Gordon Knox Film Collection

Access to Three Family Collections: How'd We Do It

AMIA Annual Conference
Austin, TX
November 19, 2011
Our Situation

 Circulating instructional collection, not an archive
 Don’t typically work with donors
 Some digitization experience, equipment
Working with the Donor
About Gordon Knox & The Princeton Film Center

- Born in North Texas
- Most active 1940 – 1960s
- Formed The Princeton Film Center (1941 – 1980)
Starting Points

UNT LIBRARIES

- Is our project plan realistic?
- What are we getting?
  - Nitrate?
- No money

THE KNOX ESTATE

- Physically distant from collection
- Assessing worth of the collection
- Tax law changes in 2010
- Chance for profit
Next Steps

Fall 2007:
- Basic inventory
- Signed temporary custody agreement

Spring 2008
- Films arrived!
The Donation

16mm – 70 cans

35mm – 30 cans

Still Camera

Disc of scanned photos
Updated inventory
Assess physical condition
Minor maintenance
Label and shelve
Why digitize?

- Original intention of project was access. Output: DVD and online
- Limited copyright issues
- Infrastructure support = established. Digitization process = challenge.
Digitization

- ELMO TRV-16H
- Canopus ADVC-300 converter
- Power Mac G5
- Final Cut Pro 6
  (DV, compressed)
- External hard drives
  (Temporary)
- Part time graduate assistant
Metadata
- Based on DC
- Descriptive
- Admin
- Technical
- Preservation

Files
- Access File
- Master File
  - RAID 5 onsite
  - RIAD 6 offsite
  - METS wrapper
Items in the collection

- Son of the Conquistadors
- The Seven Wonders of Wool
- Know Your Enemy: Japan!
- Venezuela En Marcha
- The Active Peacetime Service
- Jobs for America
Other materials

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION
- +200 photographs
- On location

SCRAPBOOK
- Newspaper clippings
- OCR and searchable

[Princeton Film Center Bus in Venezuela]
Spring 2007: Began talks with donor
November 2008: Temporary Custody Agreement
June 2008: Received Films
Fall ’08/Spring ‘09: Digitized Films
Summer/Fall ‘09: Metadata
April 2010: Films available in Digital Library
July 2010: Received photos and scrapbook
October 2010: Permanent donation paperwork
April 2011: Photos and scrapbooks digitized
Lessons Learned

When working with donor:

- Provide guidance for assessing the collection
- Outline steps, but emphasize flexibility
- Know your paperwork
- Try hard for empathy and patience
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http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/GKFC/