Wrangling Film

A Case Study of Assessing the Preservation and Access Needs of Argentinean Gaucho Films

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Edward Larocque Tinker Collection

- One of many unique holdings at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.
- Five documentary films based on the lives of Gauchos in Argentina
  - "The Gaucho of Salta"
  - "The Gaucho of Chaco"
  - "The Gaucho of La Pampa"
  - "The Argentine Gaucho of Today"
  - "The Gaucho of Corrientes"

Collection Material

- 96 reels
- 16 mm acetate based
- Preproduction sound elements
  - Magnetic soundtrack
  - Optical soundtrack
- Viewing elements
  - Titles
  - Credits
  - Reversal prints
  - Complete prints

The Project

Focus of the project to determine preservation and access issues.
- Identification and cataloging
- Physical condition assessment
- Testing for film deterioration
- Digitization and rehousing recommendations

Assessment Tool Development

The needs assessment survey instrument developed from research.
- Film types
- Film properties
- Film handling
- Film deterioration
- Examples of film assessment survey instruments

Condition Assessment

- Identification of the Elements
  - Poor Pack
  - Stab
- Scratch
- Identify magnetic soundtrack
- Poor Housing
- Scratch

Film Assessment Manual

Why Institutions Need a Manual:
- Promote consistency by training new staff
- Community outreach to archives and libraries
- Workshops for institutions with film collections

The Development of the Manual:
- Experience with the Tinker collection assessment
- Recommendations of film curator and literature
- Research for a reliable film survey instrument
- Research conducted on general survey instruments

The Results

- Poor Pack
- Scratch
- Magnetic Soundtrack
- Poor Housing
- Scratch

The Structure of the Manual:
- Introduction
- Designing a collection to survey
- Assessing a collection
- Needs assessment report
- Appendices:
  - Identifying film damage and survey instruments