

A Note on the Available Collections at ARCE

- The oldest collections are those of Fox Strangways in the very early 20th century and the collections of the Dutch ethnomusicologist Arnold Bake who travelled all around India in the 1930s. Both these contain classical music as well as other musical genres.
- An example by region – Maharashtra. The extensive collection of Gunther Sontheimer, the famous German Indologist, of oral traditions of the Dhangar community, the deity Vithoba including ovis from Maharashtra, as well as other traditions from Karnataka. The collection includes the detailed field notebooks of Sontheimer. Related to Maharashtra there is also the collection of grinding songs made by Guy Poiteven. Anne Feldhaus collection of oral narratives related to the river goddesses of Maharashtra, is another that deals with Marathi oral traditions.
- Jazz in India: The ARCE houses the archives related to Naresh Fernandes's book Taj Mahal Foxtrot which focuses on the early years of Jazz in Mumbai. A major collection of Jazz is that of Niranjan Jhaveri who organised the Jazz Yatra in Mumbai from 1978 to 2003. In addition to the Yatra materials, Jhaveri was an avid collector of Jazz, all of which is housed at ARCE along with documents and ephemera.
- There are extensive collections of Hindustani Classical music ranging from early 78 rpm discs to collections made by various collectors. The focus of such collections are sometimes on a performer, or an instrument or more general.
- ARCE's own fieldwork in Western Rajasthan from the late 1980s as well as 2009-2011, as well as collections made by other scholars make it a very rich resource for musical traditions of Rajasthan especially for the Manganiar and Langa communities.
- The ARCE also documented the musical traditions of the Gavda community of Goa including Velips, the Catholic Gavdas and the Nava Hindu Gavdas. These include the Zagor theatrical performance, and are supplemented by the collection of Alexander Henn who is known for his work on the Zagor. The Goa recordings also include a project on the Mando of Goa.
- A glimpse of the collections can be accessed at www.vmis.in under the collections of the Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology, especially in the section Music in Context.