

2010

University of Utah, Libraries. (2007). *Western soundscape archives*. Retrieved November, 2009 from <http://westernsoundscape.org/>.

Kevin McDonough

Northern Michigan University, kmcdonou@nmu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.nmu.edu/library_publication



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

McDonough, K. (2010). [Review of the website *Western soundscape archives*, by University of Utah, Libraries]. *Choice*, February, 47-2934.

This Publication is brought to you for free and open access by The Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publication by an authorized administrator of The Commons. For more information, please contact kclumpne@nmu.edu, kmcdonou@nmu.edu, mburgmei@nmu.edu, bsarjean@nmu.edu.

47-2934 Internet Resource

Western Soundscape Archive.

<http://westernsoundscape.org/> (reviewed in CHOICE February 2010).

[Visited Nov'09] This site features audio recordings of animals and environments throughout 11 contiguous western states and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Started in 2007, the archive is housed at the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library and features recordings contributed by volunteers, state and federal agencies, and conservation groups. Three types of recordings typically are featured: individual species, ambient soundscapes, and interviews. For individual species, representative sounds are included for approximately 90 percent of the West's bird species, 95 percent of the region's frog and toad species, and more than 100 different types of mammals and reptiles. These short recordings are useful for species identification and call analysis. Ambient soundscapes are usually longer recordings (one hour plus) that feature "all of an area's sonic components together in concert." The site indicates that "interviews with scientists and other experts are included to give added context to the sounds, and will occasionally be heard on radio broadcasts and podcasts."

Users may browse the collection or search with keywords. The simple browse is only moderately useful since it brings up the total sounds available alphabetically by first word in the descriptive titles. However, a pull-down menu on the home page allows users to select subsets of major animal categories by common or Latin names; interviews; and ambient recordings. Upon selection, sample lists of recordings for each category are available in a second pull-down menu. Each individual species, soundscape, or interview includes relevant metadata such as date recorded, description, audio and photo rights, associated notes, audio creator, and more. Most of the audio consists of MP3 files compressed from an original WAV format. Sound recordings are generally very good to excellent in quality. This is a tremendously rich resource for those interested in the region. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general audience.

--K. P. McDonough, Northern Michigan University

Copyright 2010 American Library Association

Full review available online: <http://www.cro3.org/lookup/doi/10.5860/CHOICE.47-2934>