

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

Review of the Operation, Effectiveness and Impact of the Archiving Scheme

Report to the Minister for Communications,

Climate Action and Environment

August 2017



1. Introduction

Section 158 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 ("the Act") provides that the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland ("the BAI") shall review the operation, effectiveness and impact of a Broadcasting (Funding) Scheme not later than 3 years from the passing of the Act (July 2009), and every three years thereafter, and make a written report to the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources ("the Minister") on the review.

The Archiving Scheme ("the Scheme") was established in May 2012 further to Section 154 (1)(e) of the Act. As the Scheme did not exist at the time of the establishment of the Act, the question of a review in accordance with section 158 (1) did not arise at that time.

The Scheme seeks to contribute to the preservation of Ireland's broadcasting heritage and a record of Irish culture, heritage and experience by supporting the development of an archiving culture in the Irish broadcasting sector. The Scheme was initially approved until the end of December 2014 and two rounds were run during this period. Following consultation with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, the Scheme was granted an extension by the Minister until the 30th April 2016 and one further round was run during this period.

In the last quarter of 2016, the BAI undertook a review of the Scheme, as required under Section 158 of the Act and in accordance with the rules of the Scheme. The scope of the review encompassed the following:-

- examination of the operation, effectiveness and impact of the Scheme in the context of its objectives, both internally and externally;
- (ii) identification of recommendations for revisions to the Scheme; and,
- (iii) identification of proposed operational improvements in the context of the current Scheme.

An independent review was conducted by Behaviour and Attitudes, the research company appointed by the BAI following an open tender process. They commenced work in September 2016 and presented the review findings to the BAI in January 2017. A copy of these findings are attached at Appendix I.

An overview of the key findings of the research is set out in Section 2 hereunder, while Section 3 contains a number of concluding remarks.



2. The Review of the Scheme

The research comprised both qualitative and quantitative research methods in the form of a stakeholder survey and face to face interviews with a wide cross section of stakeholders. These included applicants, judging panel members, the Department of Communications, Climate Change and Environment, BAI Staff / Authority members and representative organisations.

Positively, the consultation found that there was unanimous agreement among stakeholder groups that a funding scheme for the archiving of programme material has enormous value and should be continued into the future. While pointing out the constraints of the Scheme to date in terms of the amount of funding available, stakeholders, particularly broadcasters, stressed that without the Scheme, they would be unable to afford to preserve and archive any broadcast material. Support of the Scheme from a cultural perspective was also acknowledged. A summary of the findings, grouped under 'strategic' and 'operational' themes, is attached at Appendix II to this report.

As required under statute, the review considered the impact, effectiveness and operations of the Scheme. The main findings are set out hereunder.

2.1 Impact

The findings show that the impact of the Scheme has been positive and in particular, the cultural benefit is noteworthy in that the Scheme has facilitated the safeguarding of material of historical and cultural value that would otherwise have been lost. A list of the projects funded under the Scheme and information on completed projects are attached at Appendix III for information, which demonstrates the historical and cultural value of the broadcast material archived under the Scheme and also, the variety of the content of such archived broadcast material. Overall, the stakeholders attached high value to the Scheme and strongly supported its continuation albeit with modifications.

The BAI welcome this overall finding and in particular, the acknowledgement of the valuable broadcast material of a cultural and historical nature that has been safeguarded by the Scheme.

The BAI would acknowledge that the review highlighted areas that require improvement including the need to provide more supporting information around the Scheme to assist in a wider engagement across the independent broadcasting sector with the Scheme than there has been heretofore.

2.2 Effectiveness

The findings also show that the Scheme has been effective in achieving its objectives. This includes safeguarding broadcast material of heritage value and also, importantly, encouraging and promoting archiving activities within the wider broadcasting sector including amongst the independent community and commercial broadcasters and the independent production sector. The access to the archived broadcast material was viewed as critical and a positive aspect of the Scheme.



Overall, the feedback supported the aims of the Scheme but highlighted that the BAI could undertake more supportive work to assist potential applicants in meeting the aims of the Scheme. In particular, guidance on archiving practices and standards would be very beneficial for potential applicants. This should also include detail on what the BAI views as an integrated approach and the potential for partnerships.

2.3 Operation

The overall findings reveal that stakeholders who engaged with the Scheme had a positive experience. However, there were four common opinions across the feedback for actions that could improve the operation of the Scheme:

- a) More supporting information about the Scheme should be provided:
- b) The application process should be streamlined;
- c) More detailed feedback should be provided in the BAI's assessment reports of applications; and,
- d) The grant agreement process should be streamlined.

The BAI welcomes the stakeholder's comments on the efficiency and support provided by the BAI staff. The BAI would also acknowledge the operational matters highlighted in the review findings. The Scheme is in its infancy and as such, the BAI would note that its staff had also identified similar procedural matters as requiring attention.

Overall, it is evident that stakeholders are generally satisfied with the Scheme and no significant changes were suggested. The issues raised in the main related to the operation of the Scheme. The BAI would note that the views were reasonable and by addressing the areas identified, the operation of the Scheme would be improved.

3. Conclusion

The BAI welcomes the review findings and in particular, that the Scheme is valued and appreciated and that stakeholders wish to see it continue. Its contribution to the archiving of Ireland's heritage is acknowledged and merited. The BAI also welcomes the fact that the review has endorsed the aims of the Scheme as set out in the statute.

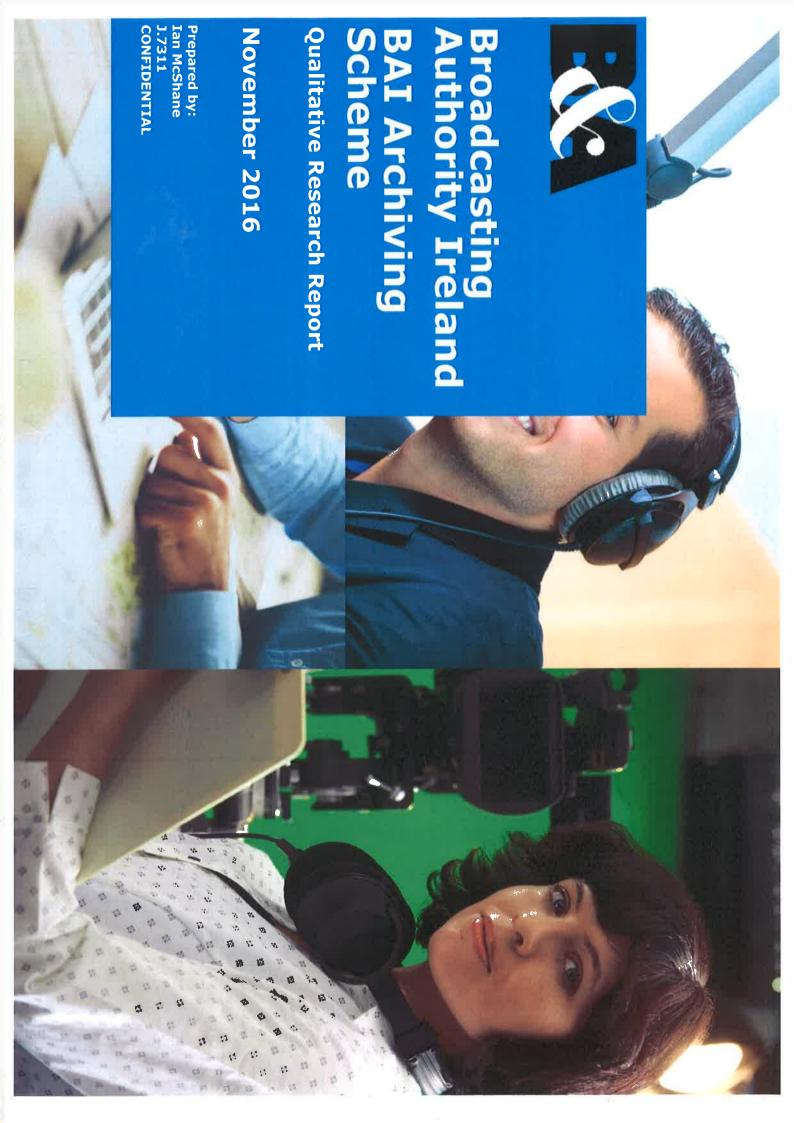
The outcomes of the review form a key input into the drafting of the new Scheme. They also inform the practices by which the Scheme is implemented, including the guidance information published by the BAI and the procedures for the application and assessment phases. The process for the development of the new Scheme has commenced and it is envisaged that the BAI will submit a draft Scheme to the Minister by the end of September 2017 following relevant stakeholder consultation.

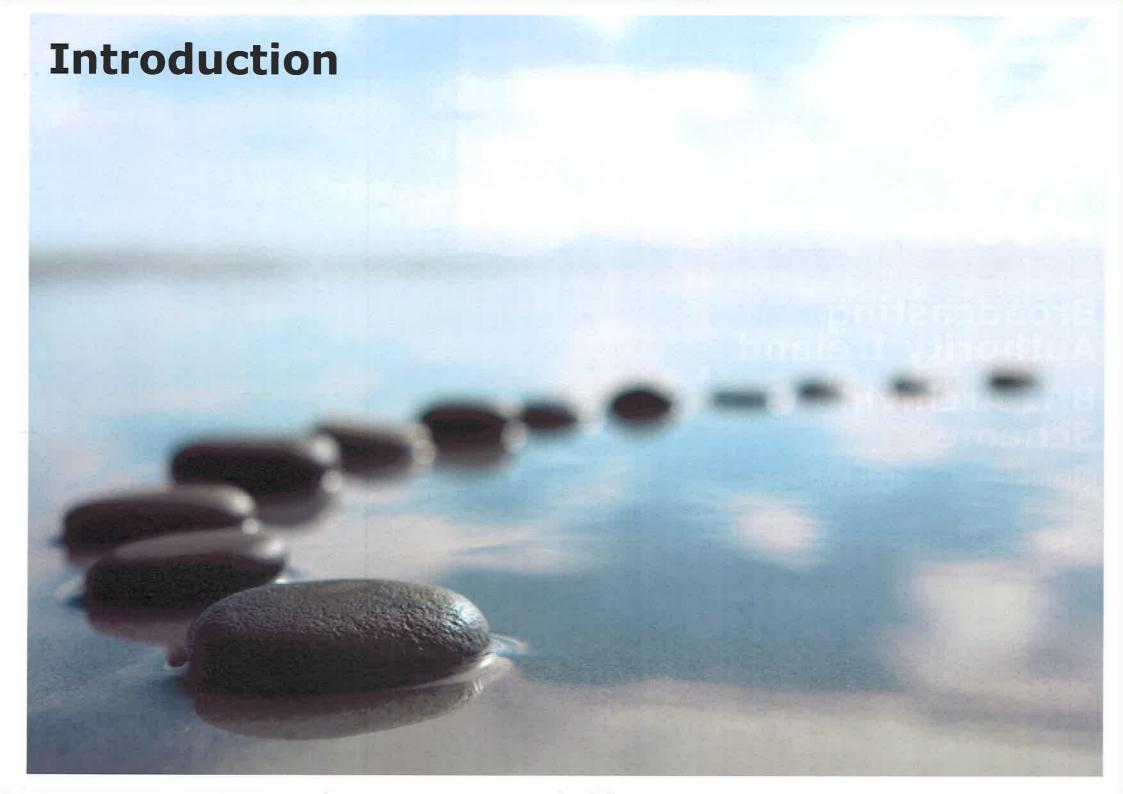


Appendix I

Behaviour & Attitudes: Research Report BAI Archiving Scheme







Research Background & Objectives

- The BAI archiving funding scheme was instigated to address the absence of a national audio visual archiving policy and since its inception in 2013, the scheme has awarded over €5 million in funding to 14 successful applicants.
- The BAI considered Autumn 2016 as an opportune time to conduct a strategic review of the Archiving Scheme with its various stakeholders.
- Behaviour & Attitudes were commissioned to conduct research to inform this review, which involved stakeholders evaluating the scheme's impact and overall role in relation to a number of key areas including:
 - Information for applicants
 - Relevance of objectives
 - Application process
 - Assessment procedure
 - Level of demand from applicants
 - Outcomes from the decision making process
- These objectives have in fact been met through a combination of qualitative and qualitative research.
- This report includes the findings from the qualitative survey of stakeholders, and the quantitative report forms a separate document.



Methodology

 For the Qualitative module, a series of six face-toface depth interviews was conducted.



- For the quantitative survey a Computer Aided Telephone (CATI) survey was conducted through the B&A CATI unit in Dublin.
- Fieldwork was conducted over the period 24th October 8th November 2016.



Qualitative Sample Structure

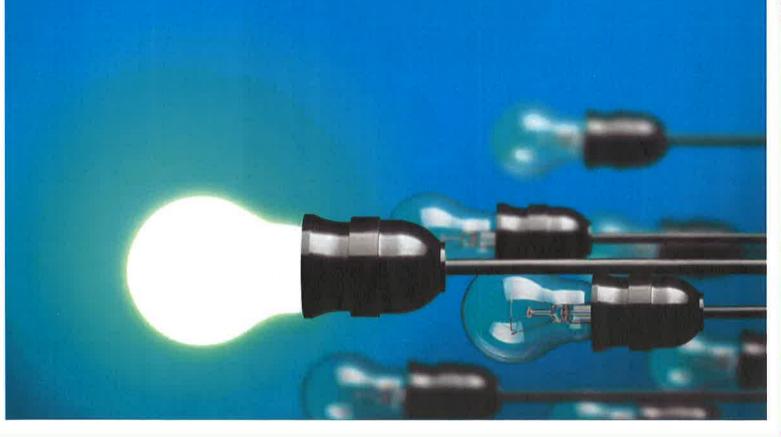


- The qualitative depth interviews were all conducted on a face-to-face basis, at the respondent's place of work.
- The targeted number of six depth interviews was achieved, and each of the stakeholder groupings of broadcasters, industry/Government representatives, staff and judging panel was represented in the sample.
- Each interview was 40-50 minutes in duration, and was conducted by a senior B&A Research Director.





The Findings



General Broadcast Archiving Trends

Alternative/
International
Systems

A number of international archive systems were referenced, but there was no sense in which there is a standardised broadcast material archive system that could be applied to the Irish market in terms of best practice.

Examples of systems mentioned in this context included:

- US "pop-up" community based archive.
- LexisNexis reportedly used for newspaper archiving.

Global Archiving Race Against Time

- It is generally understood there is a maximum ten years left within which to save the global analogue broadcast material collection.
- This 'race against time' is compounded by:
 - Degradation of material
 - Obsolescence of associated play-back devices
 - Diminished expertise to do the job



General Broadcast Archiving Trends

Use of commonly adopted Metadata standards

- Not all stakeholders are as technically knowledgeable as each other regarding differing metadata standards, but it makes sense to them when the subject is discussed that any archiving project should adopt one of the commonly recognised standards (e.g. as opposed to a broadcaster developing their own standard).
- Particularly if the industry ever moves towards a fully integrated National Archive:
 - · Leading to an ultimate 'Linked Data' format.

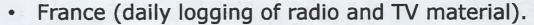
Move towards open access

- While most speak of the need for easy access to publicly funded broadcast archive material, mention is also made of the movement in research and archives across the world towards open access.
- Ideally online and free.



General Broadcast Archiving Trends

Establishment of
National Broadcast
Archiving Institutes in
other countries



- Netherlands (big annual funding; museum frontage).
- Belgium (responsible for both digitisation and preservation plans).

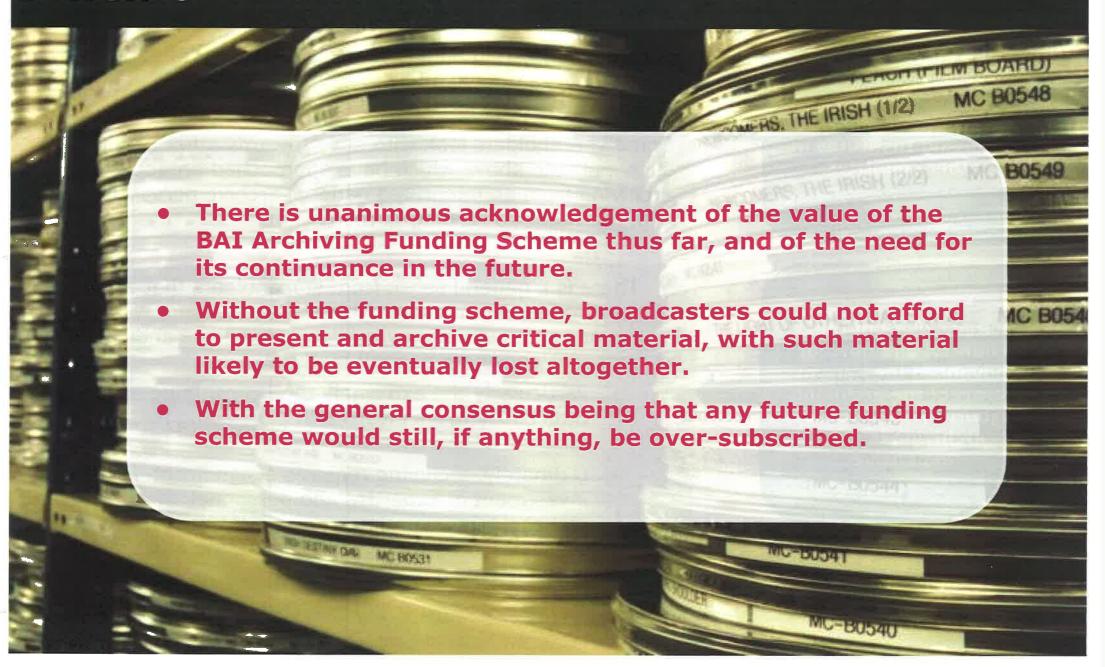
Some shareholders look with envy towards other countries such as those above which have approached broadcast archiving from an integrated national archive perspective, with the required funding to match.

Regardless of the country, and how far advanced they are in terms of the archiving journey, broadcast archiving is very expensive

- There is a general sense from stakeholders that as the current funding model in Ireland stands, there will never be enough money available to digitise and preserve anywhere enough material.
 - Particularly the extremely <u>time consuming</u> and thus costly tasks involved in developing metadata for ease of search.
 - Ultimately, archiving requires a significant investment in expertise and personnel, and stakeholders sometimes wonder if this is fully appreciated by those who allocate the amount of funding available in Ireland.



Perceived Worth/Value of Archiving Funding Scheme



Perceived Worth/Value of Archiving Funding Scheme

"We are literally running out of time because There is a thing called vinegar syndrome where it actually disintegrates."

Applicant

"I suppose without the funding this would have never happened because of the investment that is needed in it. Sometimes certain businesses and certain CEO's may not see a financial value in it whereas this doesn't have a financial value but it has a value in preserving the history of the audio and broadcasts."

Broadcaster

"So in a sense you had companies for whom this (archiving) wasn't a priority. Suddenly there was a fund where they could get money. I think hopefully 2 or 3 years down the road we will begin to see the benefit of that."

Industry Stakeholder

"The general rule I would say is we would see the value in preservation of data and records that wouldn't be done normally and if you look at things like the economic recession and downturn, broadcasters were very tight on their finances and if they had a choice to make that might not necessarily have been the first thing they would do."

Industry Stakeholder

Checon

Specific Perceived Benefits of Archiving Scheme

Prevent Loss of Analogue Data Through Natural Degradation (Preservation)

 Particularly old radio analogue material, which was in danger of being lost altogether – Vinegar Syndrome.

Creation of
Searchable Archive
Material (Extraction
of Metadata)

In addition to the digitisation of material, it is generally agreed that the archive is next to useless if it cannot be accessed in an efficient and meaningful manner.

- Through the extraction of metadata from analogue tapes.
- For broadcaster researchers (e.g. historical dates; interview guest history), documentarians, etc.



Specific Perceived Benefits of Archiving Scheme

Provision of Archive Material to General Public

- Many speak of the fundamental need for any material funded through the scheme (i.e. taxpayers money) to be ultimately available to the general public.
 - Free/No Charge.
 - Instantaneously.

Potential to Monetise Archive Material in the Future

- It is also acknowledged that archived material can potentially be leveraged to generate revenues for the broadcaster in particular.
- Even if only to "cover its costs".
- A potential (if modest) source of income for smaller/regional broadcasters in particular.
- Although any sense in which applicants might profit from archived material through the scheme would be frowned upon by all.



Specific Perceived Benefits of Archiving Scheme

Establishment of Systematic Archiving Practices for the Future

- For the independent sector in particular, the BAI funding scheme has prompted the initiation of archiving for the first time.
- This is believed unlikely to have ever happened without the fund, with such smaller broadcasters who have been through the scheme having learned an enormous amount about archiving processes for the future.

To Inform/Enhance
Present Day
Narrative and
Debate

- Ultimately, the cultural benefit to the country of having historical broadcast material digitised, and future material preserved is enormous.
- Particularly for something that commercial broadcasters in particular would find difficult to justify if they had to pay for it themselves.



Specific Perceived Concerns re Archiving Scheme

Inadequate/ Declining Scheme Funds

- The general view is that the amount allocated to the fund (€5 million for the last scheme, and just a proportion of the 7% of TV licence fee receipts allocated to the overall broadcast fund) is simply inadequate.
- And even the absolute amount allocated to the fund might vary depending on the licence fee take.
- Some call for a set (ideally increased) amount to be granted to the archiving fund in future years, held separate to the Sound & Vision fund.

Lack of a coherent Government policy

- It is reported that currently there is separate responsibility and funding for broadcast material archiving, and audio visual cultural heritage.
- This does not make sense to those who raise the matter, a number of whom bemoan the fact that more effort was not put into setting out a national archive policy at the outset.



Specific Perceived Concerns re Archiving Scheme

Increased BAI clarity around required expertise

- Some applicants point out that it took them time to appreciate how important it is to have the expertise of an archiving specialist in administering their archiving programme.
- With suggestions that the BAI might highlight the importance of this aspect even further as part of the application process.

More flexibility afforded to smaller versus larger applicants?

- One or two stakeholders wondered whether more flexibility is afforded to applications from smaller sized operations.
- Yet others felt the system might in fact debilitate against the smaller applicants, who perhaps should be allocated a disproportionately higher share of the fund given their vastly inferior reserves?



Specific Perceived Concerns re Archiving Scheme

Restrictive/
Inflexible Funding
Contract

- It was suggested by one stakeholder that the BAI scheme contract is based on the Sound and Vision contract (production based)?
- And therefore requires a lot of tweaking/renegotiation in practice.

More streamlined application process

- A minority suggest there could be some 'tidying up' of the application forms themselves:
 - Collapse some of the answer boxes together.
 - Request more information in certain areas.



BAI Scheme Service/Administration: Key Perceived Considerations

BAI Flexibility

- Stakeholders mentioned a number of times that the experience of the last few years has been a learning curve, both for themselves, and for the BAI.
- This is believed to have been recognised and appreciated by the BAI in the flexibility they have displayed in their management of the scheme (e.g. not being too rigid in relation to targeted dates for completion of specific agreed phases of the programmes).

Potential for BAI to begin to promote common systems

- It is suggested that a natural progression would be for the BAI to encourage the industry to begin to adopt common archiving standards, policies and software systems.
- A related benefit of which would be the increased likelihood of smaller applicants entering into partnerships/collaborations.



BAI Scheme Service/Administration: Key Perceived Considerations

Potential for enhanced BAI educational role

- It was suggested that many of the smaller broadcasters are likely to be a long way from even beginning to consider a programme of archiving.
- And may not have yet considered approaching the BAI for funding on the basis that the whole process may appear too daunting.
- An educational drive by the BAI to 'introduce' such broadcasters to the scheme, and encourage them to consider applying (perhaps as part of a partnership?) might be considered.

Desire for Future
Applicants to Partner
with Others

- The notion of smaller broadcasters potentially partnering with others in seeking funding was suggested a number of times as a means of optimising the chances of success with funding, but also as a route towards rendering the whole process more manageable/less daunting.
- This might include partnerships with:
 - Other broadcasters (e.g. national and regional stations).
 - Matched funding from industry bodies.



BAI Scheme Service/Administration: Key Perceived Considerations

Clear and
transparent
guidance from BAI
on application
process

 All agree that the guidelines provided by the BAI for potential applicants are very clear, readily available on the BAI website, and transparent insofar as the option to seek clarification on any aspect of the process desired is always there.



Stakeholder View of Archiving Scheme Objectives – Development of Integrated Approach

- While most respondents touched upon the various areas covered in the scheme's
 objectives on a spontaneous basis throughout the conversation, the interpretation of
 precisely what each objective refers to varied somewhat from individual to individual.
- The perceived meaning of the development of an integrated approach is a case in point:
 - For some of the broadcasters, for example, this objective suggests the integration of archived material with internal systems and software, through to the broadcaster website. Where relevant, this would include access to both TV and audio material as part of a single search. The advantages of achieving this type of outcome are clear, and arguably crucial in the maintenance of archived material into the future.
- Those more familiar with global archiving trends, meanwhile, tend to think of the integration of archived material into a national archive, the perceived benefits of which tend to lean towards the broader socio-cultural arena.
- Another stakeholder again suggested that encouraging joint broadcaster applications would in one way move the scheme closer to an integrated approach.

Whatever the interpretation, the benefits of an integrated approach are appreciated, and deemed to be important for the BAI scheme to work towards.



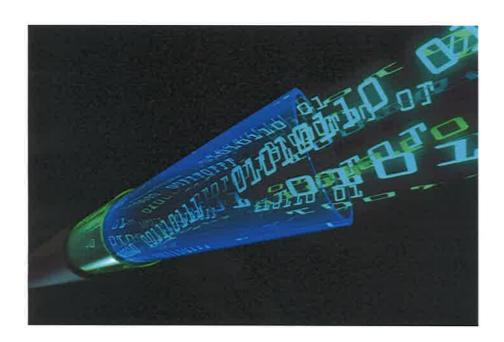
Stakeholder View of Archiving Scheme Objectives – Access to Programme Material



- For many applicants, access refers to access to the material by internal applicant researchers, documentary makers, etc.
- And also possibly the ready access (whether monetised or not) to archives by the general public.
- In the latter instance, it is noted that broadcasters have the added headache of copyright to consider.
- It is also pointed out that access is one thing, but that in order for the material to be truly useful, it must be easily accessible (i.e. searchable, with near-instantaneous access).



Stakeholder View of Archiving Scheme Objectives – Storage Processes



- There are of course clear perceived benefits to focusing on the storage of broadcast archived material by way of back-up in separate buildings, back-up in the cloud, etc.
- In many ways, however, the term storage appears to some to be somewhat narrow as one of the three over-arching objectives of the scheme.
- Specifically, storage does not seem to adequately capture the concept of digitised material being **preserved** into the future, with some suggesting that even digitised archives are likely to eventually degrade if not cared for on an on-going basis ('Bot Rot').



Reaction to Preservation Aim as Primary Goal

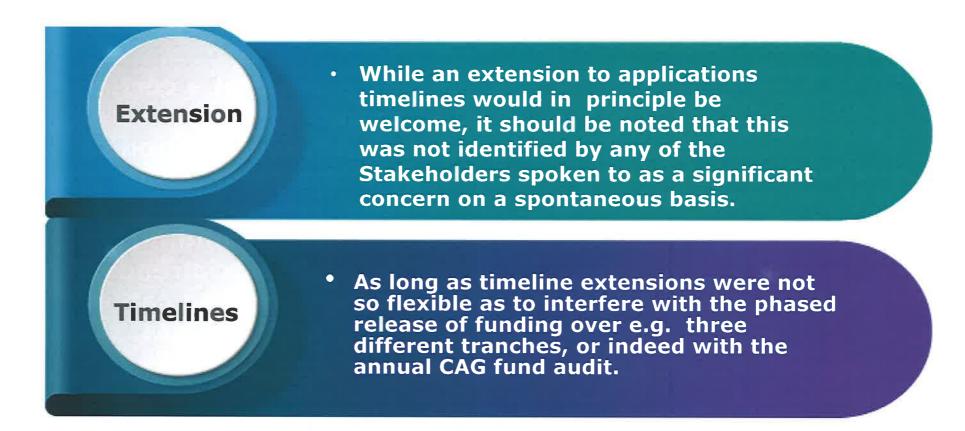


- The notion of a primary focus being placed on the preservation of programme material as a primary goal, with subsequent links to the existing three objectives, was introduced by the moderator on a prompted basis.
- Respondents could see the overall logic of such an initiative, with preservation described as being more critical than, for example, storage.
- Interestingly, however, quite a few suggest that
 if funding was provided for preservation alone,
 it would be crucial that it be made dependent
 on access to that data within a stipulated time
 period, otherwise the true benefits of the
 material preserved may never be realised.
- To avoid, for example, preserved material being sold off to a private collection.



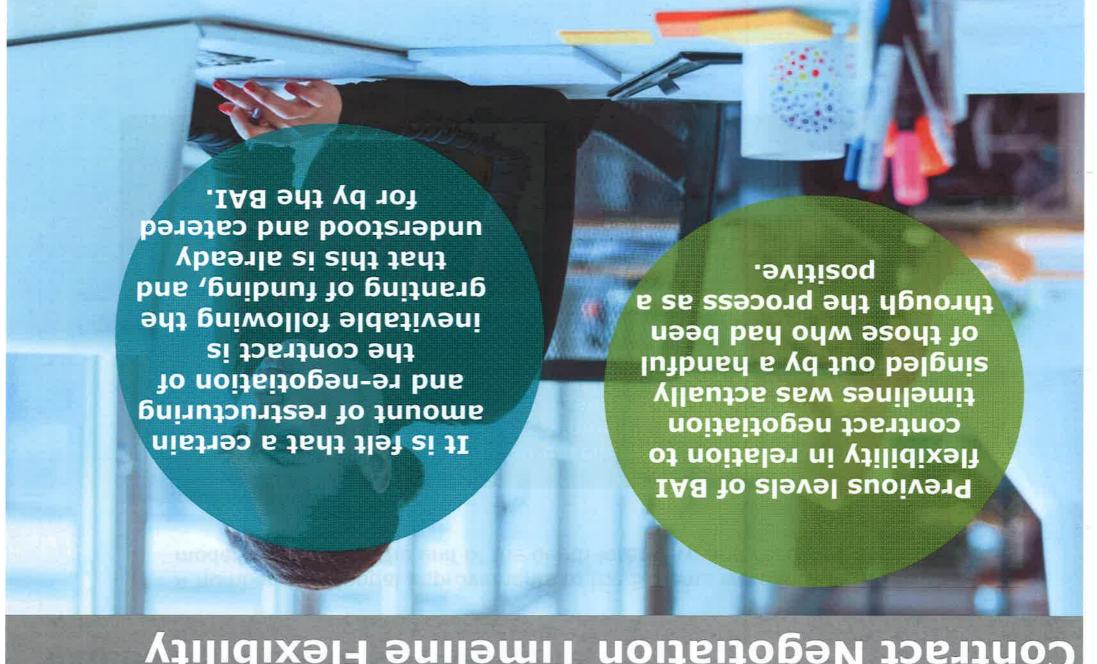
Reaction to Assessment Criteria Revisions: Extend Applications Timeframe

 A number of potential improvements to the Scheme were introduced by the moderator towards the end of the depth interview, and reactions elicited.

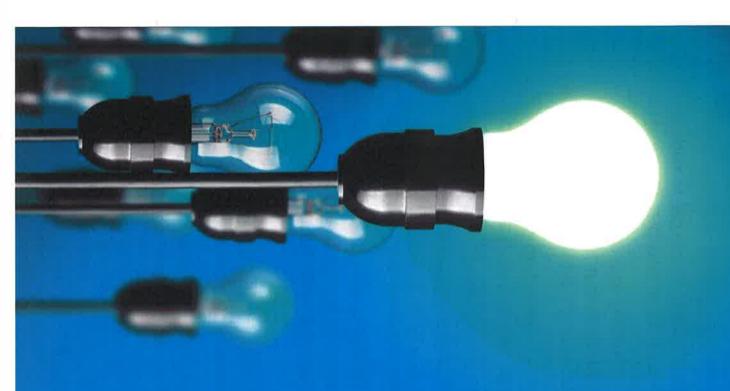




Reaction to Assessment Criteria Revisions: Contract Negotiation Timeline Flexibility









- At a global level, there is general consensus that we are in a race against time to save analogue broadcast material, for a variety of reasons.
 - The ultimate solution to this dilemma is believed to be the establishment of a national integrated broadcast archive function underpinned by a national Government archiving policy.
- By definition, the realisation of this optimum solution would require a sea change in Government thinking and, more importantly, in the amount of funding available to establish such an archive.
- It is within this broader context that stakeholders reviewed the BAI archiving funding scheme, which it is felt is unlikely to have the scale of resource available to it that is clearly required to meet current demand.
- These are not, of course, criticisms of the BAI funding scheme per se, as stakeholders
 appreciate that the BAI is merely working under the constraints of the amount of funding
 it has at its disposal.
- Ultimately, there is unanimous agreement from across all stakeholder types that the BAI
 archiving funding scheme has been of enormous value thus far, and also that it should
 continue into the future.
 - Indeed, the majority of these individuals were at pains to point out that without the funding scheme, most broadcasters would simply not have been able to afford to preserve and archive any material, and that it is therefore likely to have been lost altogether.

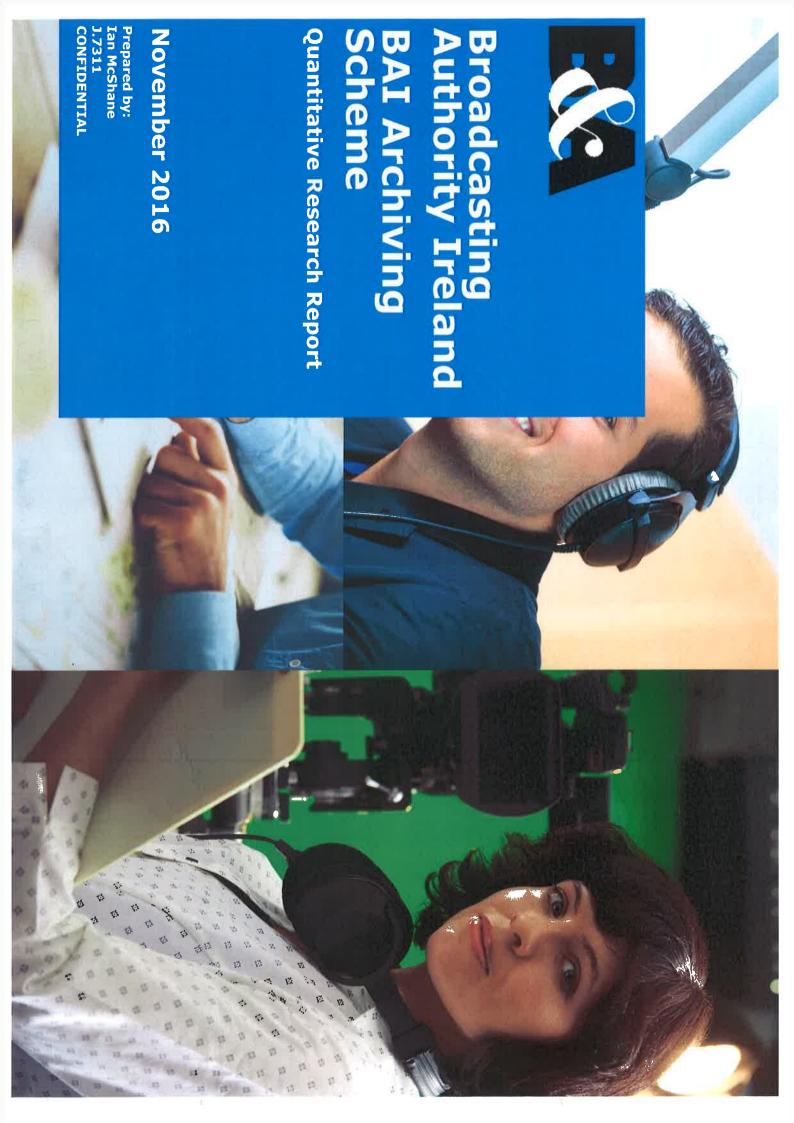


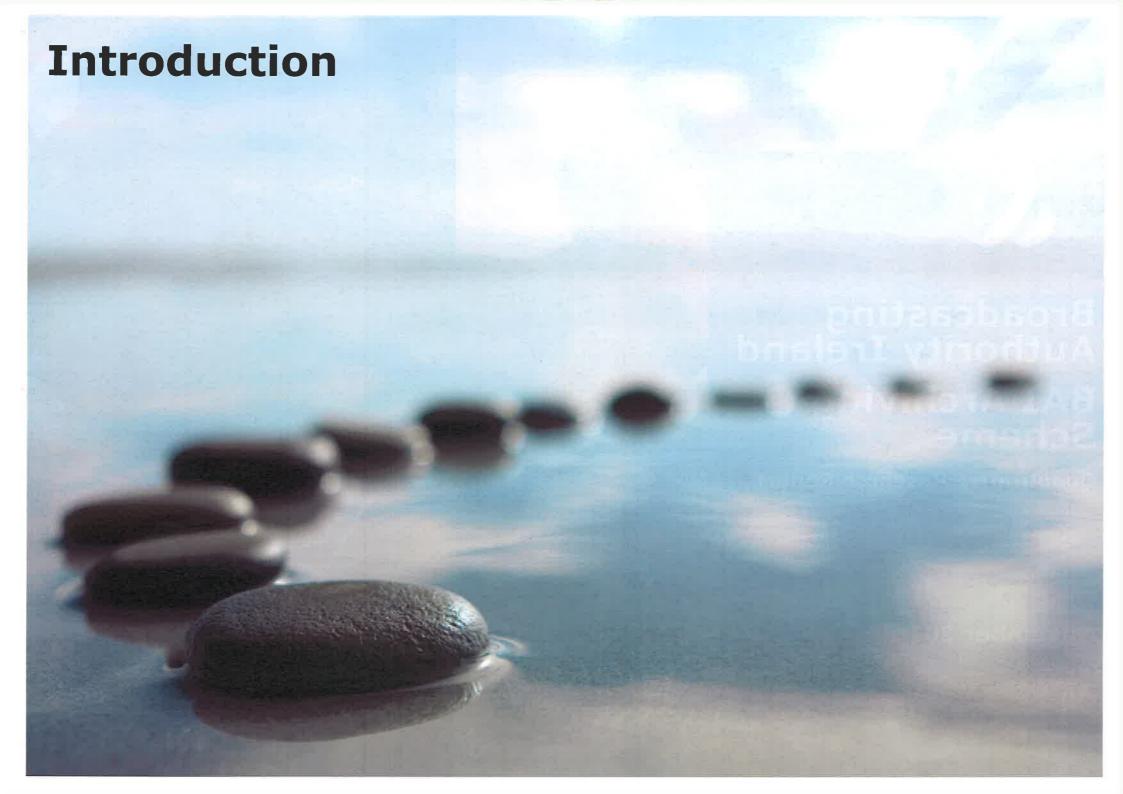
- A whole range of specific benefits to the Archiving Scheme was identified by respondents, and these are detailed in the main body of the report. It is fair to say that each of the practical benefits of the scheme feeds into one over-arching purpose – i.e. the preservation of material of use in informing our present and future understanding of Irish society and culture.
- In reality, there were very few direct criticisms of the Archive Funding Scheme itself, other than it simply not having enough funds at its disposal.
- It is certainly important that stakeholders feel that smaller broadcasters and applicants have as equal a chance of a successful funding application as do their larger counterparts.
 - This concern, where expressed, tends to be based on a belief that smaller operators will simply not have the budgets, personnel or expertise required to make as compelling a submission as larger organisations, and they simply need to be reassured that this does not set the smaller players at a disadvantage.
- One means by which any such concerns could be assuaged might be for the BAI to emphasise even further the potential for smaller applicants to partner with others in seeking funding.
- All in all, stakeholders were very complimentary with regard to the BAI's administration and management of the funding scheme, from the clarity of applicant guidelines issued to the level of flexibility afforded to applicants throughout the process.





- The qualitative research also included a detailed review of stakeholders' awareness and understanding of the key archiving scheme objectives.
- Certainly, each of the three existing objectives are deemed to be relevant and important, albeit with a number of varying interpretations of precisely what the development of an integrated approach might mean. The precise intended meaning of this objective might be addressed in future BAI communications.
 - While storage of broadcast archived material is clearly appreciated as a key objective, it was pointed out a number of times that preservation in the longer term is crucial over and above mere storage.
- Most stakeholders also felt that any future funding that might be made available for preservation only projects should be made dependent on that data being accessible within a stipulated time period.
- Finally, a number of potential improvements to the scheme were prompted by the moderator, and reactions elicited.
 - There did not seem to be a burning desire for an extension to applications timelines from those who had been through the process, although in principle the idea was welcomed.
 - Crucially, a number of stakeholders cautioned against timelines being made so flexible that they might interfere with the smooth running of the process at a broader level (e.g. the phased release of funding across a number of tranches).





Research Background & Objectives

- The BAI archiving funding scheme was instigated to address the absence of a national audio visual archiving policy and since its inception in 2013, the scheme has awarded over €5 million in funding to 14 successful applicants.
- The BAI considered Autumn 2016 as an opportune time to conduct a strategic review of the Archiving Scheme with its various stakeholders.
- Behaviour & Attitudes were commissioned to conduct research to inform this review, which involved stakeholders evaluating the scheme's impact and overall role in relation to a number of key areas including:
 - Information for applicants
 - Relevance of objectives
 - Application process
 - Assessment procedure
 - Level of demand from applicants
 - Outcomes from the decision making process
- These objectives have in fact been met through a combination of qualitative and qualitative research.
- This report includes the findings from the quantitative survey of stakeholders, and the qualitative report forms a separate document.



Methodology

- A Computer Aided Telephone (CATI) survey was conducted through the B&A CATI unit in Dublin.
- Fieldwork was conducted over the period 24th October 8th November 2016.
- A total of 54 Archiving Scheme Stakeholders were identified as potential survey respondents.
- A total of 32 respondents completed the survey (i.e. 59% of the total available universe) an exceptionally high response rate for surveys of this nature.



Stakeholder Universe Versus Achieved Sample

All participants - 32

	TOTAL UNIVERSE	UNIVERSE %	ACHIEVED SAMPLE	SAMPLE %
	%	%	%	%
Applicants	38	70	23	72
* Others	16	30	9	28
Total	54	100	32	100

^{*} Others include a mix of Judging Panel, Department, BAI Staff/Authority Member, and Representative Organisation Stakeholders.

Analysis of 'Others' is restricted to a combination of all 9 respondents in that grouping so as to protect the identity of individual respondents.

A broad mix of different types of such 'other' Stakeholders was however achieved.

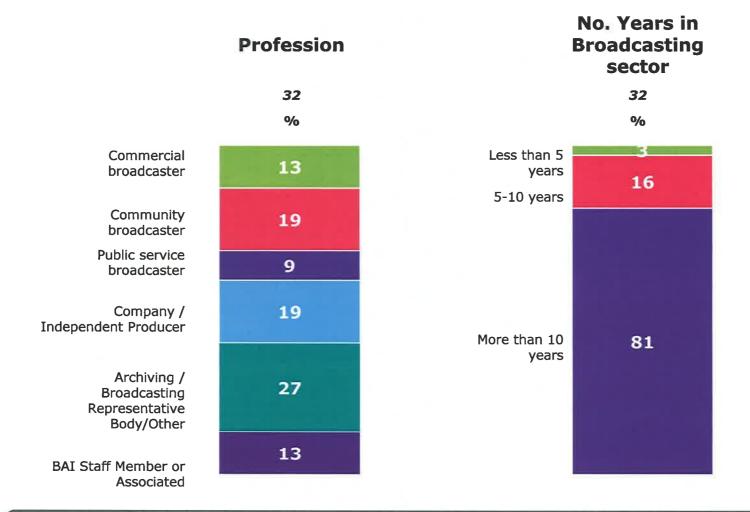




Sample Profile

Sample Profile

All participants - 32



A broad spread of Stakeholder types was surveyed, with the vast majority of respondents having spent more than ten years working in the broadcast sector.

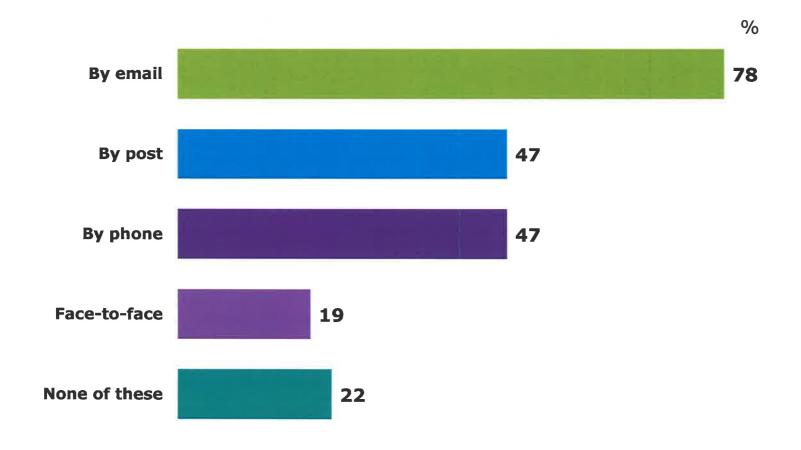




The Findings

BAI Contact Type

All participants - 32



The vast majority of stakeholders have been in contact with the BAI Archiving Scheme via email within the last 12 months. Half have been in contact by both traditional post and telephone, while 1 in 5 have interacted with the scheme on a face-to-face basis.





BAI Contact Type x Respondent Type

All participants - 32

		Sec	ctor	Sector Inv	volvement	Scheme	Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)			
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10		
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
By email	78	90	73	73	67	71	80	80		
By post	47	60	41	48	44	29	30	67		
By phone	47	60	41	57	22	57	20	60		
Face-to-face	19	10	23	13	33		10	33		
None of these	22	10	27	17	33	29	20	20		

Those stakeholders who have interacted with the scheme by way of post, or on a face-to-face basis, are significantly more likely to rate the overall scheme positively.





Stakeholders' View of Funding Scheme - % Agreeing with Statements

All participants - 32



Stakeholders claimed understanding of BAI's role, and the ways in which it can support broadcast archiving in Ireland is extremely high. There are also very high levels of satisfaction with the helpfulness and efficiency of the BAI and its staff. Ultimately, 7 in 10 of all of the scheme stakeholders surveyed would recommend the BAI to other broadcasters for archiving projects, with the great majority placing a high value on both the level and duration of funding of projects through the BAI's archiving scheme. This is not to say that there are no areas of perceived potential improvement to the scheme. Specifically, it is clear that some improvements would be welcome with regard to the availability of easy to understand information around the scheme, ease of use of the funding application process itself, etc.





%

Shareholders' View of the Funding Scheme - % **Agreeing with Statements**All participants - 32

		Se	ctor	Sector Inv	olvement	Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The people I deal with in BAI are helpful	78	100	68	74	89	43	90	87
I place a high value on the level of funding available from BAI's Archiving Scheme	78	90	73	78	78	57	80	87
I understand what BAI's role is in relation to the archiving of programme material in Ireland	75	80	73	70	89	57	60	93
BAI is an efficient organisation to deal with	75	90	68	74	78	43	80	87
I am aware of the ways in which BAI can support broadcast archiving	69	70	68	70	67	71	50	80
I would recommend BAI to other broadcasters for archiving projects	69	80	64	65	78	29	60	93
I place a high value on the duration of funding for projects available from BAI's Archiving Scheme	63	70	59	61	67	43	40	87
Information about BAI's support for archiving is easy to find	59	60	59	48	89	14	50	87
BAI reporting requirements for funded Archiving projects are reasonable	56	60	55	57	56	29	30	87
I place a high value on the non-financial supports available from BAI's Archiving Scheme	50	60	45	39	78	-	40	80
BAI understands the challenges broadcasters face in archiving programme material	50	50	50	43	67	29	20	80
Information about BAI's support for archiving is easy to understand	47	40	50	39	67	29	30	67
BAI keeps me updated on developments in Archiving support	44	30	50	35	67	29	40	53
BAI is the organisation I most closely associate with the archiving of programme material in Ireland	41	50	36	35	56	14	50	47
The funding application process for the BAI Archiving Scheme is straightforward	38	40	36	35	44	14	10	67
BAI proactively makes suggestions that improve the likelihood of archiving projects being a success	38	30	41	30	56	17.75	20	67
None of These	6		9	4	11	14	-	7

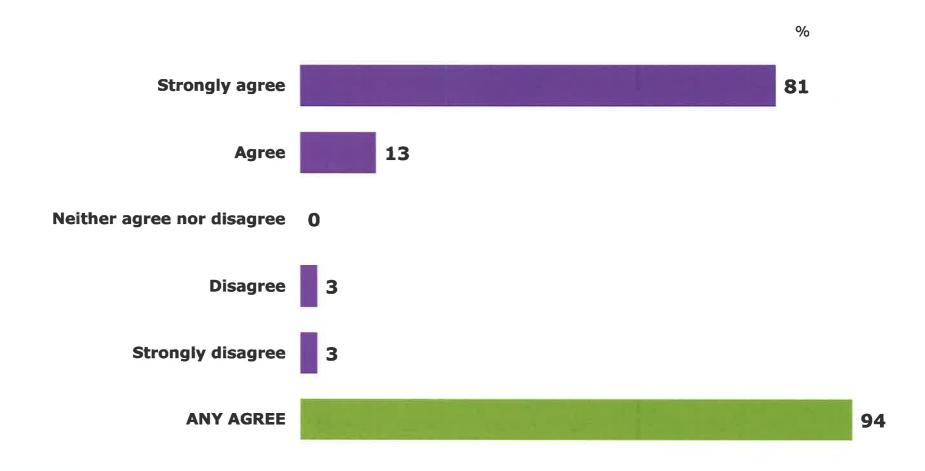
Those stakeholders who rate their satisfaction with the scheme quite poorly (just seven out of all 32 respondents interviewed) are more likely to disagree that information about the BAI's support for archiving is easy to find, or that the funding application process for the scheme is straightforward.





Perceived Value of Continued Funding

All participants - 32



Practically all of the stakeholders interviewed agree that there is value in the continued funding of the archiving of programme material.





Q.8 Thinking now of the future, to what extent do you agree or disagree that there is value in the continued funding of the archiving of Programme Material? Again please use a five point scale where 1 is strongly agree and 5 is strongly disagree.

Perceived Value of Continued Funding

All participants - 32

		Sector		Sector Involvement		Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
- ANY AGREE	94	100	91	91	100	86	90	100
Strongly agree	81	90	77	83	78	86	80	80
Agree	13	10	14	9	22		10	20
Neither agree nor disagree	- 1			-		11 14 7	•	19
Disagree	3	-	5	4		-	10	7.4
Strongly disagree	3		5	4	Jongood.	14		
Don't know	~	-	-				=	-
Mean	4.66	4.90	4.55	4.61	4.78	4.43	4.60	4.80

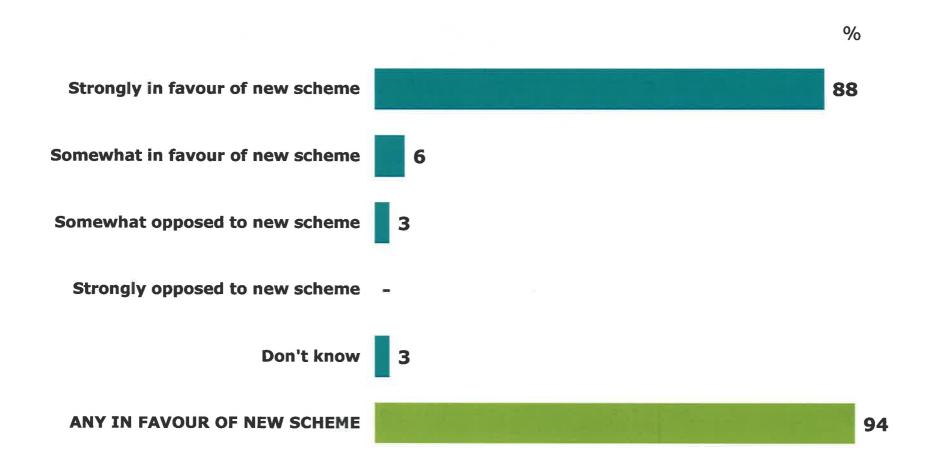
With over 8 in 10 strongly agreeing that funding of programme material should be continued.





Opinion on establishment of new BAI Fund for Archiving of Programme Material

All participants - 32



Similarly, more than 9 in 10 of all stakeholders are in favour of the establishment of a new BAI funding scheme for the archiving of programme material.





Opinion on establishment of new BAI Fund for Archiving of Programme Material

All participants - 32

	Total	Sector Sector		Sector Inv	Sector Involvement		Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
		Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10	
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
- ANY IN FAVOUR	94	100	91	91	100	71	100	100	
Strongly in favour of new scheme	88	90	86	91	78	71	90	93	
Somewhat in favour of new scheme	6	10	5	-	22	-	10	7	
Somewhat opposed to new scheme	3	1	5	4	-	14			
Strongly opposed to new scheme	-		-	I s	·	3	19		
Don't Know	3	-	5	4		14	e ing water		

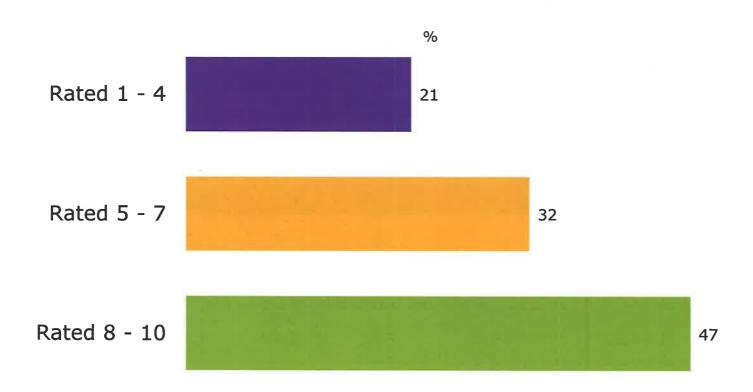
With support for a new scheme consistent across all stakeholder types.





Satisfaction with BAI's Archiving of Programme Material Scheme – 10 point satisfaction rating scale

All participants - 32



As indicated in the earlier sections of this report, there are clearly some stakeholders who feel that specific aspects of the scheme could be improved upon, as might be expected.





Satisfaction with BAI's Archiving of Programme Material Scheme – 10 point satisfaction rating scale

All participants - 32

	Total	Se	ctor	Sector Involvement		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	
Base	32	10	22	23	9	
	%	%	%	%	%	
Rated 1 – 4	21	10	28	30	0	
Rated 5 – 7	32	50	24	30	33	
Rated 8 - 10	46	40	51	29	66	
Mean	6.34	6.60	6.23	5.87	7.56	





Desired Improvements to Scheme: Application Process

All participants - 32

		Se	ctor	Sector In	volvement	Scheme	Satisfaction (10 point)	n Rating
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Clearer more defined guidelines/application process	28	40	23	30	22	43	20	27
Application needs to be simplified, streamlined	22	30	18	13	44		60	7
More consultation needed i.e. feedback, access to BAI	16	20	14	13	22	14	20	13
Too much paperwork and repetition	9	10	9	13			10	13
Need to categorise archives.	6		9	4	11		20	
More recognition of archive material in Northern Ireland	3	10	5 9	4	-	-	10	
Should be done as a business proposition rather than academic exercise	3		5	4		14	-	
To ensure value for money	3		5	4	(a)	14	¥	9
DK/None	34	20	41	35	33	29	10	53

With regard to the Application Process, the most frequently cited desired improvements include the production of more defined guidelines around the application process, further simplification/streamlining of the application process, and more consultation with/or feedback from BAI in relation to applications. Amongst those stakeholders who express lowest overall satisfaction with the scheme, clearer guidelines around the application process, and a more streamlined process are the key areas driving dissatisfaction.





Desired Improvements to Scheme: Assessment Process

All participants - 32

		Se	ector	Sector In	volvement	Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32 %	10 %	22 %	23	9 %	7 %	10 %	15 %
More feedback needed	25	40	18	26	22	43	20	20
More transparency in process	13		18	17		43	10	-
Face to face application	9	20	5	13	1	29	-	7
Need to take into account some organisations don't have equal resources i.e. staff	6	10	5	9			10	7
Allocation of funding for small projects.	6	-	9	9		14	3	7
Faster assessment process	6	10	5	4	11	-	20	-
Flexibility in making decisions	3	-	5	1.51	11	*	a	7
Continue with expert archiving	3		5	1-7 -1	11	-	10	
Focus more on ongoing archive	3	10	16	4	·		- 8	7
Need to agree on a standardised/international format	3		5	4	-			7
Dk/None	44	30	50	39	56	29	40	53

The most critical desired improvements to the actual assessment process centre on the need for more feedback on the outcome of assessments, and a greater sense of transparency in assessments overall.





Desired Improvements to Scheme: Contract Negotiation Flexibility

All participants - 32

		Se	ctor	Sector Involvement		Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32	10	22	23	9	7	10	15
Need to be flexible re deadlines, alterations of projects etc.	% 28	% 40	23	% 30	22	% 14	30	33
Process takes too long	13	10	14	9	22	14	10	13
Good communication/feedback	9	30		9	11		30	- #** T
Clear outline of application criteria	6	10	5	4	11	-		13
Simplify/make more user friendly	6	10	5	- 0	22		20	
North considered as part of overall Irish archiving	3	10		4	-	-	10	-
An appeal process	3	10	-	4				7
Make online system more accessible	3	-	5	4	-	¥	10	-
DK/None	50	30	59	52	44	71	30	53

Not all survey respondents will of course have had experience of aspects of the scheme to do with contract negotiation. For this reason, half of all respondents cannot identify anything that might be improved with regard to contract negotiation flexibility. Of the remainder, however, one desired improvement stands out above all others – i.e. the need to be more flexible with regard to deadlines and the alteration of project details as part of the contract negotiation process. Four of the 32 respondents interviewed also felt that the contract negotiation process simply takes too long.





Additional Comments on Development of New Scheme

All participants - 32

		Se	ctor	Sector In	volvement	Scheme Satisfaction Rating (10 point)		
	Total	Broad caster	Producer / Govt / Repo Body	Applicants	Other	1 to 4	5 to 7	8 to 10
Base	32 %	10 %	22 %	23	9 %	7 %	10 %	15 %
Communication and feedback to industry	19	20	18	17	22	-	20	27
Need to develop/support archives in regional areas/small communities. Not just for the big companies.	16	20	14	13	22	29	20	7
Have a National Archives facility accessible to all.	13	10	14	13	11	14	20	7
Continue funding for existing archiving projects	13	20	9	13	11	2	20	13
Increase funding for preservation of archives	13	10	14	13	11	43	10	
Cataloguing to be standardised/international format	9	10	9	9	11	14	-1	13
Be more inclusive/broader range of material	9		14	4	22	-	10	13
Make funds available to all broadcasters/archivists	9	10	9	13		29	10	-
Strict guidelines of standards and criteria	6	20		9		3	10	7
Recognition and access to broadcasting and archiving in Northern Ireland	3	10	-	4		-	10	- 7
Make available online	3	â	5	4		9		7
Harnessing the advances in Technology	3		5	4	12	14	-	- 1
Have one person designated to oversee each project	3		5	4	17	2	10	
Include cinema to archive	3	-	5	4				7
Dk/None	16		23	9	33	14	E7.1	27

In specific reference to the development of a new scheme, five of the 32 respondents pointed out what they feel is a need to develop and support archives in regional areas – not just for larger organisations. Other comments related to the desire for a national archives facility which would be accessible to all, making funds available to all broadcasters/archivists, and the cataloguing of material to be standardised in an internationally recognised format.







Summary

- A broad spread of Stakeholder types was surveyed, with the vast majority of respondents having spent more than ten years working in the broadcast sector.
- The vast majority of stakeholders have been in contact with the BAI Archiving Scheme via email within the last 12 months. Half have been in contact by both traditional post and telephone, while 1 in 5 have interacted with the scheme on a face-to-face basis.
- Those stakeholders who have interacted with the scheme by way of post, or on a faceto-face basis, are significantly more likely to rate the overall scheme positively.
- Stakeholders claimed understanding of BAI's role, and the ways in which it can support broadcast archiving in Ireland is extremely high. There are also very high levels of satisfaction with the helpfulness and efficiency of the BAI and its staff. Ultimately, 7 in 10 of all of the scheme stakeholders surveyed would recommend the BAI to other broadcasters for archiving projects, with the great majority placing a high value on both the level and duration of funding of projects through the BAI's archiving scheme. This is not to say that there are no areas of perceived potential improvement to the scheme. Specifically, it is clear that some improvements would be welcome with regard to the availability of easy to understand information around the scheme, ease of use of the funding application process itself, etc.



Summary

- Those stakeholders who rate their satisfaction with the scheme quite poorly (just seven
 out of all 32 respondents interviewed) are more likely to disagree that information
 about the BAI's support for archiving is easy to find, or that the funding application
 process for the scheme is straightforward.
- Practically all of the stakeholders interviewed agree that there is value in the continued funding of the archiving of programme material.
- With over 8 in 10 strongly agreeing that funding of programme material should be continued.
- Similarly, more than 9 in 10 of all stakeholders are in favour of the establishment of a new BAI funding scheme for the archiving of programme material.
- With support for a new scheme consistent across all stakeholder types.
- As indicated in the earlier sections of this report, there are clearly some stakeholders who feel that specific aspects of the scheme could be improved upon, as might be expected.
- With regard to the Application Process, the most frequently cited desired improvements include the production of more defined guidelines around the application process, further simplification/streamlining of the application process, and more consultation with/or feedback from BAI in relation to applications. Amongst those stakeholders who express lowest overall satisfaction with the scheme, clearer guidelines around the application process, and a more streamlined process are the key areas driving dissatisfaction



Summary

- The most critical desired improvements to the actual assessment process centre on the need for more feedback on the outcome of assessments, and a greater sense of transparency in assessments overall.
- Not all survey respondents will of course have had experience of aspects of the scheme to do with contract negotiation. For this reason, half of all respondents cannot identify anything that might be improved with regard to contract negotiation flexibility. Of the remainder, however, one desired improvement stands out above all others i.e. the need to be more flexible with regard to deadlines and the alteration of project details as part of the contract negotiation process. Four of the 32 respondents interviewed also felt that the contract negotiation process simply takes too long.
- In specific reference to the development of a new scheme, five of the 32 respondents pointed out what they feel is a need to develop and support archives in regional areas not just for larger organisations. Other comments related to the desire for a national archives facility which would be accessible to all, making funds available to all broadcasters/archivists, and the cataloguing of material to be standardised in an internationally recognised format.





Appendix II

Summary Review Findings

Strategic

- Understanding of the BAI's role, and the ways in which it can support broadcast archiving in Ireland, is extremely high
- A great majority of the stakeholders place a high value on both the level and duration of funding of projects under the Scheme
- Unanimous support in the value of the Scheme and in the continued funding of the archiving of programme material and support for a new scheme consistent across all stakeholder types
- The cultural benefit to the country of having historical broadcast material digitised and preserved for the future is enormous
- Aims of the Scheme considered appropriate, however, while the storage of material is clearly appreciated as a key objective, the preservation of material in the longer term is crucial over and above mere storage
- Fundamental need for any material funded through the Scheme to be ultimately available to the general public
- Need to support the development of a national archives facility that would be accessible to all
- Need for the cataloguing of material to be standardised in an internationally recognised format
- Requirement for a Government backed approach to provide sufficient funding as there is a race against time to save analogue broadcast material; the funding available under the Scheme is not sufficient to meet current demand / the Scheme does not have enough funds at its disposal
- In the absence of the Scheme, most broadcasters would simply not be able to afford to preserve and archive any material and it would therefore likely have been lost altogether

Operational

- Stakeholders who interacted with the Scheme are more likely to rate the overall Scheme positively
- High satisfaction rate with the helpfulness and efficiency of BAI staff
- Administration and management of the Scheme was good, from the clarity of application guidelines issued to the flexibility afforded to applicants throughout the process
- Funding should be made available for preservation projects only, made dependent on that data being made available within a stipulated time period
- Need to improve the availability of easy to understand information around the Scheme including clearer guidelines on the three aims of the Scheme thereby making the application process more accessible to potential applicants engaging in archiving for the first time
- Need to streamline the application process itself, in particular: collapsing some of the answer boxes and requesting more relevant information in certain areas in the



application form; promoting common systems (archiving standards, policies and software systems) and partnerships; and, highlighting the importance of having the experience of an archiving specialist in administering archiving of programmes

- Need to be more flexible on deadlines and the alteration of project details as part of the grant agreement process with four of the 32 respondents noting that the grant agreement process takes too long
- Need for an educational drive by the BAI to encourage more engagement among smaller broadcasters as the whole process may appear too daunting



Appendix III

List of Archiving Projects Funded under the Scheme

Ref. No.	Applicant	Prog Material	Programme and/or Tech Details	€grant	Status of Project
13_11	Northern Visions Ltd	TV Content	Rushes of Irish social and cultural life	€ 115,346.43	Completed
13_16	The Radharc Trust	TV Content	Radharc - Collection of content 1962/63	€ 59,928.00	Completed
14_02	University of Ulster	TV Content	Programmes & interstitial material, '72 - '83	€ 47,296.80	Completed
14_05	TG4	Radio Content	Music & docs, '96 - '04	€ 292,992.00	Completed
14_13	The Radharc Trust	TV Content	Collections associated with Radharc series	€ 22,838.40	Completed
14_15	Near FM Co-Op	Radio Content	Particular programme series - Northside Today, voices of the Northside community	€ 52,773.00	Completed
15_05	IBI	Radio Content	Feasibility study - aim to create archive template for indo radio sector	€ 12,060.49	Completed
14_03	Irish Film Institute	Advertising Content	Adverts, '60s - '80s	€ 288,816.00	Completed
13_09	TV3 Group	TV Content	MAM and news & current affairs and cultural lifestyle content	€ 466,272.00	Open
13_23	Radio Irl Ltd, Today FM	Radio Content	Today FM - MAM & news & current affairs	€ 249,979.00	Open
13_26	Raidió Teilifís Éireann	TV Content	RTÉ - Collection of TV News 1985-1999	€ 274,940.33	Open
13_27	Raidió Teilifís Éireann	Radio Content	RTÉ - Collection of Acetate Discs - various	€ 178,492.00	Open
14_10	Cumann Lúthcleas Gael	TV Content	Digital GAA games archive	€ 213,752.93	Open
14_11	TV3 Group	TV Content	News & Current Affairs, cultural content, from 1998 on	€ 426,641.00	Open
14_16	Raidió Teilifís Éireann	Radio Content	Various content such as sports, drama, youth, documentary & Irish language, c. '85 - 2001	€ 275,445.60	Open
14_17	Connemara Community Radio	Radio Content	Various, c. 1995 - to date, speech, music, Irish language, news & current affairs, youth, adverts	€ 216,513.62	Open
14_18	Newstalk 106	Radio Content	News & current affairs, sports, entertainment, lifestyle and Irish language	€ 421,848.00	Open
15_04	TG4	TV Content	Digitisation of 1,500 hours of news & CA as Gaeilge	€ 426,927.00	Open
15_06	Raidió Teilifís Éireann	Radio Content	DAT radio tapes - 1988 - 2000 - 20,000 hours - mixture of studio and field recordings	€ 207,318.00	Open
15_08	Raidió Teilifís Éireann	TV Content	Collection of TV news film 1961 - 1969; 5,000 reels of approx 150 hours	€ 132,554.00	Open
15_11	The Radharc Trust	TV Content	50 new high definition programme masters of titles selected from produciton periods between 1964 and 1972	€ 399,800.00	Open
15_12	Irish Film Institute	TV Content	Archive the Loopline collection in IFI & make accessible; key areas of Irish history and arts, the focus on national identity in a changing world.	€ 182,547.20	Open

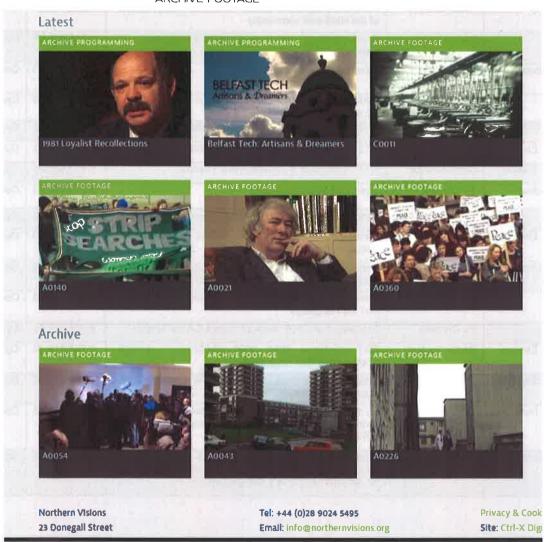


Archiving Scheme Projects completed to date

1. Northern Visions

Northern Visions holds the largest moving image collection of Northern Irish community life in Northern Ireland. Audiovisual content is added to the archive on a daily basis through Northern Visions' activities as a public service local television station, NVTV, and through the organisation's art, community and cultural projects. The collection has been compiled since the 1970s and represents an unrivalled online collection recording grassroots political, cultural and social change in Northern Ireland over 4 decades. Through the support of the BAI Archiving Scheme, 1000 hours of tape were transferred to digital storage and uploaded to the Northern Visions website: http://nvarchivefootage.northernvisions.org/

northern visions





2. The Radharc Trust

"Radharc" was a religious affairs programme broadcast on RTÉ, Ireland's national public service broadcaster, from 1962 to 1996. Over 400 documentary programmes were produced by the Radharc Team on issues of faith and social justice around the world. The Radharc Archive contains thousands of film and tape assets, as well as a wonderful collection of production documents and photographs that are preserved in the vaults of the IFI Irish Film Archive and RTE. 50 years after the first broadcasts, with the vital assistance of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's Archive scheme, the first 15 programmes were digitally preserved and restored. With the cooperation of RTÉ, the Radharc Trust worked in collaboration with the IFI Irish Film Archive and Screen Scene to migrate the 16mm programme footage to HD digital formats which are now preserved within the IFI's digital repository.

See informational video on the digitisation project here:



Radharc Archive information on the IFI website can be accessed here: http://ifi.ie/preserve/online-exhibitions/the-radharc-film-and-document-collection/

Radharc website:

http://www.radharc.ie/

RTE Archive featuring Radharc footage:





3. University of Ulster

The Ulster University's Philips VCR collection consists of early audio-visual recordings produced between 1972 and 1983 by its predecessor, the New University of Ulster. The recordings were utilised for general teaching and research purposes and a booking system existed whereby individual lecturers could request that particular programmes be recorded. The BAI archiving project set out to digitize some 222 of these video cassette recordings, to be made accessible initially to students and academics. The material preserved is not only important because it places programming within its original broadcast context but also because a significant proportion of it is unique and does not exist elsewhere. One of the surprises emerging from the project was the quantity of programmes with clear historical, social and cultural value which had not been retained by their parent broadcasters. The following highlight some of the items involved.

Local programmes



Wednesday Spotlight

BBC NI, transmitted: 21/11/1973. Complete copy preserved.

Special edition of Spotlight examining the possible implications of the announcement earlier that evening that agreement had been reached on forming a new NI Executive Designate. Including studio reaction from Unionists who later supported the UWC strike of 1974.



A New Jerusalem? (Series)

BBC NI, transmitted: 24/10/1975, 31/10/1975. Complete copies preserved.

A two-part series examining the New University of Ulster's struggle to establish itself as a viable university amid significant difficulties in attracting students to its Coleraine campus.

Other notable items

A Nuclear Ireland? (BBC NI, 11/12/1975) – A complete 80-minute debate on the potential of nuclear power.

Bedtime (UTV, 14/03/1977) – A clip representing the earliest footage from a long-running local magazine.

Closedown (UTV, 11/11/1975) – The earliest surviving closedown sequence from Ulster Television.

Music Room (BBC NI, 21/11/1973) – An almost complete edition of a classical musical series.

What's It All About? (UTV, 30/01/1975) – The only surviving studio material from a long-running religious series.



4. IFI Advertising Project

In 2017 the IFI Irish Film Archive completed a milestone project, carried out with the funding support of the BAI Archiving Scheme. The culmination of many years' innovative work, the project's aims were to preserve and digitise Ireland's TV advertising past, document the fascinating evolution of Irish consumer society and culture over three decades, and to make the material freely available to view worldwide on the IFI Player. To increase public awareness, the IFI marketing team made promotional videos, e.g. https://youtu.be/jknimlMX3uE_and a 'behind the scenes of the project' film was completed and is viewable here: https://youtu.be/Wei W30W5vQ



The launch in April 2017 attracted a significant amount of media attention for the project, with coverage on TV and Radio news bulletins, The Late Late Show, radio talk shows, newspapers and online sites.

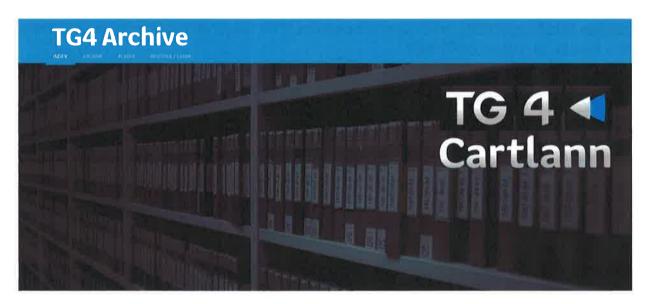


Michael O'Keeffe, Kasandra O'Connell and Ross Keane at the press call



5. TG4 Music and Documentary project

This archiving project focused on TG4's Irish language music and documentary programming. The project involved the digitising, indexing and cataloguing of 400 hours of music and 1000 hours of documentary programming, in addition to the provision of user-friendly access to the material via a webportal for a wide variety of user groups (e.g. the public, educational and research institutes, content producers etc.). The National University of Ireland Galway also collaborated with TG4 to utilise some of this material in course modules.



The completion of the project has provided a user friendly and indexed resource for Irish Language learners, researchers, programme-makers and members of the public.

Archive Link

Gaeilge: http://www.tg4.ie/ga/tg4-archive/full-archive/ Béarla: http://www.tg4.ie/en/tg4-archive/full-archive/



6. Radharc Trust - Paper & Photographic project

The Radharc Trust Paper & Photographic Digital Preservation project was designed to:

- Produce an easily accessible digital catalogue of photographic and paper assets from its collection of Radharc Films' production materials [c.1962 -1997], suitable for both ordinary use and data extraction
- To digitally preserve and prepare its photographic and paper production materials for distribution to multiple archives
- To prepare multi-format versions of the digital photographic and paper production materials for public and academic access
- To distribute copies of the digital catalogue, and media sets for archival and access purposes
- To prepare for and devise promotional strategies, including Print and Web exhibition

Thousands of items, including documents, photographs, press cuttings, negatives and artworks, were catalogued, preserved, digitised and stored and have been made accessible to the public through the RTÉ and IFI Archives.

IFI promotion of the project:

http://www.ifi.ie/preserve/online-exhibitions/the-radharc-film-and-document-collection/

'As well as preserving Radharc's film collection, the IFI Irish Film Archive is custodian of Radharc's extensive paper collection. The collection contains all production files and newspaper clippings associated with Radharc's body of work. This equally important collection gives us an insight into the development of each documentary. Annotated first drafts, shot lists, cue sheets, promos, transcripts – sometimes of interviews that were not broadcast, press releases and invoices that shed light on the mechanics of the productions. The collection also indicates the amount of pre-production work required and the range of reading and meticulous research that went into each production.'





7. Near FM project

Near Archive is a digital audio database of interviews, which were originally broadcast on Near FM's flagship community affairs programme *Northside Today* between the years 2011 and 2016. The content is unique to Near FM and the surrounding locality. The content reflects upon the themes of Irish Culture, Life and Experience with a particular emphasis on local arts and culture, local news, history, heritage and community events. The total number of archived pieces in this collection is 1,166. The Near Archive has been assembled with the input of expert partners including the Digital Repository of Ireland and Dublin City Council Library and Archive. A cross sectoral approach to archiving has also been established through Craol. It is hoped that the archive will serve as a resource for students, researchers, librarians, archivists, radio and online audio content producers and anyone with an interest in the community life, history and heritage of the Northside of Dublin city.

Any person can access the *Near Archive* by visiting <u>www.archive.ie</u>. Content can be streamed or downloaded and works on a creative commons basis. It cannot be used for profit making purposes. Near FM's integrated approach in partnership with *Dublin City Libraries* saw demonstrations for library staff and the general public, focusing on the libraries within the Near FM catchment including Raheny, Donaghmede, Coolock and Ballymun. Library staff have been versed in how to show library users how to access the archive on library computers. The Near Archive was officially launched and demonstrated to invited guests and the general public in Coolock Library on November 16th 2016.





8. IBI Feasibility Study

The IBI received funding support from the Archiving Scheme to undertake a feasibility study on how best to create an archive of content from the Irish Independent Radio sector, aiming to recommend a suitable approach.

Independent radio in Ireland is unique. From news coverage to capturing the Irish way of life in talkback programmes, commercial communications and music, IBI radio stations provide a wealth of broadcast material on a daily basis to its listeners. Unfortunately there is little or no formal archiving done of programme material and therefore we are at a great risk of losing much of the material broadcast and with it an important way of capturing a country's culture and history is lost.

The IBI recognises that at a time of great change for the radio industry including great technological change in terms of archiving techniques, there is no curated archive of Irish independent commercial radio stations. The value of archiving broadcasting programme material could be clearly seen during the 1916 centenary celebrations in the use that was made of the vast amount of archived programmes within RTÉ Radio and Television. RTÉ Radio's archived programmes are of immense importance and value and give one specific, national view of life in Ireland. For future generations however, not to have access to a local and regional view of Irish life, or indeed a diverse national view which differs significantly from that of the State broadcaster will only serve to portray a slice of life in Ireland.

Radio programmes are made to be heard so it is vital to assimilate all archived programmes in one location to allow the programme material to be available to the public. The IBI's feasibility study sets out the best and most appropriate method by which to archive both current and past programme material, discovering the most protective measures to keep the programme material safe and available for years to come.

The IBI worked with an experienced archivist, who in addition to his archiving experience also has first hand practical experience and understanding of the operations of a radio station. This provided knowledge and access not only to the consultant archivist but also to that of his wide circle of archiving and radio station colleagues.

As a result, the IBI is now in a position to recommend the most suitable approach for the archiving of programme material from the Irish independent radio sector.

