

AUDIO ARCHIVING FOR MUSIC PRODUCER, RANDALL DUNN

Capstone project completed by: Megan A. Mitchell (MLIS), 2017

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Prolific musician and music producer, Randall Dunn, possesses a collection of dozens of hard drives containing recording sessions that he has overseen and/or participated in over the past nineteen years of his career.

The aim of this project has been:

- to design a cataloguing schema;
- to log all pertinent metadata to highlight the content of the drives;
- to outline a digital preservation plan with formal recommendations for the next phases of the project.



Randall Dunn at Avast! Studios (photo by Joseph P. Traina)

STAKEHOLDERS

- Record labels
- Session artists
- Fans

2. PROCESS

The workflow of this project was informed by:

- outreach to archiving professionals who work with audio materials;
- research into like-minded projects;
- existing documentation on institutional audio preservation workflows.

It was determined that:

- this scale and type of project is unique;
- adaptations of existing formal recommendations would be necessary to account for project scope limitations.

3. OUTCOMES

Deliverables:

1. A revised formal digital preservation plan (original was created prior to this project, and was then revised accordingly);
2. A complete digital catalog of the drives and their contents was built and fleshed out as a reference tool.



An assortment of the organized drives in Dunn's catalog (Photo by Megan Mitchell)

4. NEXT STEPS

This crucial stage of the project has allowed Dunn to:

- review the contents of his career catalog;
- pinpoint items whose location was previously unknown (for distribution to involved parties and formal record releases);
- select items of greatest value for further preservation action.

Next phases (out of scope for this project):

- overseeing migration of selected catalog items to a more stable master spinning disk drive;
- revisions, as needed, to the digital preservation plan.

Sampling of Artists in the Dunn Catalog

Sunn O)))
Earth
Mamiffer
Rose Windows
Wolves in the Throne Room
Jessica Kenney
Chelsea Wolfe
Merzbow
Oren Ambarchi
Björk



Faith Coloccia of the band, Mamiffer, who are stakeholders in this project (Photo courtesy of Allan Wan)



Earth, a musical act in Dunn's catalog (Photo courtesy of Samantha Muljat)