

Minutes from Technical Committee on Archiving, Restoration, and Digital Libraries Meeting

Friday October 5th, 2007

121st AES

New York, NY

Chairs:

Chris Lacinak & David Ackerman

Present:

Jack Walker	Jennifer Phillips	Takehiro Moriya
Ben j Kanters	Andrew Kimpton	Marcos Sueiro
Scott Burgess	Travis Gregg	Al Quaglieri
Toby Seay	Thor Legvold	Jeff Willens
John B. Narus	Guy Rosmarin	Brad McCoy
Gary Louie	Ernesto Chavez	Justin Opotzner
Paul Kravs	Michael Murphy	Omatali Beckett
Tristram Lozaw	Dave Nolan	John Schroth
Greg Polci	Elizabeth Cohen	J. Spencer Love

Introductions were made and a sign in sheet was passed around at the beginning of the meeting.

Chris Lacinak gave an overview of the TC ARDL sponsored tutorials taking place at the conference. These were T13 - "Planning and executing audio preservation workflows" and T15 – "Reproducer alignment and calibration for optimal playback".

Copies of the TC ARDL Emerging Trends report were passed around for review.

There was no update on the A/D converter project due to the absence of Bruce Whisler at the meeting.

Salient notes from general discussion and proposed projects are below.

Elizabeth Cohen and Takehiro Moriya brought up that MPEG-A (Archival) was in a "call for requirements" stage. Meeting at which comments will be discussed takes place October 22 – 26 in China. The timeline for the project is anticipated to be 1-3 years.

Chris Lacinak mentioned that the AES was lacking in Recommended Practices and Standards equivalent to what is in SMPTE regarding guidelines, recommendations and standards such as monitor calibration, gain staging, signal paths, test signal routines, test tapes, etc... He opened up the floor for feedback on what the group encountered frequently that they felt would be of value in a recommended practice or standard?

Travis Gregg mentioned that outside of the Sound Directions Project there is a huge problem in that metadata can't be accessed or used by other libraries. This spawned a long conversation regarding the state of metadata tools within the everyday working environment of a studio. The inconsistency in what metadata is supported and how it is handled within different programs was noted as a continual issue. Travis mentioned that while the Sound Directions Project was producing tools from Harvard and Indiana University that there was no promise of other institutions being able to work with and read this metadata who didn't have someone that new how to work with XML at an intimate level. An even greater issue communicated regarded embedded metadata.

Elizabeth Cohen proposed that the TC ARDL generate a best practices document from the alignment and reproduction tutorial. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

Al Quaglieri mentioned that he thought it would be of value and was interested in working on a project documenting workflows and practices of mastering engineers with a focus on the implications on preservation. Others mentioned that they were willing to work on this project as well. **All interested in working on this project should e-mail Chris Lacinak to formalize a working group.**

There was a comment from the group that they wished for advice on choosing equipment to help answer questions such as "What's the difference between the \$1k piece of equipment and \$10k piece of equipment?" What were the gains and losses specific to preservation of each? Something that would help people figure out how to choose. Chris Lacinak responded that this has to be a principle centered approach that focuses on teaching people what the core principles were in order to stay relevant over the long term. Technologies and prices will change, but the core needs and principles will remain constant. It was generally agreed that there was a need regardless of the manifestation of the response.

There was a comment that it was worth investigating a project that looked at a collection of case studies revolving around preservation and digital storage. Three people in the meeting stated interest in participating in this project. **Those people are asked to contact Chris Lacinak in order to formalize the group willing to work on this project.**

Dave Nolan mentioned that a session or paper on terminology for preservation may be of value. Answering questions such as "What is considered transparent"? Dave also mentioned the participation from vendors of equipment and systems playing a role in this session. **For this to take place would require a volunteer to put together such a session.**

In general there was a strong sentiment that some type of recommended practices and standards specific to preservation and focusing on integrity were required. A proposal was made that the TC ARDL produce a series of white papers representing best practice documents. Chris Lacinak responded that it

would seemingly be more meaningful if the TC defined the needs and made requests of the associated SC groups to create RPs or Standards to fill the need. This would place the documents in a more valid and meaningful space alongside of the other AES RP and Standards documents. **This brings forth the need for TC ARDL members to propose specific needs and requests to refine and further shape into official requests for RPs and/or standards to the appropriate SC groups.**

Action Items

1. All interested in working on the project with Al Quaglieri regarding mastering workflows and practices should e-mail Chris Lacinak to formalize a working group.
2. The people who expressed interest in working on the case study project should e-mail Chris Lacinak formalize a working group.
3. A volunteer is required to coordinate the session on preservation terminology in practice.
4. Call for comment from TC ARDL members on specific needs and requests to refine and further shape into official requests for RPs and/or standards to the appropriate SC groups.

Prepared by
Chris Lacinak
Co-chair of TC_ARDL
10-24-2007