Ask a Librarian: The Role of Librarians in the Music Information Retrieval Community

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ISMIR at the beginning: Music IR Research Communities

- Computer science and information retrieval
- Audio engineering and digital signal processing
- Musicology and music theory
- Library science
- Cognitive science
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Law
ISMIR 2000-2005:
Where were the librarians?

- Overviews of digital library projects
- Standards for digital image capture of musical scores
- Metadata
MLA and IAML 2000-2005: Librarians and their research presentations

Table 1. Distribution of major topics identified in MLA and IAML conferences and publications 2000-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>MLA Annual Meetings</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>IAML Conferences</th>
<th>Fontes artis musicae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music history and literature</td>
<td>Research in the historical and cultural aspects of music including repertoire</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print collections</td>
<td>Descriptions of print collections and historical printing and publishing methodologies</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference and user education</td>
<td>Questions users ask; how we teach users to find information; usability of standard music databases</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital libraries</td>
<td>Descriptions of digital libraries, digital collections, and digital preservation</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging and metadata</td>
<td>Various schemas for organizing information</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>How does copyright affect our ability to create and provide access to digital collections?</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarianship</td>
<td>Professional and methodological issues related to music librarianship</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Miscellaneous topics</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total percentages</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Librarians and ISMIR beyond 2006

Opportunities for Dialogue
Music History and Literature

- Identification of core repertoire
- Different approaches to analysis based on musical styles
- Musical notation and its interpretation across cultures and historical periods
- Tools to automate musical analysis, classification, transcription, and theme extraction
Print Collections

- Books, manuscripts, printed musical scores
- Sound and video recordings
- Unique and special collections (some without copyright restrictions)
- Challenge of transforming physical collections into true digital collections that can be searched, manipulated and read
Reference and User Education

- Enhanced searching capabilities
- More sophisticated document retrieval
- Audio retrieval-by-example
- Audio matching
- Improved cross-database searching
- Personalized user interfaces
- Automatic extraction of metadata
Digital libraries

- Making collections available online
- Putting discovered material to use
- Vision for new, groundbreaking systems
- Implementing experimental services in new environments
Cataloging and metadata

- Metadata-based retrieval co-existing with content-based retrieval
- Existing expertise in description and user access
- Free sharing of data
- Value of and need for automated methods
Copyright

- MIR and library communities face common copyright challenges
- Impacts both research and production systems
- Good work currently in both communities
Where are we?

- The time is ripe for more collaboration
- MIR community continues to expand to incorporate more perspectives
- Librarians increasingly embracing automated methods and advanced tools
- Will further both research and the development of production systems
Continuing the conversation

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