SAVING COLLEGE RADIO:
WMUC
Past, Present and Future

Dr. Laura Schnitker, Sound Archivist and Ethnomusicologist
Eric Cartier, Digital Reformatting Specialist

University of Maryland Libraries

Archiving: accession and presentation

• Created WMUC Collection in the University Archives
• Accessioned 1800 audio materials and 3 boxes of print materials from campus station
• Procured additional donations through WMUC Alumni Facebook Group
• Curated WMUC exhibit in the Maryland Room Gallery at Hornbake Library

Digitization: access and preservation

• Digital Conversion and Media Reformatting audio digitization pilot project
• Established workflows and procedures
• Trained digitization assistants to reformat legacy audio formats
• Uploaded digitized sound recordings to UMD’s Digital Collections
• Committed to digitizing entire WMUC Collection

Challenges

• Arranging a single collection from multiple sources
• Large variety of formats
• Inconsistent levels of record-keeping
• Conflicting historical perspectives among alumni
• Incomplete, incorrect, or nonexistent descriptive metadata
• Sticky shed syndrome
• Varying sound levels and recording quality
• Linking metadata spreadsheets and streaming audio files to create digital objects for UMD’s Digital Collections