

# FROM FLOWS TO FINDING AIDS:

Processing the Houston Hip Hop Collections  
at the University of Houston Libraries

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# INTRODUCTION AND IMPORTANCE

- Hip hop as area of growing scholarly interest
- Rare and unique materials
- University of Houston is a repository well-suited to collecting hip hop

# BACKGROUND FOR COLLECTION

- 2010: Started the new Houston Hip Hop Collecting Area



# BACKGROUND FOR COLLECTION

- The collections began focused around collecting the works associated with DJ Screw, an influential Houston-area DJ
- DJ Screw's family donated his vinyl collection as well as his personal mixed-format papers



# BACKGROUND FOR COLLECTION

- Growth to five collections
- Need to move from a collecting focus to a collection management focus
- Hiring of Houston & Texas Archives Fellow to process collections of:
  - Personal papers
  - Business records
  - A living artificial collection

# PERSONAL PAPERS

DJ Screw



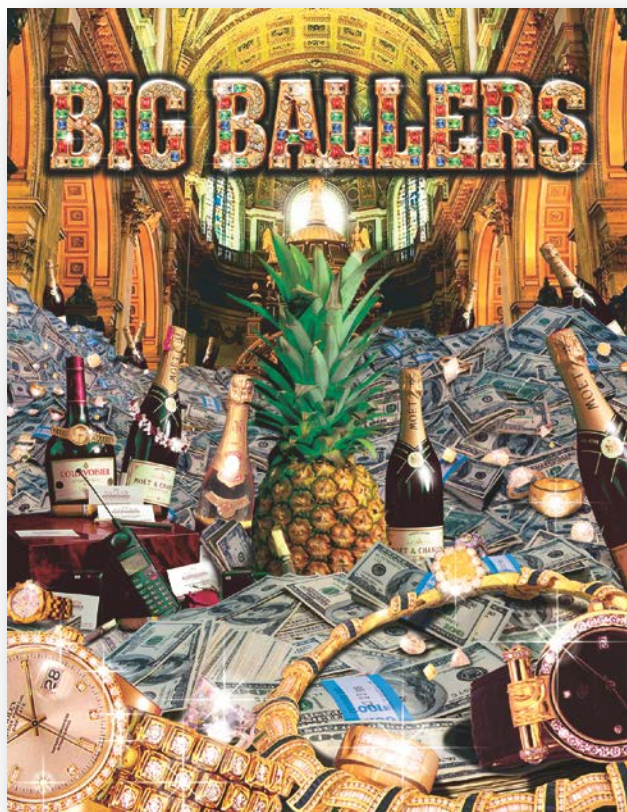
HAWK





# BUSINESS RECORDS

Pen & Pixel Graphics, Inc.



Samplified Digital Recording Studios



# ARTIFICIAL COLLECTION

## Houston Hip Hop Recording Artists





# PRE-PROCESSING ACTIVITIES

# CONFERENCE

AWREADY!: THE HOUSTON HIP HOP CONFERENCE, MARCH 27 – 28, 2012



# EXHIBIT

DJ SCREW AND THE RISE OF HOUSTON HIP HOP, MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2012



# DIGITAL LIBRARY COLLECTION

University of Houston Digital Library: Home - Mozilla Firefox

University of Houston Digital Library: HL


digital.lib.uh.edu/cdm4/about\_collection.php?CISOROOT=djscrew

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## DJ SCREW PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORABILIA



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This collection includes photographs, handwritten rap lyrics and song lists for "screw tapes," and flyers related to the late DJ Screw and his rap collective the Screwed Up Click. These materials document how DJ Screw developed the production technique known as "chopped and screwed," which is closely associated with Houston hip hop.

Of special note is a book of rap lyrics by Screwed Up Click (S.U.C.) member HAWK. In metallic ink on its black pages, he worked out the sixteen bars that make up a typical rap verse. Some pages of the notebook show sets of rhyming words that he was considering for a verse. Others capture the activities of HAWK's everyday life, from phone numbers to scores for dominoes games.



# PRE-PROCESSING



# PROCESSING CHALLENGES



# PROCESSING CHALLENGES

- Relying heavily on oral sources
- Name consistency; thesaurus

LC control no.: n 2003080037  
LCCN permalink: <http://lcn.loc.gov/n2003080037>  
**HEADING:** DJ Screw, 1971-2000  
000 01342cz a2200229n 450  
001 5937777  
005 20101120210921.0  
008 030506n| acannaabn |a aaa  
010 \_\_ |a n 2003080037  
035 \_\_ |a (OCoLC)oca06044377  
040 \_\_ |a DLC |b eng |c DLC |d TxHU |d PPI-MA  
100 0\_ |a DJ Screw, |d 1971-2000  
400 0\_ |a D. J. Screw, |d 1971-2000  
400 0\_ |a Screw, |d 1971-2000  
400 1\_ |a Davis, Robert Earl, |d 1971-2000  
670 \_\_ |a DJ Screw. All work no play, 1999: |b label (DJ. Screw)

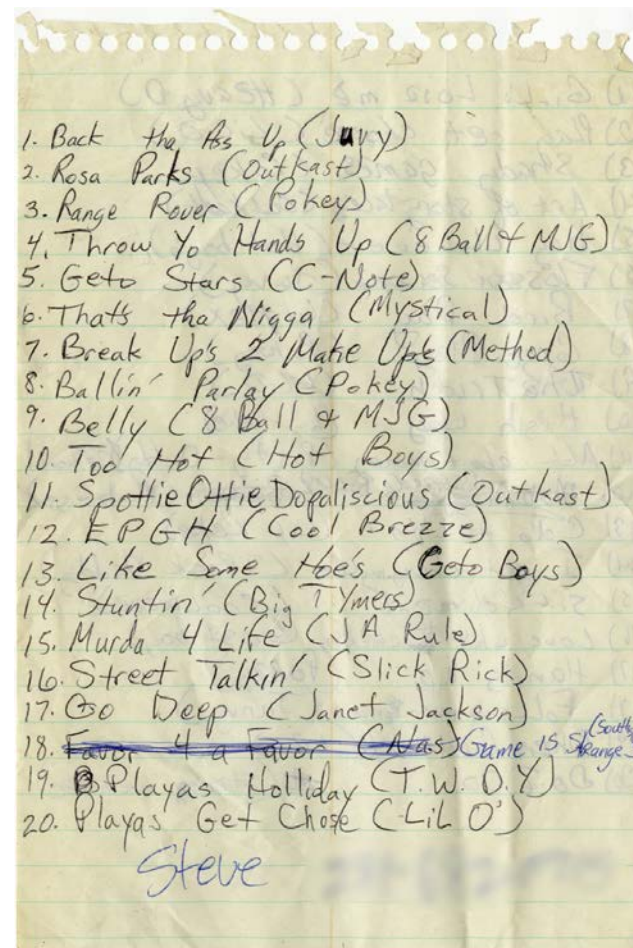
# PROCESSING CHALLENGES

- Unusual formats
  - Memorabilia and ephemera
  - Unusual A/V media



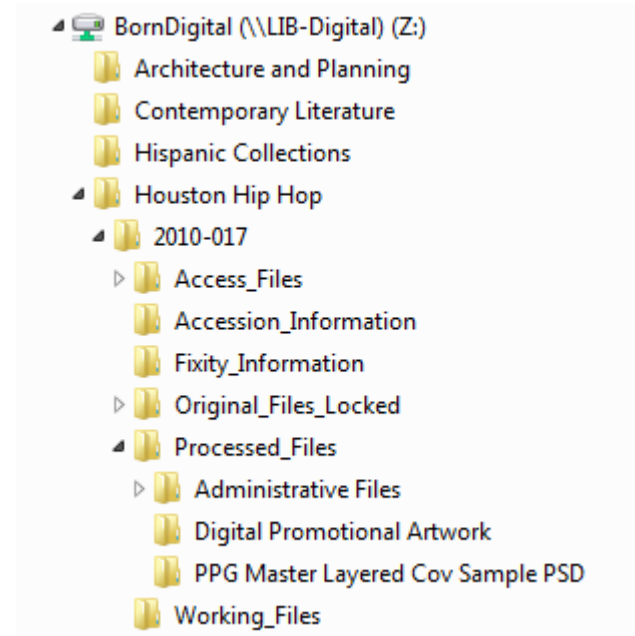
# PROCESSING CHALLENGES

- High level of interest
  - Privacy
  - Security



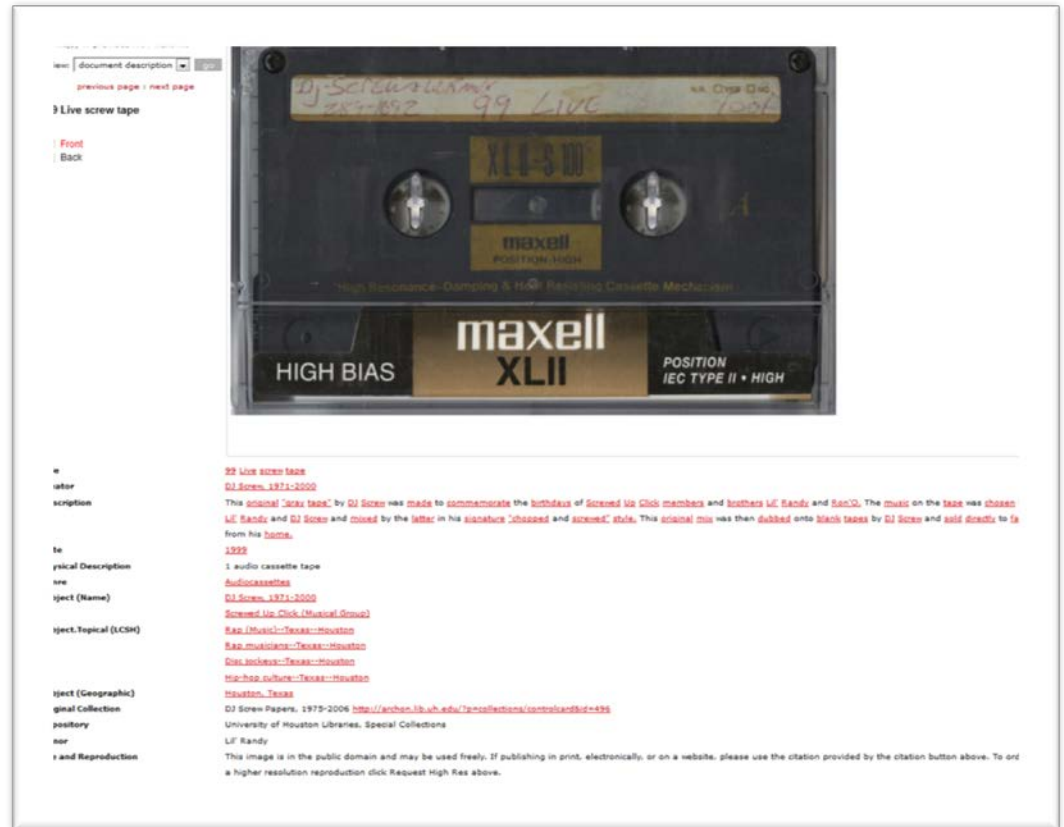
# PROCESSING CHALLENGES

- Born-digital materials



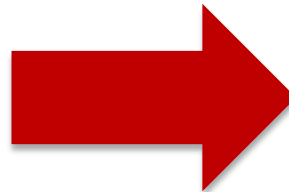
# PROCESSING CHALLENGES

- Digital projects
- Working with cataloging





# CONCLUSION



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## DJ Screw Papers, 1975-2006 | University of Houston Libraries

Location: [Anderson](#) | [Houston City Map](#) | [DJ Screw Papers](#)

Title: DJ Screw Papers, 1975-2006  
 ID: 06/2010-023  
 Extent: 4.0 Linear Feet  
 Predominant Dates: 1995-2000

**Creators**  
 Subjects (click to similar collections)  
 Series of Material (click to collections with similar forms)  
 Languages of Materials  
 Administrative Information

These original materials are available in **Special Collections**.

**Scope and Contents:**  
 Personal papers, photographs, creative material and technology, sound recordings, and professional material comprise the DJ Screw Papers. DJ Screw's activities as a DJ and message creator are the focus of the papers, and materials documenting these activities include bibles for his scene tapes, sound recordings, production materials, including recording equipment, business documents, and photographs. All materials were owned by DJ Screw and donated by his father, Robert Earl Davis, Sr., unless otherwise noted.

The collection includes materials containing personal, financial, and contact information for DJ Screw and his associates. Access to these original materials is restricted in order to protect privacy, but some materials have publicly-available counterparts filed in place of the originals.

**Related Materials:**  
 DJ Screw Photographs and Memorabilia Digital Collection ([http://digital.lib.uh.edu/cdm4/about\\_collection.php?ID=50000171/djscrew](http://digital.lib.uh.edu/cdm4/about_collection.php?ID=50000171/djscrew))

**Detailed Description:**  
 Series 1: Personal Papers  
 Series 2: Photographs, 1975, 1998-1999, 1999, 2006, undated  
 Series 3: Music - Screwed Up CDs  
 Series 4: Music - Non-Screwed Up CDs  
 Series 5: Personal Ephemera

Author **DJ S&S.**

Title **So hot [sound recording] : Clap your hands / DJ S&S.**

Publisher New York, NY : Lethal Records ; Prophet Motive, p1997.

LOCATION	CALL #	STATUS
ANDERSON/SPEC COLL	DJScrew LP 0409	LIB USE ONLY

[Report an Item Missing](#)

**Details**

PermaLink <https://library.uh.edu/record=b5750715-S11>

Description 1 sound disc (16 min.) : analog, 33 1/3 rpm ; 12 in.

Subject Hdng **Remixes.**

**Rap (Music) -- Texas -- Houston.**

Note Performed by DJ S&S ; featuring Tru II Dis ; B.B.O.  
 Rap songs.

Contents So hot (radio edit) (4:11) -- So hot (lp-street version) (4:26) -- Clap your hands (radio edit) (3:54) -- Clap your hands (lp-street version) (3:54)

Note One of a set of approximately 1500 records owned by DJ Screw, whose entire collection included approximately 5000 records.

Corp Author **DJ Screw Sound Recordings.**

Added Title Clap your hands

Recd Label # LET 6004-1 Lethal Records

CALL # **DJScrew LP 0409**

OCLC # 810436346



# QUESTIONS?

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Photo credits:

DJ Screw – Ben DeSoto

Big HAWK – Peter Beste

Collection material – UH Digital Library

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Special Collections