and important records. While planning this transition, great care has been taken to ensure that the heritage status of the existing structures is preserved while new projects are built around them.
- **Music Research Library** <http://musicresearchlibrary.net/omeka/about/> is a collection of publicly accessible and downloadable electronic resources related to Indian Music organized into various collections.

These include manuscripts, articles, books, periodicals, source texts and teaching resources.

- **Vijaya Parrikar Library** <https://www.parrikar.org/vpl/> The assets of the Vijaya Parrikar Library include excerpts of old recordings, most of them hard-to-find or unpublished. Many are documents of live performances and may not enjoy the kind of audio clarity obtained in a studio setting.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** <https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/library/>: The library of Sangeet Natak Akademi is a multilingual reference Library extensively used by the students, researchers, scholars and performers in the field of performing arts. It is one of the few specialized libraries of its kind in the country, and is enriched with books, journals, newspaper clippings, printed documents of Akademi Awardees and other performing artists, photographic and audio-visual resources. The library of Sangeet Natak Akademi is a multilingual reference Library extensively used by the students, researchers, scholars and performers in the field of performing arts. It is one of the few specialized libraries of its kind in the country, and is enriched with books, journals, newspaper clippings, printed documents of Akademi Awardees and other performing artists, photographic and audio-visual resources. Over the last sixty-seven years, the library has grown to be a centre for quality research, attracting Indian and foreign scholars, musicians, musicologists, film producers, theatre directors, choreographers, actors, folklorists, puppeteers, journalists and students in the field. It has been acknowledged in a considerable amount of published research in music, dance and drama. The Library receives about a hundred and fifty periodicals. Collection of the Library now stands at 25770 books in addition to 1970 received by way of gifts. The collection of the Audio-Visual Library now stands at 9844 discs; 761 pre-recorded cassettes from the archives of the Akademi; 92 video cassettes of dance, drama, and music; 1602 commercial audio cassettes; 183 gifted audio cassettes and 1142 compact discs (CDs); 103 gifted compact discs (CDs); 52 video compact discs (VCDs); 36 gifted video compact discs (VCDs) of Indian music; 22 DVDs and 61 gifted DVDs.
- **NDLI or National Digital Library of India** <http://project.ndl.gov.in/product-category/music/> is an initiative under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT). It has been developed by the Indian

Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP), under the aegis of the MoE, Govt. of India. It is a single window platform providing learning resources that make e-learning and education accessible to all. It brings digital repositories from India and the world to users of all demographics including E-Books, Albums and Singles etc.

- **Audio Sparx** <https://www.audiosparx.com/sa/about/default.cfm> is an industry-leading music library and stock audio web site that brings together a world of music and sound effects from thousands of independent music artists, producers, bands and publishers in a hot online marketplace. In operation since 1996, AudioSparx specializes in licensing high-quality audio content to clients in film and TV production, game production, ad agencies and others needing world-class audio cues for their productions and projects. With a vast library of audio content now exceeding 1,122,000 tracks, AudioSparx has become the definitive site of choice for stock audio.
- **National Virtual Library of India (NVL)** <http://rrrlf.nic.in/NML/NVLI.aspx> National Virtual Library of India subsequently Indian Culture Portal (ICP) (www.indiaculture.gov.in) were launched, which provide access towards various cultural information generated in India and about India. This information is accessible to the citizens through user friendly multilingual federated search interfaces. A number of web based information services have been conceived to make the best use of information technology. ICP is a platform for users from all sectors to seek cultural information through well researched services. Most people start with an about page that introduces them to potential site visitors. Information on the following domains is available in the Indian Culture Portal: Archival document, Audio Recording, Rare Books, Video Photo archive, Musical Instruments, Research Papers etc.

Role of Librarian

Librarian is a person who has a broad understanding of both music and librarianship. Librarian work is done with Music collection in a variety of settings. He/ She organize, catalogue, and maintain collections; select rare materials for acquisition; oversee preservation processes; answer reference inquiries; and teach people how to interact with the library. Librarians should also perform myriad other library maintenance tasks such as proper Knowledge of Music, Knowledge of Copyright Issues, Ability to Manage and Lead, Research Support

and Instructional Skills, Resource Identification, Organization, and Maintenance Skills, Access Services Skills, Technology Skills etc. Another leading role librarians can play involves the proper management of intellectual (Kimmyszeto). Most music librarians have an array of tasks to perform, depending on the nature of their collection and position. General duties include cataloging and reference, acquisition and collection development. It is common to specialize in one or more areas of music librarianship, particularly for work in special collections. Other helpful elements of a musician librarianship education may include learning the Library of Congress Classification System (LC) or the Dewey Decimal Classification System (Dewey), depending on what type of institution you'll be working in.

Suggestions

- Libraries may add multiple editions for their physical layout and accompanying contents such as music scores, especially performance editions. Entirely digital music collections require server space and proper housing of digitization equipment.
- Librarians can educate more generally, educating library users to think more critically about the economic, social, cultural, and legal ramifications of their intellectual rights, since now libraries are providing support as a publishing platform (Brown and Waelde)
- Depending on where you work, you might catalog music and texts or check out reference materials to students, researchers, or the public. In some instances, you might curate music collections and resources or collaborate with students, musicians, and performers.
- Librarians can educate composers and arrangers on the circumstances under which copyrighted music can be reused and incorporated in their own works, as well as how to protect their own copyright as they publish their works.

Conclusion

Libraries have been slow to integrate electronic music scores into their collections even though electronic resources are considered integral to library services. Other factors influencing facilities include the types of materials in the collection, the users who will access those materials and budget constraints related to implementation, acquisition, maintenance, and service. But now in many academic libraries collections have expanded their scope as curricula have grown and research has become more interdisciplinary. Libraries



are striving for the material now to collect which is currently useful and might have potential future use to scholars and students. A librarian categorizes and organizes books of musical works and literature. They can educate library users on what can lawfully and unlawfully be done with an electronic score. Libraries can tackle various issues on several fronts by bringing expertise from an institution's legal department together with music community. These efforts will involve participating in developing new standard licenses while interacting with collective rights management.

References

- Scott, Rachel E. 2013. "The Edition-Literate Singer: Edition Selection as an Information Literacy Competency." *Music Reference Services Quarterly* 16, no. 3: 131-40. doi:10.1080/10588167.2013.808941.
- National Center for Educational Statistics. 2012. "Supplemental Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) 2012 Tables to NCES 2014-038 ." <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014038> .
- Peters, Charles. 2017. "Acquiring New Music from Unconventional Sources: PDF Copies in the Library" (presentation, Congress of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres, Riga, Latvia, June, 18-22, 2017). http://www.iaml.info/sites/default/files/pdf/peters_pdf_copies_iaml_2017_presentation_notes_with_slides.pdf .
- Scott, Darwin F. 2015. "Digital Scores in Music Libraries: The Status Quo and a New Response from MLA" (presentation, Annual Meeting of the Music Library Association, Denver, Colorado, February 25-March 1, 2015). <https://vimeo.com/121103009>, 0:28-4:57.
- Kimmy Szeto. (2018). *The Roles of Academic Libraries in Shaping Music Publishing in the Digital Age*. Baruch College. https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2187&context=bb_pubs
- Bainbridge, David, Xiao Hu, and J. Stephen Downie. "A Musical Progression with Greenstone: How Music Content Analysis and Linked Data Is Helping Redefine the Boundaries to a Music Digital Library." In *1st International Workshop on Digital Libraries for Musicology (DLfM '14)*, 1–8. New York: ACM, 2014.
- Puckett Sasser, Patricia. "Sounds of Silence: Investigating Institutional Knowledge of the Use and Users of Online Music Collections." *Music Reference Services Quarterly* 12, no. 3–4 (2009): 93–108.
- Kirstin Dougan. (2016). *Music, YouTube, and Academic Libraries*. Music Library Association. pp. 491-508.
- Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, USA <https://www.nypl.org/> accessed on 12/3/2024.
- The British Library Sound Archive, United Kingdom <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> accessed on 12/3/2024.
- Music Library, South Korea: <https://www.gensler.com/projects/hyundai-card-music-library-understage/> accessed on 12/3/2024.
- Stuttgart City Library, Germany: <https://www.archdaily.com/193568/stuttgart-city-library-yi-architects> accessed on 13/3/2024.
- National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA): <https://www.ncpamumbai.com> accessed on 13/3/2024.
- All India Radio <https://prasarbharati.gov.in/> accessed on 13/3/2024.
- The National Archives of India: <https://www.nationalarchives.nic.in/> accessed on 12/3/2024.
- The National Museum, the National Archives, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art (IGNCA): <https://ignca.gov.in/> accessed on 13/3/2024.
- Columbia University Libraries: <https://guides.library.columbia.edu/sasia-music/media/> accessed on 14/3/2024.
- Music Research Library <http://musicresearchlibrary.net/omeka/about/> accessed on 14/3/2024.
- Vijaya Parrikar Library <https://www.parrikar.org/vpl/> accessed on 14/3/2024.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi <https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/library/> accessed on 15/3/2024.
- NDLI or National Digital Library of India <http://project.ndl.gov.in/product-category/music/> accessed on 15/3/2024.
- AudioSparx <https://www.audiosparx.com/sa/about/default.cfm> accessed on 15/3/2024.
- National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) <http://rrrlf.nic.in/NML/NVLI.aspx> accessed on 15/3/2024.