Leah Cuplin, MLIS & Emily Pearson, MLIS

206 HIP HOP ARCHIVE

WHY DO WE NEED A HIP HOP ARCHIVE?

While Seattle is best known for its grunge and indie music scenes, it has had a rich hip hop history that's largely been left out of the popular narrative of Seattle Music. Currently there is no single repository, digital or physical, that is devoted to the collection and preservation of materials related to hip hop in Seattle or the Pacific Northwest. By building a robust collection of Seattle hip hop from the 1970s to current releases, making it publicly accessible in UW's Suzzallo Library, and creating a LibGuide to promote the collection, we hope to bring more awareness and recognition to the diversity of voices in Seattle's music scene.

PROCESS AND ISSUES

Step One:
Scour the internet, library catalog, and crowdsource via Facebook to create a purchasing proposal for artists and records to be added to the collection

A lot of Seattle hip hop artists no longer release physical albums or mixtapes, and digital music presents new issues for copyright and licensing for libraries.

Step Two:
Digitize CDs, cassettes, and records, using iTunes to organize and describe music

Many of the CDs were unmarked mixtapes, creating identification and description issues.

Step Three:
Create a guide to the collection that will help patrons (internal and external to UW) find collection and know exactly what is in it

As a living collection, a finding aid can be inappropriately absolute, but a LibGuide is prohibitive in creating searchable lists, and both can be user-unfriendly.

BY THE NUMBERS

(still expanding)

1,816 Songs

4.5 Days of music

137 Albums

1 LibGuide

1 Collection Development Plan

NEXT STEPS

-Continuing to collect
- Plan for long-term preservation
- Branch out into other areas of hip hop (dance/bboy, graffiti)
- Expand video collection
- Expand community partnerships
- Outreach events

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank our sponsors:
Dr. Third Andresen, Lecturer, UW
John Vallier, Head of Distributed Media at UW Libraries

Information School
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Photo Credits: Ganapathy Kumar, Fabien Barrel, and Elena Schneider (all via Unsplash)