The German Broadcasting Archives (DRA) is a joint institution of the ARD and Deutschlandradio. It is a charitable foundation under civil law, with locations in Frankfurt am Main and Potsdam-Babelsberg.
The Foundation

The DRA was founded in 1952 as the »German Broadcasting Sound Archive« and renamed the German Broadcasting Archive in 1963 following constant expansion of its responsibilities.

In 1994, the former GDR’s radio and television broadcasting archive was incorporated into the Berlin location, now Potsdam-Babelsberg.

The DRA is a charitable foundation under civil law and a joint institution of the ARD, the Association of Public Broadcasting Corporations in the Federal Republic of Germany, and Deutschlandradio.

Managing Director: Bernd Hawlat
Administrative Board: The directors of the ARD broadcasting corporations and Deutschlandradio or ambassadors
Chairperson: Dr. Reinhart Binder (Legal Advisor of the Broadcasting Corporation Berlin-Brandenburg, RBB)
Deputy Chairperson: Dr. Helmut Reitze (Director of the Hessian Broadcasting Corporation, HR)
Headquarters: Frankfurt am Main

The »Berliner Funk-Stunde« was the largest broadcasting company of the Weimar Republic.
The Archives

The DRA has a comprehensive collection of sound and picture documents, documentary records, printed media and objects at its disposal. The archive encompasses significant parts of the audiovisual tradition in Germany and reflects the development of German broadcasting, and in particular of the ARD, as well as radio and television of the former GDR.

The main focal points of the collection are:

- Contemporary historical recordings and music from the beginning of sound recording
- Historical sound storage media: shellac and vinyl records, Edison cylinders, sound membranes, piano rolls and others
- Printed publications and written records documenting the programming history of the ARD channel and German broadcasting before 1945
- The radio and television transmissions of the former GDR including the accompanying media and written records on the organisational and programming history.

Broadcasting publications reflect their development, and in particular contain information about television programming.
Extension und expansion of the existing collection which makes up the ARD’s transmissions as well as the viewing, analysis and acquisition of media sources, documental evidence, documentations and bequests.

Development and documentation

Development of the DRA collection up to the programme deployment according to musical, temporal, cultural and broadcasting historical criteria

Documenting of broadcasting recordings which are not currently available within the DRA but which are of historical relevance

Documenting of broadcasting-related information of all kinds, in particular programme information, partly within larger scale research projects

Functions and Duties

Looking after and extending the existing collection

- Professional processing and storage to ensure the preservation and care of items
- Technical security and restoration, in particular of audiovisual media, the filming and digitalisation of written, audio phonic and audiovisual documents for long-term preservation

Video and audio documents are recut or digitalised in the technical studios of the DRA.
Participation in the development and updating of rules governing the documentation of media exhibits in the ARD, partially in a coordinating capacity.

Documents from the DRA are used in the creation of film, book and multimedia productions.

A new archive building was built in the year 2000 at what is now the Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB) in Potsdam-Babelsberg to house the broadcasting transmissions of the former GDR.

Use and order processing
Within the framework of the foundation’s mandate, items and information sources from the DRA can be used by public service broadcasting companies and interested parties from science, education and culture, and also, to a limited extent, by private persons and commercially-oriented organisations.
Services of the DRA include:
- Processing enquiries, researching its own and external stock databases and sources of information
- Providing documents and information in the course of order processing as well as through information services, collection catalogues and database offers
- Giving advice on programme projects and scientific research projects relating to broadcasting history
- Recording information with respect to copyright and performance rights in connection with use of the collection.

Use and development of information technologies
The DRA has many years of extensive experience in the use of data processing and information technologies. The tasks of the DRA include:
- Assembly and care of archive databases and IT-supported archive solutions (digital archives)
- Support of an ARD-wide user circle
- Advice and support for cultural and scientific institutions in safeguarding their AV libraries.

*The DRA publishes selected tape and television documents on the Internet and on CD and DVD.*
Joint institutional tasks of the ARD
The DRA manages several tasks of the ARD. Furthermore, the cataloguing of the central gramophone record of the ARD and ZDF (ZSK) is also established at the DRA.

Apart from supervising the ARD flyers and the online services »ABC der ARD« and »Chronik der ARD«, which are available at ARD.de, the DRA archives the stocks of the »ARD-Jahrbuch«, which was produced in-house between 1969 and 2010. The DRA is also responsible for the publication of several ARD statistics which are of interest to the public, such as financial statistics or programme statistics.

Collaboration and cooperation
The DRA is active in several cooperative projects. Here it works closely with partners from the ARD and many other cultural institutions. It is significantly involved in the construction and management of the »ARD-Normdatenbank« and zeitlupe, the event database of the ARD. Among other things, the DRA takes part in the working circle of independent cultural institutes (AsKI), the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) and in the media centre network.

Training
The DRA is also active in the area of training for documentary professions. This includes voluntary service posts for scientific documentalists, professional media and information service apprenticeships (also for the visually impaired) as well as all kinds of work placements.

The Braille script provides support to the visually-impaired when reading database information and text data.
The DRA is a joint institution of the ARD and Deutschlandradio and a charitable foundation under civil law with two locations situated in Frankfurt am Main and Potsdam-Babelsberg.

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The DRA on the Internet:
[www.dra.de](http://www.dra.de)
Overview of the collection, information services, broadcasting history information, web shop for audio CDs, catalogues etc.