

WAMU Broadcast Collection

An inventory of WAMU at DC Public Library

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 19, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

archives.dcpl@dc.gov

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Summary Information

Repository:	People's Archive, MLK Library
Creator:	WAMU-FM (Radio station : Washington, D.C.)
Title:	WAMU Broadcast Collection
ID:	045
Date [inclusive]:	1998–2004
Physical Description:	14 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical / Historical

WAMU began as a carrier current student radio station on the campus of The American University on July 28, 1951. The station received a commercial FM license and made its first FM broadcast on October 23, 1961. Since then, WAMU has continued to provide public affairs and educational programming joined the National Educational Radio Network. In 1971 the station became a founding member of National Public Radio (NPR). Initially, in 1967 WAMU began programming bluegrass music, which included shows such as the Lee Michael Demsey Show and the Ray Davis Show. The station also hosted an annual bluegrass concert and a yearly Pickin' in the Glen, which featured many top performers. The station changed its programming in 2002, transitioning its main channel to an all-news and public affairs format. The bluegrass component became a separate online and HD2 station. WAMU is home to a team of award-winning local reports and acclaimed talk radio hosts including Diane Rehm and Kojo Nnamdi. When WETA, a fellow public radio station, changed its format to all classical music in 2007, WAMU became Washington DC's only full-time NPR station.

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Scope and Contents

The collection contains 679 audio cassettes containing recordings primarily of three weekly shows, Metro Connection, Public Interest (DC Politics Hour) and the Kojo Nnamdi Show dating between 1998 and 2004. All show content is related to local D.C. current affairs and history.

The collection also contains editorials on D.C. political issues, most often prepared by Mark Plotkin, as well as some 1-hour segments from Public Interest, which relate to local Washington, D.C. matters. Significant featured series in the collection include: recordings of 1998 mayoral debates and candidate forums sponsored by WAMU; the 20th Century Washington series which aired on Metro Connection in 1999 to mark the close of the 20th century by reporting on significant periods or events in the city's history

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW
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Custodial History

WAMU, in 1998, began depositing in the Archives audiotapes of broadcasts related to local D.C. current affairs and history under an agreement with the Library. WAMU holds copyright to the tape library and all content. Library patrons may listen to the tapes only within Special Collections.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Politics and government
- Neighborhoods
- Radio programs

- Audio

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Local Interest, 1998-2002

Scope and Contents

The series contains 287 audio recordings of Local Interest and includes but is not limited to the following programs: Public Interest; DC Politics Hour; DC Politics Hour with Mark Plotkin; and the Diane Rehm Show.

Title/Description	Instances	
51 audio tapes, June 24 1998-February 5 1999	Box 1	Folder 1
50 audio tapes, February 12 1999-September 3 1999	Box 2	Folder 1
51 audio tapes, September 9 1999-March 20 2000	Box 3	Folder 1
51 audio tapes, March 22 2000-March 2 2001	Box 4	Folder 1
50 audio tapes, March 2 2001-January 18 2002	Box 5	Folder 1
34 audio tapes, January 25 2002-September 27 2002	Box 6	Folder 1

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Series 2: Metro Connection, 1998-2004

Scope and Contents

The series contains 289 audio recording of the Metro Connection Program.

Title/Description	Instances	
17 audio tapes, February 27 1998-October 10 1998	Box 6	Folder 2
51 audio tapes, October 24 1998-November 20 1999	Box 7	Folder 1
50 audio tapes, November 23 1999-April 28 2001	Box 8	Folder 1
51 audio tapes, May 5 2001-May 18 2002	Box 9	Folder 1
52 audio tapes, June 1 2002-June 27 2003	Box 10	Folder 1
52 audio tapes, July 11, 2003-August 20, 2004	Box 11	Folder 1
audiotapes, August 27, 2004-December 17, 2004	box 12	folder 1

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Series 3: Kojo Nnamdi, 2002-2004

Scope and Contents

The series contains 103 audio recordings of the Kojo Nnamdi Show.

Title/Description	Instances	
Audio tapes, October 4, 2002-October 31, 2003	box 13	Folder 1
Audio tapes, November 7, 2003- December 17, 2004	box 14	Folder 1

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