

Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center

Library of Congress

Written Statement for Current State of American Television and Video Preservation

The mission of the Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center is to preserve Sacramento's regional history. The television collection that we have, KCRA, a local NBC affiliate, relates directly to our mission. No plans are underway to acquire more television and/or video materials, mainly because current collections are not fully catalogued and accessible.

Collections-

The KCRA film collection spans from the mid-1950s to 1982, when the station switched to video tape. The collection is all 16 mm black and white negative and black and white reversal as well as color reversal film. A, B, and C rolls for picture and sound make up much of the programming. We have both silent and sound film with optical and magnetic sound tracks. We do not have a full-time staff member solely devoted to the collection. We also maintain photographs, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and government records. Since we don't have adequate control over the film collection presently, enlarging the collection is not feasible. The format of the collection, 16 mm, poses many problems of accessibility and requires outside expertise from a non-staff consultant.

Preservation-

The film is housed in regulated environment for both temperature and humidity. (Temp +/- 68 degrees, RH +/- 50%.) Measures have been undertaken to begin transfer of film into 5,000 acid-free boxes. Last year, we conducted a vinegar syndrome test and found that the film was in good condition. As film is viewed for requests, it is cleaned and broken splices are repaired.

Reference service starts from the 16 mm film and if copies are ordered, an archival master is then made onto S-VHS or Beta SP. Eventually, major requested subjects will be on tapes. Because of lack of funds and staff, priorities are few. Our goal is to make the collection more "user friendly" for researchers and streamline the film transfer process when client requests are made.

As the collection becomes more available and funds are generated, more preservation issues will be addressed.

Information & Access-

All of the film is available for research, although viewing of film requires the use of an outside consultant. Reproductions are available for sale.

Television day logs are available for the years 1959 - 1974. Since the collection for the most part is not subject indexed, this is the way film is accessed. The subject index we do have, created by KCRA cameraman Harry Sweet, covers more prominent news stories and is arranged alphabetically.

Fees for searches are \$25.00 per hour. We will provide either a verbal or written list of what we have found. Just because we find a listing, however, does not guarantee its existence. Many stories have been spliced out over the years and not until the consultant views the film do we know if it exists.

We also have two KCRA Specials indices which were created in-house. One covers some of the documentary specials KCRA has produced over the years, including John F. Kennedy. The other KCRA Specials index comprises over 2000 entries of entertainment interviews, and noteworthy stories such as Black Panther and United Farm Worker footage, and is searchable by date, subject, location, or title.

Storage Facilities-

All the film is stored at one site in one area under regulated temperature and humidity controls. Access to collections area is limited to staff only. Security and fire suppression system is in place.

Copyright-

We own copyright to the television news collection. The issue of right of personality is another concern of ours since California has a law regarding this. We are now struggling with creating a licensing agreement and comparing those of other institutions.

Conclusion-

Organizations such as AMIA since very little written guidelines for managing a film archives exist. The sharing of information through their list serve and conferences are invaluable. Our desire is that more written articles and books will appear to assist us through the quagmire of issues and preservation concerns that are so unique to our collections.

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WATERFRONT
MILLER PARK

SAMCC Film Search Services

The KCRA Television Film Collection is a Sacramento regional collection which spans from the mid-1950s through June 1982. The bulk of the collection is from the early 1960s to 1982 and consists of approximately ten million feet of 16mm news film, both black and white and color. The film consists mostly of news reports ranging in time from one to three minutes, documentaries of up to an hour, and outtakes.

Film Searches:

Television day logs are available for the years 1959 - 1974. These are arranged chronologically. Since the collection for the most part is not subject indexed, this is the way film is accessed. The subject index we do have, created by KCRA cameraman Harry Sweet, covers more prominent news stories and is arranged alphabetically.

Fees for searches are \$25.00 per hour. We will provide either a verbal or written list of what we have found. Just because we find a listing, however, does not guarantee its existence. Many stories have been spliced out over the years.

We also have two KCRA Specials indices which were created in-house. One covers some of the documentary specials KCRA has produced over the years. The other KCRA Specials index comprises of over 2000 entries of entertainment interviews, and noteworthy stories such as Vietnam War protests, Black Panther and United Farm Worker footage, and is searchable by date, subject, or title.

3/6/96

Preview Tapes:

We can provide VHS preview tapes with time code (window dub). These tapes are for viewing purposes only and you will be asked to sign a preview tape use agreement prior to the production of the tape. A preview tape costs approximately \$5-12 per minute, depending upon the condition of the film. A transfer of an existing archival tape would cost approximately \$2.00 per minute. There will be a charge for stock tape of \$5.00 for VHS and \$10.00 for S-VHS.

Film Transfer:

If after viewing your preview tape, you wish to have film transferred to broadcast format, we will arrange through Monaco Labs of San Francisco for such a transfer. Their phone number is (415) 864-5350. Prices vary, depending upon the type of transfer requested. Please call Monaco Labs for details. Federal Express shipping to Monaco Labs will be billed to the client's Federal Express account number.

SAMCC does require an archival copy of the transferred tape on Beta SP format for our library. You can either make a Beta SP dupe from your transferred tape or return your original Beta SP tape transfer. A copy of your finished production should also be furnished to us.

Rights & Clearances

Charges for on-air footage is \$10.00 per second based on a one time use only. The film is not for resale. You will also be asked to sign a release of all claims and indemnity agreement against the City of Sacramento and KCRA TV.

The credit line for the collection is: KCRA TV Film Collection, Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center.

Questions regarding the collection can be addressed to the archivist at (916) 264-7072.