



ethnoArc - Linked European Archives for Ethnomusicological Research

ethnoArc improves access to the wealth of Europe's ethno-musical cultural heritage. In particular, it seeks to contribute to the preservation, connectedness and exploitation of ethnological audio archives.

Today the vast majority of traditional music recordings – often unique field recordings – is stored in small and medium size archives, both public and private. These archives are heterogeneously structured according to individual context and history. If digital at all, they apply different technical formats, software architectures and, before all, metadata structures, making comparisons of content almost impossible.

ethnoArc will establish a "linked archive": a common access point for distributed field collections from different sources, enabling access to resources for various application and research purposes. The system will be designed to conduct multi-archive searches over differently structured archives and allow the comparison of the results. This is a challenging task with complex requirements, as ethnoArc wants to live up to the demands of scientific users, i.e. particular and detailed research questions.

ethnoArc develops a set of low-cost tools that will enable small and medium size music archives without specialized expertise in information science and information technology to build highly flexible documentation structures according to the individual needs of the archives.

ethnoArc is run by an international network of some of the most prestigious traditional sound archives in Europe (in Berlin, Bucharest, Budapest and Geneva), two multidisciplinary research institutions and Fraunhofer FOKUS as the technology partner.

Thanks to ethnoArc, it will be easier for scholars, artists and others to use and valorise traditional music. It will spur modern, comprehensive and comparative research in ethnomusicology, anthropology and related disciplines and will deepen and spread awareness and familiarity with the common European memory and identity.

Homepage: www.ethnoarc.org

