

## **SOUND AND FURY? SCALABLE EPHEMERA IN THE MATERIALITY OF ACOUSTIC ARCHIVES (in German)**

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The fact that the voice is considered one of the ephemera of an archive is likely due to the media-historical constellation that has long prioritised the written word above the spoken word as the medium of permanence, stability and validity. However, since Edison's invention of the phonograph in 1877, this position has become increasingly untenable. Almost every precursory or posthumous estate is meanwhile full of auditive media, be it analogue or digital. One can no longer support a hierarchical relationship between the visual and acoustic storage of language: both forms can be historically and systematically studied, as demonstrated, for example, by the project ›textklang‹ at the DLA Marbach, which creates and systematically investigates an auditive corpus of romantic poetry.

Where does one begin to search for the ephemeral in auditive source material from an archival perspective? Where does one find the voice beginning to fade? Not on the shelves on which audio tapes, records, CDs and compact cassettes are stored. Below the surface one could argue that even the voice saved to media fades away, and that again and again – in the sense of repeatable uniqueness in all its philosophical complications. But at the purely material level, there is a scale of ephemerality: an audio tape can disintegrate, just as much as the reflective layer of a CD can degrade and the engraved grooves of records suffer from mechanical wear and tear. In this presentation, we examine the idea of ephemerality of voice and sound based on individual sound carrier formats, and find that our assumptions stand corrected, but also stand confirmed to a certain extent. For the brief existence of the spoken word, the perceived sound may require evidence as a sensual experience; but integrated into the practice of storage, it is subject to permanence, stability and validity itself – in the most ancient of forms as a symbol traced in soot or scraped into organic material.