Chapter – 7

Music Information Centres and Music Archives
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7.1 National Music Information Centres

The history of libraries has witnessed changes in the demands of the user. In the present society known as information society, there is a constant demand for nascent thought of specific piece of information. Accordingly designation of libraries has also changed. Libraries are now documentation centres, documentation offices or information centres. Information centres provide right information to right user at the right time. As stated in the Harrod's Librarian's Glossary, an information centre is

"Usually an office or a section of a bibliographic centre, research bureau or documentation centre, which provides information about books or on a subject with which the organization providing the facilities of the centre is concerned. Staffing varies, but may include any or all of the following: Research officers, librarians, bibliographers or trained information officers. It may be including the functions of a special library and extend its activities to include collateral functions viz. technical writing, abstracting, SDI and library research for clients. (1)"

Information centres are the providers of information. They are more extensive in services than special libraries. They serve for a specific subject also functioning as subject information centres. Such information centres in the field of music are Music Information Centres that are prevalent in many western countries.

National Music Information Centres fulfill the information needs of music lovers especially of latest music. National Music Information Centres perform the following functions:
• To collect unique scores, recordings along with background information on music of the concerned country

• To prepare database both bibliographic and full text of music and music related material

• To provide contemporary information about music, musicians, composers of the country

• To encourage and to promote production, publication, collection, organization and dissemination of new music in the country

• To organize music festivals where rapport is established between performing artists and listeners

• To encourage education and research in music

• To document and to promote the music of the country

• To initiate cooperation with other centres from other countries

• To act as a focal centre for musical activities of the country

• To support and to assist music publishers in publishing and marketing of music

National Music Information Centres mainly concern with latest and sophisticated services using latest skills and technologies e.g. juke box availability of online music, inventories and different databases.

A few latest examples of Music Information Centres are described here below.
7.1.1 British Music Information Centre (BMIC)

It is famous for its unique collection of music in the form of musical scores, recordings and for information related to music in Britain.

The collection also incorporates music of early 20th century along with contemporary music. The database of musical scores in extract form and in full form is available online today. Additions to it are constantly being made. This includes newly published score also which previously used to be available only with the composer. BMIC provides background information of composers also. Biographical information of modern British composers born or living in England, scores and recordings of them can be made available. In house services are another peculiarity of BMIC. Material here is provided only for reference within the centre's premises. Lending outside is strictly prohibited. Queries of music lovers over e-mail are willingly responded to. Information about composers, music festivals, libraries, music colleges, music theatre groups, orchestras, public funding bodies, publishers and venues in London is provided online.

7.1.2 American Music Centre (AMC)

The American Music Centre was established in 1939. This was founded due to the efforts of composers, performers and publishers of music. The mission of the AMC is

.... to foster and encourage the composition of contemporary (American) music and to promote its production, publication,
distribution and performance in every way possible throughout the Western Hemisphere. (2)

To fulfill the goal set by the founders the AMC has carried out the various activities like:

- Creation of a library of scores and recordings and initial service that gathers and distributes bare information essential for promotion of latest music
- Services of library expanded in such a manner that music publishing and recordings increased
- AMC organizes consortium of orchestral works, performances and recordings
- Arranged one Radio show to introduce contemporary American composers to listeners
- Publishes Newsletter ‘Music Today’
- Introduced “Composer Assistance Programme” to support composers financially for extracting and copying form their scores
- Arranges face to face meeting and interaction of composers and audience at live performances on payment basis
- Organizes a national music festival
- Pioneers the music site on internet which appeared as one of the earliest sites
- Initiates interaction with other information centres
• Arranges for large number of performances of new American music every year

• Launching of programme entitled ‘Our Information Services Programme’ in which information about composers, performers, music related industry is provided through any medium of communication

• Brings out a number of publications, worth mentioning is web magazine about new music as ‘New Music Box’, New Music Jukebox – online library; opportunity update’

In addition to the mission statement of 1939, AMC has also included in its mission as –

... the building of a national community for new American Music

(3)

7.1.3 Swedish Music Information Centre

This music information centre functions as a part of ‘Stim’ i.e. Sevenska Totensaettares Internationella Musikbyra (Swedish Perforing Rights Society).

The main purpose of Swedish Music Information Centre is to document and to provide information about copyright protected Swedish Music. The services are restricted to members only. But transcriptions of old Swedish Musical works and old sheet music are sold here. Orchestral works can be hired from the centre.

The functions of Swedish Music Information Centre are –
Chapter 7: Music Information Centres & Music Archives

- Cataloguing of contemporary classical music and earlier popular music
- Archiving of them
- Publication of sheet music and sound music in form of CDs
- Participation in international networks
- Promotion of music projects through financial and special support
- Encouraging and supporting music publishers and composers

7.1.4 Music Information Centre Austria (MICA)

MICA has been active since 1994. It is a mediator and middle link between creators, multipliers of music and music loving public from Austria and abroad. It mainly disseminates the current repertoires.

In 1998 MICA published an Encyclopedia on Contemporary Austrian Composers. The same is now digitized and made available online. The encyclopedia covers information about composers, musicians, organization, festivals, studios, music education and others. Online information is also about conferences, challenges in area of music, technology, ICT, copyright, etc.

Currently MICA is the host of Secretariat of IAMIC i.e. International Association of Music Information Centres. It is the project leader of IAMIC Project EC – Culture 2000 which is the
European portal for contemporary music of all styles. MICA is also coordinating working group of Music Libraries.

7.1.5 German Music Information Centre (MIZ – Music Informationszentrum)

Started in the year 1997 in Bonn, it is responsible for information compilation and for addresses on musical life of Germany and of any type and style of German music. Information is made available online especially catalogue is visible online. Journal ‘Musikforum’ is published biannually. Special features of MIZ are

- Provides a wide range of information about music life, musical education and music training in perspective of layman making music
- Documenting the trends and developments based on current / latest data and facts
- Cooperates at national and international level with music documentation centres to improve its own services
- It is an open information and service facility
- MIZ has developed an information network of many institutions and mechanisms of music life
- Handles a variety of information media
- Has a good combination of latest information technology and old traditional media experts, institutions
Chapter 7: Music Information Centres & Music Archives

The goal of MIZ is to make musical life accessible to everyone as an integral part of cultural life along with development of music culture.

7.1.6 SOUNZ i.e. Centre for New Zealand Music

It is music information centre of New Zealand. It is established in 1991 and works as a not for profit charitable trust. The aim of SOUNZ is

... to provide, foster and promote music by New Zealand to enhance the mana of all New Zealanders and our sense of turangawaewae. (4)

To achieve this SOUNZ plans activities to

- Encourage New Zealand composers are encouraged to create, perform, publish, record and to broadcast music.

- Collect information related to music exhaustively

- Collect, organize and disseminate music resources

- Arrange for purchase of music resources on behalf of users

- Build and enhance the national and international relations

7.1.7 Australian Music Information Centre

Started in 1974, Australian Music Information Centre aims at facilitation and encouragement of Australian composers to perform and understand of music. It is the leading disseminator of information, publications and scores of Australian music.
Chapter 7 : Music Information Centres & Music Archives

It is the national organization that works in interest of Australian composers and creative musicians. The services rendered to members and non-members include –

- Music sales – sales of publications, recordings and scores
- Library services
- Composer related services
- Publications on Australian Music
- Information on Australian Music
- Education

The users are categorized as

- Performers
- Orchestras and ensembles
- Teachers
- Students

7.1.8 Canadian Music Circle

This came in operation in 1959 due to efforts of Canadian composers who felt the need of promotion and facilitation of Canadian music performance. Today it has its five regional offices.

The special feature of CMC is its largest collection of concert music. Its mandate is to

...stimulate the awareness, appreciation and performance of Canadian Music by making the music of its Associate composers
generally available through the Center's collection, information, resources, and production and distribution activities. (5)

Functions of Canadian Music Circle

- To collect and catalogue serious musical works
- To catalogue music scores
- To make music available for loan on national and international level
- To promote works of Canadian composers in Canada and rest of the world
- To maintain lending library
- To provide on demand services like printing and binding, music repertoire consultation
- Digitization of scores
- Administer the awards
- To provide online services through website.

These are the representative examples of music information centres. All of them are the members of IAMIC i.e. International Association of Music Information Centres. IAMIC is association and world wide network of organizations which promote current music. Till 2006 IAMIC had 43 organizational members. All of them encourage promotion and documentation mainly of current music of their countries that includes a large variety of classical, jazz, popular and world music. Each member has large resources in forms of sheet music, recordings and research material. Each
member has its country in focus. The role of IAMIC is to foster the cooperation and integration among them, to encourage the exchange of ideas on certain issues. IAMIC is the mediator to bring them together for common projects. To fulfill this goal, IAMIC organizes the conferences which are hosted by different members. Situated at Brussels, Belgium IAMIC is a member of International Music Council of UNESCO, European Form for the Arts and Heritage. IAMIC publishes IAMIC Newsletter. (List of the member countries of IAMIC is enclosed in Appendix No 10)

Music Information Centres are doing the job of dissemination of current and latest information on music as well as music also. This is the point of difference between Music Information Centres and Sound Music Archives. But it is likely to happen that few centres might be carrying out both the functions of MIC and Music Archives. Music Archives focus on storage and archival aspect of librarianship. The difference in Music Information Centres and Archives is at functional level.

7.2 Music Archives
Music Archives are very popular and famous set up for preservation of music. They may be independent music archives or part of sound archives covering music as its component. According to Groves Music Dictionary

In common with other types of archives, sound archives exist primarily for preservation of historical documents; those in sound archives are recordings rather than manuscript or printed materials. (6)
Sound archives may exist as independent units or as part of parental setup like universities, libraries, radio and television centres and public or private institutions. Sound Archives may contain

- Commercially or non-commercially produced sound media like discs, tapes, cylinders, wire recordings etc.
- Content wise media may have music, speeches, interviews and other types of sounds natural or artificial

But independent music archives also exist focusing on music and music related materials.

The most striking feature of Music Archives is the curatorial role they play.

7.2.1 United Kingdom

In Britain, Archives for music is part of Sound Archives. Initially started as British Institute of Recorded Sound in 1955, it became part of British Library in 1983. It collects classical music, popular music, world music and traditional music, drama and literature, oral history, wild life sounds and artificial sounds. The collection is in the form of discs, tapes, sound & video recordings. The Sound Archives collects copies of commercial recordings in UK, Radio Broadcasts and private recordings from UK. Few overseas recordings on selection basis are part of the archives. The catalogue of both the published and unpublished recordings is maintained daily. Public Access to specialist publications covering every aspect of recorded sound is one of the popular services. The
other services are - Sound Archive Information Services, Listening and viewing services, Access to BBC Records and others.

Ireland has Music Archives for traditional music known as Irish Traditional Music Archive with the aims of collection, preservation, organization and dissemination of Irish Music. It also collects traditional music from other countries like Scotland, North America, Welsh and England.

7.2.2 Switzerland
Switzerland Music Archives is a part of “Swiss National Sound Archives” founded in 1987. The Law on the National Library has set out the task of National Archives. Switzerland’s musical wealth is also collected by the said Archives. The collection is catalogued. Listening services are provided but only on the premises.

7.2.3 Germany
German Music Archives - Situated at Berlin, German Musicarchiv became the part of the German National Library, Frankfurt in 1970. During 1961 to 1969 it was Deutsche Musik Phonothek. German Music Archives receives sound recordings since 1970 and sheet music since 1973 under legal deposit act of German National Library. German Music Archives has collected old sound recordings dating back to 19th century through purchase or by approaching collectors of them.

Similar examples are from Canada, Australia. In the USA example has been found of national level archives of the web based music.
7.3 Conclusion

Internationally, Music Information Centres (MICs) are the modern manifestation of music libraries. They provide latest information about music and music related topics along with the corresponding sound music. These services are rendered effectively due to the building and maintenance of good sound archives. In India due to absence of a formal music library system, such specialized services related to music are absent and the concept of MICs does not seem to exist in India.

Sound archives covering music archives with a primary focus on preservation are the integral part of the MICs. Brief review of the sound archives in select countries in the world has been taken. In India there are a few examples of music archives. Especially, Radio Archives and DD Archives were studied closely. However, it is felt that in India, considering the size and variety of music generated in sound form, a lot still remains to be done for setting up of proper Sound Archives. The researcher suggests a model for Music Archives in Chapter no8.

References

1. Prytherch, Ray; Ed. Harrod’s Librarian’s Glossary of terms used in librarianship, documentation and the book drafts and reference books 5th Ed USA; 1984; p. 337


3. ibid.

