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## Abstract

# DOCUMENTING THE IMPACT OF RECONNECTING AUDIOVISUAL CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIAL IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

This paper discusses the archival practice of digital reconnection of early sound recordings in the country of origin, through a case study of the reconnection of Nepalese recordings from the British Library to the Music Museum of Nepal [2012-2017]. It considers the value that recordings hold as a primary source for research and cultural engagement and the significance of knowledge exchange facilitated by this process of reconnection to both culture bearers and academic communities. The research employed the use of 'observational film' as part of the methodology to study the impact of reconnection, this paper therefore includes both text and a short film allowing the viewer to reflect independently on the issues raised by this process.

## Keywords

reconnection, Nepal, cultural engagement, academic community, observational film

## Isobel Clouter

is a curator of World and Traditional Music at the British Library, with primary interests in acoustic and visual ethnography. Past research in acoustic ecology, creative field-recording and acoustic phenomena has resulted in BBC and Resonance FM radio broadcasts and publications on cd and in print. Isobel was the instigator of the British Library UK soundmap, a public engagement project which sought to document the UK soundscape through the use of mobile recording technology. Her current research focuses on the impact of reconnecting digital collections of audiovisual cultural heritage material from the British Library in the country of origin, with a specific focus on Nepal.

## Contact

Isobel.Clouter[ @ ]bl.uk