



April 5, 2007

To: **Directors and Staff of Libraries and Archives participating in the *California Preservation Survey of Moving Image and Recorded Sound Collections Project***

Fr: **Susan Hildreth**  
**State Librarian of California**

Re: **Completing the survey of your A/V collection by April 15th**

Many thanks for participating in the Statewide preservation survey of audio/visual collections by having one or more of your staff take the workshops at Berkeley Public Library and the Doheny Library, USC, in mid-March. In attendance at the workshops were 86 staff representing over 75 libraries and archives. Now, I am writing to urge you to complete the online survey by April 15<sup>th</sup>, if possible.

Unlike earlier eras, many of the defining events of 20<sup>th</sup> Century California are recorded in moving image and recorded sound formats. Further, California has a special relationship with moving images and recorded sound because it developed and marketed many of the "new" media in addition to creating an entire recording industry. California's history is very much invested in these audio/visual records that now are at risk of loss due to deterioration of the media and obsolescence of the playback technologies.

The overall goal of the project is to document the scope and scale of preservation needs, to define the risks, and to build a case for funding to ensure the survival of moving image and recorded sound collections in California. Survey data aggregated statewide will

- provide a picture of the current state of A/V media in CA's collections
- become a tool for advocacy and increased awareness of preservation needs statewide

- help define statewide preservation priorities
- become an argument for increased preservation funding at the state level and from individual grants agencies
- help CA continue to lead the way in A/V production AND preservation.

We very much need your participation to help make the case for statewide action to preserve California's audio/visual heritage.

In addition to statewide benefits, there are direct benefits to individual libraries and archives from participation. The survey produces a management report to help participating institutions

- create a snapshot of the current status of the collection
- establish baseline preservation data against which to measure future progress
- identify preservation priorities
- estimate costs and benefits of preservation work
- strengthen applications for preservation funding from grants agencies

Please make completion of the survey an institutional priority. If you have questions about the survey process, use of the survey tool employed in the Project, or the completion date of April 15<sup>th</sup>, please contact Barclay Ogden, project manager, at [bogden@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:bogden@library.berkeley.edu).