



An AMIA-McGill member repairs film at McGill's Moving Image Research Lab.

2015/2016 Executives

President: Ben Wrubel

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Mandate

The Association of Moving Image Archivists' student chapter at McGill University, based in the McGill School of Information Studies, joins an emerging dialogue with scholars, students, and other enthusiasts called together to help address some of the most urgent issues of conservation, preservation, and access in the field.

In lieu of a dedicated audiovisual archiving and preservation component in the SIS program, the goal of the AMIA student chapter at McGill University is to create opportunities for SIS students to participate in the study and preservation of sound and moving images by actively participating in year-round events, symposia, screenings, and other engaging forms of programming. The city of Montreal is well-known worldwide as a haven for cinema, with numerous film festivals and productions taking place throughout the year. The AMIA student chapter intends to partner with various organizations in the city to organize field trips, lectures, and various extra-curricular projects.

2015/2016 Ongoing Projects and Plans

There were some communication and knowledge transfer issues going into the 2015/2016 academic year. This unfortunately created a lot of delays in continuing our regular projects. In our third year as a chapter we tried our best to continue establishing ourselves within the McGill Community and the greater Montreal area. We also strived to contribute to the audiovisual archival and digitization education of McGill School of Information Studies students (SIS).

Screenings

Continued from the previous year's programming, we were able to provide a few free film screenings in the Moving Image Research Lab's (MIRL) private screening room at McGill for SIS students. Attendance varied for each event based on school schedules, but screenings were greatly enjoyed and will be continued in future years.

As part of the screening series, we hosted two pre-recorded webinars on the basic principles of multimedia digitization as applied to sound and moving image. This event was attended by SIS students and faculty, and we have had requests to re-screen this webinar for students who were unable to attend.

MIRL Film Archives Preservation Plan and Cataloguing Project

Since 2013, AMIA-McGill has been collaborating with MIRL to help preserve and catalogue all the films held in their collection. These include donated prints from the National Film Board of Canada and the Goethe Institute and educational films previously held by McGill's McLennan Library. We began entering each film into a database with an accompanying accession number and created a preservation plan for future student members to enact in the years to come. The goal for the year was to establish standards for future description and physical preservation work.

This year, the focus was more on learning how to manage and safely handle this collection so we can continue the cataloguing project more enthusiastically next year. AMIA members were provided with several training sessions on how to use a 16mm/35mm variable speed Kineton projector and attended a workshop with a former employee of the National Film Board of Canada and Cinéma-thèque Québécoise on the principles of film handling, storage, and basic repair techniques.

Tour of George Eastman Museum, Image Permanence Institute, and Belfer Audio Archive

AMIA McGill Vice President, Cate Henderson, visited New York State as a representative of AMIA McGill in July-August, 2016. She was lucky enough to spend half a day at Image Permanence Institute where Doug Nishimura discussed the history of IPI and provided a comprehensive tour. This was followed by lunch with the whole team. The next day she visited the George Eastman Museum and met with Jeff Stoiber of the Selznick School of Film Preservation, who kindly provided a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities and film archives. Finally, as part of a music preservation workshop at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, she was able to visit the Belfer Audio Archive in Syracuse, NY. The staff at Belfer explained what they do and offered a brief introduction into various audio formats. This was followed by a visit to the custom-built audio digitization studio where she was able to see first-hand the digitization of a wax cylinder.

Cate would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible and accommodated her tours and numerous questions.

AMIA-McGill Annual Spring Symposium

With regret, due to time restraints and unforeseen complications, AMIA McGill were unable to host a Symposium in 2015/2016.

Future Plans for 2015/2016

AMIA McGill held its first meeting and screening already and this year's involvement is the largest yet! We have a new executive team who are very excited about the promotion and education of best practices for image, sound, and moving image preservation, management, and digitization (all of which have limited coverage in the SIS curriculum).

Our plans include continuing regular screenings, further webinars and training sessions, and continuation of the film cataloging project. We have also committed to volunteering at this year's Home Movie Day Day Montreal, to be held on October 22, 2016 at Cinéma Qu'ébécoise to assist in inspecting and performing basic repairs on films, and digitization of moving images. We are also planning to visit some local audio and moving image archives, which may be done in collaboration with McGill's Association of Canadian Archivists chapter to reduce costs and promote AMIA to more students.

We have already brainstormed our Symposium for 2017, which is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2017 so that it does not conflict with other SIS events and we can attract a larger audience.

Finally, we are considering the idea of revisiting Rochester and Syracuse, NY. We will hopefully be reaching out to other chapters this year to investigate the possibility of future collaborative project.

This year's president, Cate Henderson, will be attending the AMIA 2016 Conference and looks forward to finding out more about what other student chapters are currently doing.