# Exploring the Rigler-Deutsch Index

Julius Tanner Music & Recorded Sound Librarian NYPL Library for the Performing Arts

#### What it is

- Union catalog of holdings of 78s shared between
  - NYPL Library for the Performing Arts
  - Yale University
  - Syracuse University
  - Library of Congress
  - Stanford University



#### History

- Created in 1984 by representatives from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC)
  - Yale University
  - Stanford University
  - Syracuse University
  - Library of Congress
  - New York Public Library, Library for the Performing Arts
- ARSC committee received funding to complete the project from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1976)

#### Importance

- Before its creation, 78s were often uncataloged
- For the present and future researcher helps with discographical research
- It also shows the importance of institutional collaboration in the form of a union catalog

## How this helps with discographical research

- Recordings became easily searchable
  - Research the complete run of Billie Holiday (through performer search)
  - Find every performance of "Mood Indigo" (through title)
  - Research what "His Master's Voice" record label released (through label)
  - Recordings of the works of Maurice Ravel (through composer)
  - See what Yale University has (library siglum)



#### Typical reference

- Many patrons request the discs to take photos of front and back
  - Interesting because the requests don't align with its intended use (listening)
- Class visit research
  - Discover and identify if His Master's Voice recorded and released afro-caribbean jazz

### Typical email reference

- Questions like this give me a reason to promote the RDI
  - Especially because we have an excel spreadsheet of the index
- Easier to navigate via record label for broader genre questions

Dear Sir/Madam. I am a blues and gospel historian from the Netherlands. Could you send me a database or another list of the blues and gospel 78 records you have in your collection? Thank you very much indeed. Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 3:42 PM Recorded Sound <recordedsound@nvol.org> The best way to search for blues and gospel 78s is by record label. Are there any particular labels that might be of interest? Take a look at the below excel spreadsheet of our inventory of the riger-deutsch index, the file is quite large but contains a ton of valuable information. The institution column will let you know if we have the particular recordings. CTY- Yale University NN - New York Public Library, Library for the Performing Arts (us) DLC - Library of Congress CST - Stanford University NYSU - Syracuse University Once you find a particular recording that is of interest to you, provide us with the Record label and Label Let me know if you have any problems with the document. Hope this helps. Julius

### What does the patron see?

- I- index
- M matrix
- C composer
- T- title
- P performer(s)
- S institutional siglum

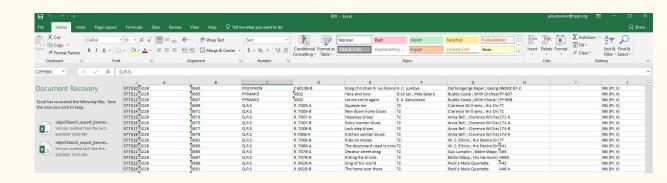
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FROM: 0. R. 5



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### What does the patron see? (via excel)



#### What does staff see

The same thing!

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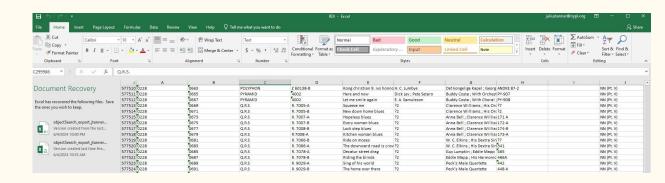
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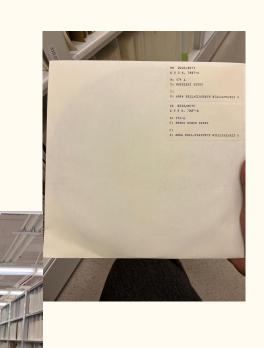
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### Paging/reshelving process

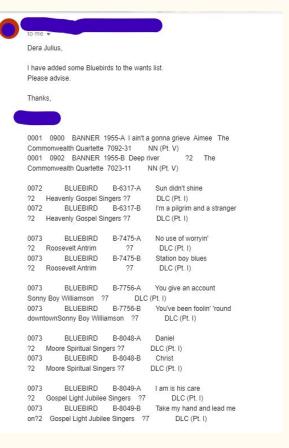
- Usually paging and reshelving is done by MRS librarians
- Note:
  - Stacks are organized alphabetically by record label
  - Chronologically by NN number and sometimes matrix number (depending on area)



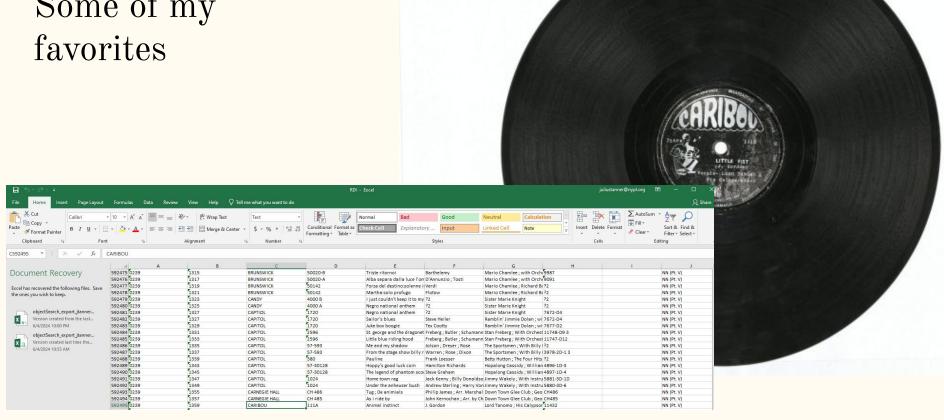


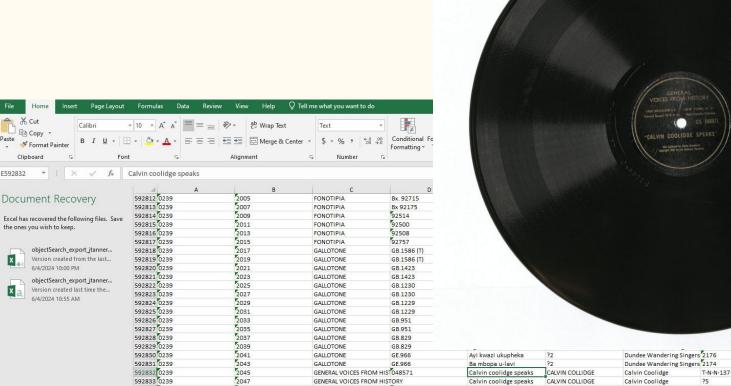
### When we don't have something...

- Patron requested scans of the following 78s
- Primarily wanted discs from the label BLUEBIRD which are mostly housed at Library of Congress (DLC)
- Highlights the importance of a union catalog
  - We guide patrons to where they can find what they need



### Some of my







NN (Pt. V)

NN (Pt. V)



#### Important links/further study

- <u>Guide to Discographical Research</u> NYPL LPA Libguide
- Example of scan from Stanford

#### How to contact me

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recordedsound@nypl.org