

Final Report  
Media Heritage, Inc.  
Frederic W. Ziv Radio Historical Archive Storage Project

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Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments:

Media Heritage, Inc., a not-for-profit archive of Greater Cincinnati's broadcast history, is grateful for the matching grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board. Because of the matching funds, Media Heritage was able to purchase 150 archival boxes specifically designed to hold 16" transcription discs. The boxes were used to replace aging, ill-suited cardboard boxes containing the audio remnants of the Frederic W. Ziv Company, once the world's largest syndicator of radio programs. In total, our archive contains some 10,000 transcription discs from Ziv's most influential period—the 1940s and 1950s—and an estimated 5500 discs, slightly more than half, are now permanently housed in the new boxes.



"New" archival boxes

It was determined during the application process that not all of the discs could be re-boxed in this project. Because of funding, the hope was that about half of the boxes would be replaced. The first job was to decide and prioritize which boxes would be replaced. The decision was made to replace those boxes damaged far too greatly to be salvaged. After those boxes were isolated, boxes containing Ziv's most popular shows were slated for replacement. The remaining boxes will hopefully be replaced in future projects.



Damaged "old" boxes.

The original cardboard boxes date from the early 1960s when Ziv sold his company to a motion picture company. Ziv ordered one (or in some cases two) copies of each program saved and boxed and sent to the University of Cincinnati for his use as adjunct professor. In some cases, 115 discs were contained in a single box, which made the box far too heavy (about 60-lbs.) to transport conveniently and also endangered the longtime preservation of the discs because they were packed so tightly.

Media Heritage acquired the collection from UC in 2004 and relocated to our archives at that time.

The new archival disc boxes, ordered through Hollinger Metal Edge Company, are slightly larger than half the width of the older boxes—meaning the boxes are easier to lift and a little more roomy than the old boxes. The archival boxes are reinforced in their corners and have a removable lid. They are designed to store the standard 16” diameter transcription discs from radio’s early days and work perfectly for our needs.

The Ohio Historical Records Grant provided \$1500 towards the overall project cost that totaled \$3590.08. The boxes were received on June 14, 2012. The re-boxing efforts were conducted by volunteers during the fall of 2012. The process of transferring the discs to the new boxes was quite simple. Since most of the discs were already in



New boxes in use in archive

numerical order, the work merely entailed moving discs from the old box to the new one. In some cases where the boxes contained two copies of each episode, the discs were divided into two new boxes, thus giving us the freedom to have two separate “sets” of shows. For the most part, it took two new archival boxes to replace each old cardboard box. There were no unexpected complications during the process with the exception of a few individual discs that may have disappeared years ago, before we acquired them, when they were in the possession of the University of Cincinnati.

The boxes look and work very well. Our shelves are much neater and are in order. We hope these boxes will provide good service for the next 50-years!

We did not receive any media or press coverage, but I did mention the gift in our organization’s newsletter, the *Broadcaster*. A copy of the mention can be found in the attachment. Also in the attachment is a copy of the original invoice from Hollister Metal Edge. The total cost was revised upwards \$137.93 because of a mistake in their shipping estimates. Media Heritage paid the additional amount. Therefore, the total project breakdown is as follows:

Total Cost (boxes, shipping, taxes, etc.):	\$3590.08
OHRA Grant amount:	\$1500.00
Media Heritage’s contribution:	\$2090.08 (or 58%)

Once again, our sincere thanks to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board for making this phase of our long-term plans possible. Someday we hope to take care of the remaining old, unfit boxes so they’ll match the new archival boxes acquired in this project. This has been a huge first step as we’ve taken care of the worst boxes and most important discs.