



## Virtual National Phonoteque



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#### **Outline**

- History of Czech sound
- What is the Virtual National Phonotheque (VNF)?
- How and why was the VNF created?
- Present situation
- Plans
- What next?



### **History of Czech Sound in Brief**

- 1891 First known sound recordings on wax cylinders in Czech lands
- 1901 First known recordings on gramophone disc in Czech language
- 1923 Czech Radio (originally called Radiojournal) first broadcast
- 1928 1934 Czech Academy of Sciences runs project recording contemporary performers, politicians and music. Project ends due to lack of funding and disputes regarding project governance
- 1930 First Czech recording companies (ESTA and Ultraphon) are established



#### **History of Czech Sound in Brief 2**

- 1932 writer Karel Čapek calls for "
- ...a national discotheque in every country, acquiring and preserving both national folklore and exceptional works of local composers or performers and ensembles, when recorded on gramophone records. That way, a real archive of national music in authentic and peak performance are archived, serving to promote the national art, broadcast by the radio, research etc. certainly a desirable thing."
- 1932–1935 Heavy taxation on imported recordings forces companies to form Czech branches.
- 1946 Nationalisation of Czech recording industry.
- Supraphon becomes the unifying label.
- Gramofonove zavody (now GZ Digital media) is established.



#### At the End of the Century

- 1997–1999 Meetings of interested parties (libraries, museums, archives, publishers, broadcasters and collectors) aim to establish a National Phonotheque either as an institution
- or, at least, as a database and a platform for cooperation.
- We were so close, but....

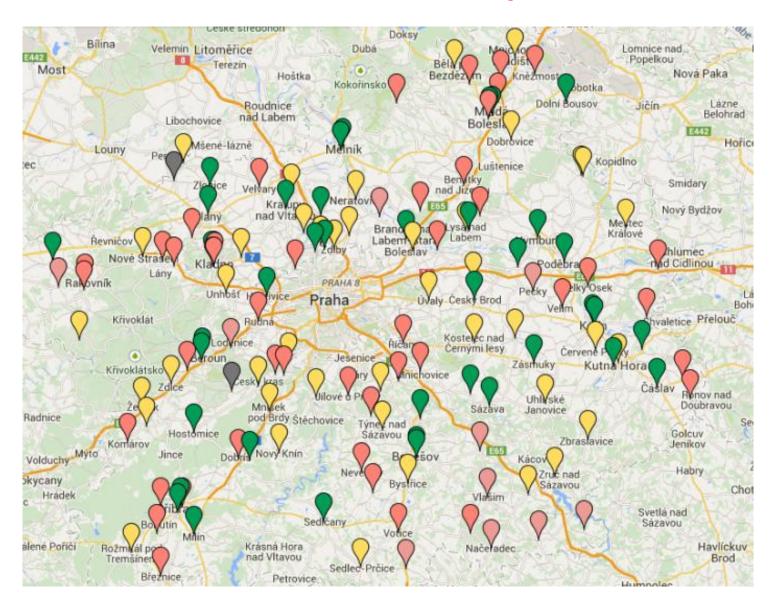
The Czech National Sound Archive never came into existence and no one takes care of SD



### How and why the VNF was created

- In 2012 Moravian Library Brno held an unprocessed shellac collection
- Missing:
  - national sound institution = standards, methodology ....
  - centralised overview of sound collections
  - information overview about digitalization
- Follows from the efforts which began in the 1990s
- Creates a portal for metadata aggregation
- Building a digitisation lab
- Creates the 1st certified methodology: selection criteria for digitization
- Connects various metadata vendors
- Solves methodology problems along the way

# The survey





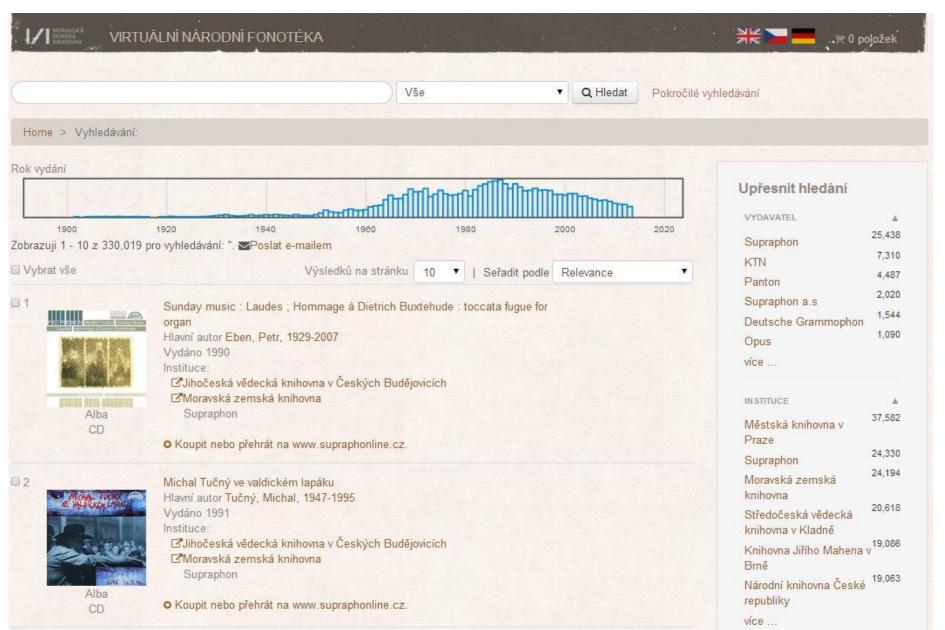
#### What the Virtual National Phonotheque is

- a web portal aims to fill a gap in understanding the Czech Republic's national sound heritage
- Portal = specialised database, provides information about:
  existence, placement and format
- Not only a catalogue, but a place for listening: allows playback of selected items
- Harvested data (mostly OAI-PMH), based on MARC21
- Adjustments and deduplications for display purposes
- Supplier guarantees the quality of the records
- Online access without any restrictions

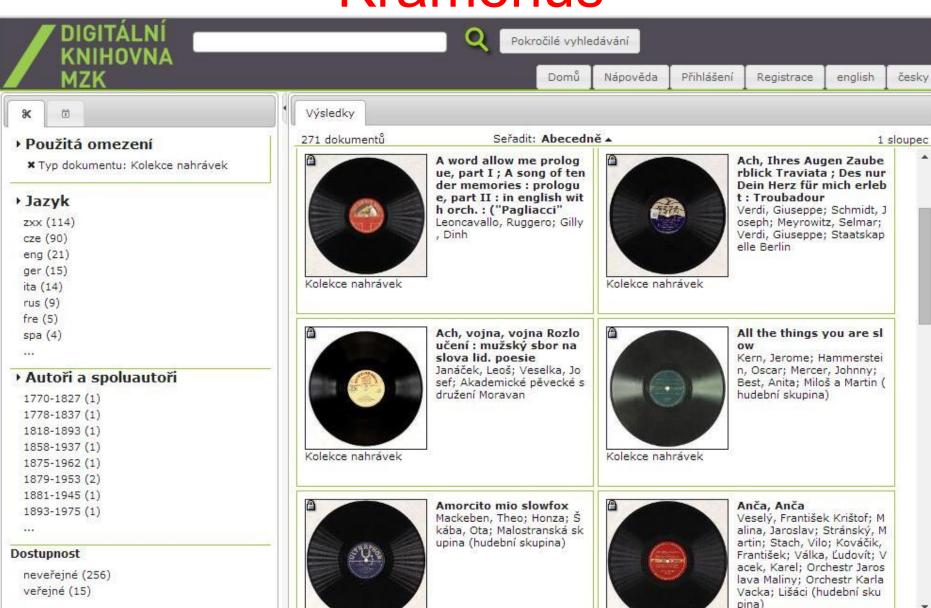
# https://www.narodnifonoteka.cz/



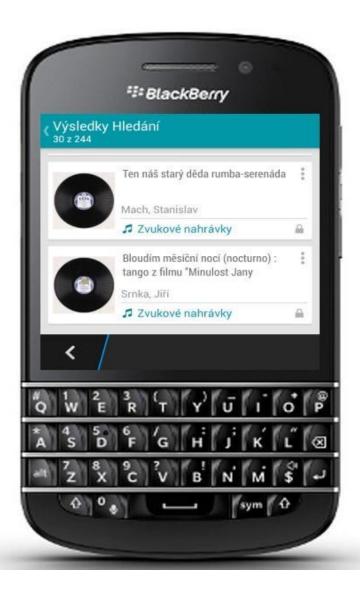
## A search result



## Kramerius



## Mobile Kramerius

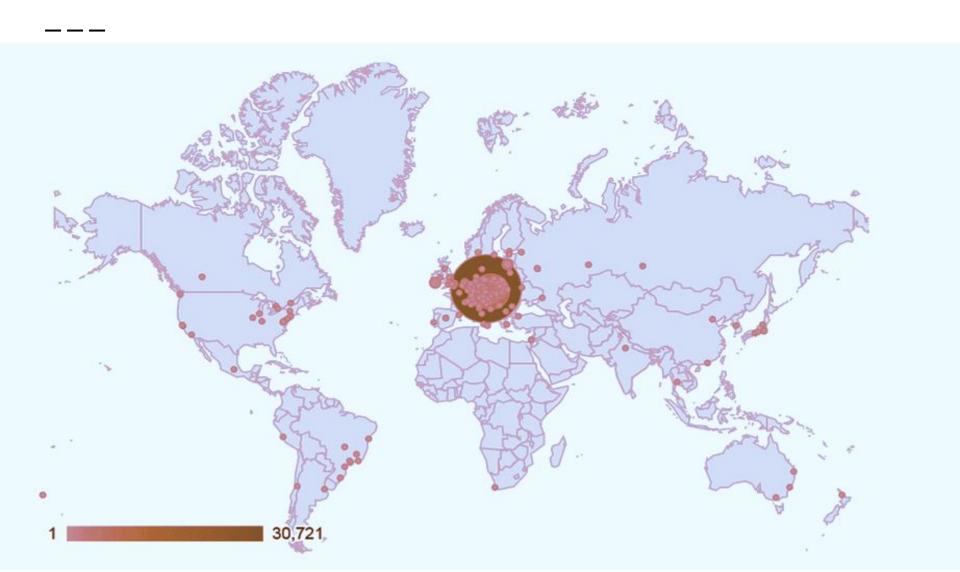




## Why the VNF is unique

- The one union catalogue of sound in the Czech Republic
- Not only a catalogue or a discography
- Not only music, but oral histories, radio broadcasts, sound, etc.
- Free open source system
- Added value:
- Different types of institutions both private & commercial involved
- Enrichment of the "bibliographic" records of active lines
  - to digitised version (into elsewhere placed origin source)
  - into e-shops
  - on the owner's website

# Access map to VNF



## **Quick overview from CZE**

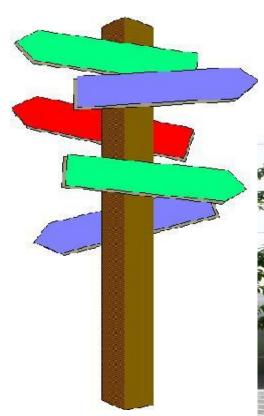
(2014 - Present)



- "Roadshow" VNP on the road
- projects under Ministry of Culture Grant Program:
  - evidence, surveys, publishing
- State Culture Politics
- National Conservation Plan proposal

- Lack of personal background
- MZK is not active VNP stagnates
- Missing institution to lead this topic
- Czech Conception and other documents
- Ministry of Culture blind to topic of audio documents











## The present

- Migration to National Library of Technology (NTK)
- Why only the NTK?
- Where we are right now
- Our plans and ideas





### Why the NTK?

#### NTK Missions and know-how:

- Support projects on national level
- Support for science and research
- Try to find new effective solutions
- Connect academic, public and private sphere
- To provide services without barriers
- Experienced in IT technology
- Central repository, accessible by anyone
- Infrastructure exists to support a more ambitious application of VNF
- Good will ⊚



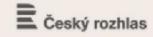
#### Where we are right now

- Contains about 500 000 records
- **24 institutions** = suppliers
- Trying to improve website structure (UX/UI)
- Working on a new web design proposal
- Preparing to conclude contracts with each supplier
- Starting research into metadata to find versatile solution
- Developing long-term vision
- Dealing with 3 new institutions to manage new metadata
- Approximately 180 visitors every day















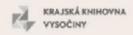












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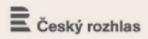




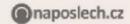


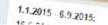




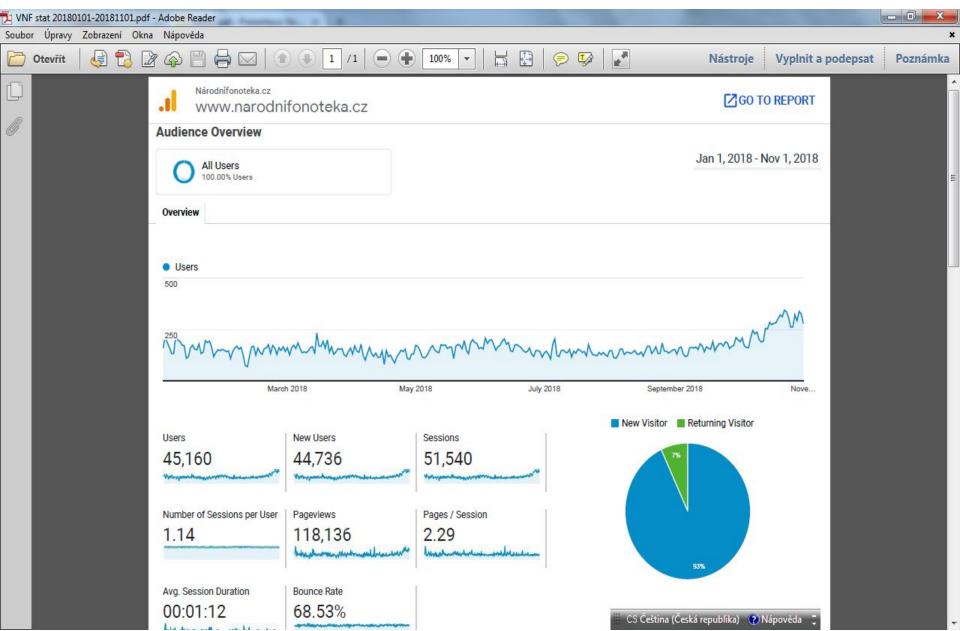








## Visitors - 2018



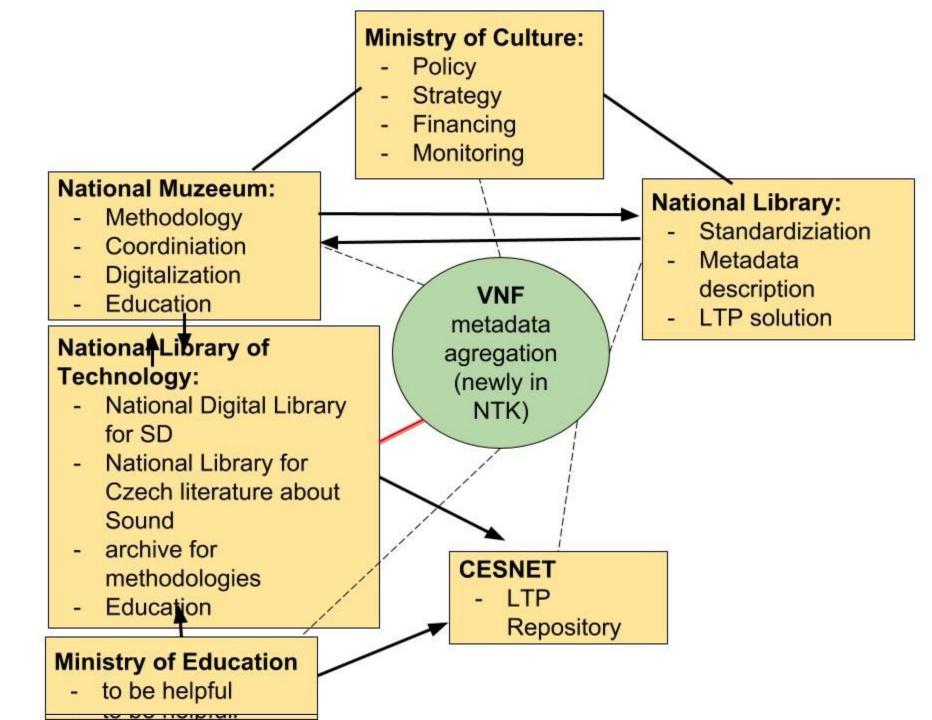


#### **Basic plans**

- Conclude a cooperation agreement with National Museum
- Ensure minimum viable operation and basic troubleshooting
- Acquire other significant contributors: (CRo, CT, Supraphon, ...)
- Analysis of relevant databases across the world
- Design of a new metadata structure
- Design of a new safety software solution
- Project preparation and search for funding

#### The main Aims:

- Collate complex information covering all of Czech sound production
- Enable direct access to most important sound recordings
- Offer an informational platform for education, digitalisation, research, etc.
- Become a National Sound Aggregator





#### What next?

- Expand cooperation beyond the Czech Republic
- Attract partners: Slovakia, Austria, Poland, Visegrád Four, ... ???
- Create stronger work team
- Divide the burden and cover the required professional roles
- Share experiences, people, help each other
- Exchangeable work placements, training, workshops
- Take part in training the next generation of professionals
- Create new job opportunities
- Joint effort to preserve cultural heritage

#### Let's do it together!



#### Our questions/considerations:

- Can we inspire others to do the same?
- Can we be inspired by examples from abroad?
- Can we increase cooperation?
- How and when?



# An example of cooperation with a private recording company

#### Access to **Supraphon** Digital Archive for NTK









# Virtual National Phonoteque

#### an Umbrella for Sound Documents







#### Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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