

Subject: Radio Heatherwood Presenters Newsletters
From: "Secretary" <Secretary@radioheatherwood >
Date: 25/10/2003, 19:46
To: Radio Staff



The Radio Heatherwood staff newsletters took many styles and methods of production during its publications.

We have recreated an issue distributed by email to radio staff and also posted on the staff noticeboard.

This newsletter originally published as above date.

The only changes made to these emails have been the removal of personal phone numbers and email addresses.

Background Story to Email:-

New Wave Library Information

PJ Davidson-Smith Former Secretary

Subject: New Wave Library Information
From: "Secretary" <Secretary@radioheatherwood >
Date: 25/10/2003, 19:46
To: Radio Staff

Hi

After an incredible amount of time and effort, the new library in the new format has been uploaded to the two studio computers today.

This final version now allows David and I to concentrate on day to day running, as our time is not being taken up with work on this. It also means we can return to programs. It's been over a year now since I was able to go around the wards and do a program.

Why have we changed the library so soon after it was introduced ?

When work began on the original MP3 recordings four years ago we had opted for a sampling rate which was based around availability and cost of hard disc space and also the way in which patients would be able to listen. As time has marched on and the price of space has come down and the fact that at some point we must deliver a stereo signal via hospicom the new industry standard of 128k sampling was opted for and this has been taking place since May 2003.

The improvement in quality of the sound is quite noticeable.

What's in the new library ?

The new library is made up of 12144 items of various types. All cd's from the library were ripped but not every track or cd made it onto the final database. In addition cd's were supplied by individuals and these have also been added in. You will find that songs which appear on the computer will not be found on any other medium in the studio. When searching for requests looking on the library computers should include a search on the studio machines as you may be surprised.

Additional comedy items have been added to the library as well as new categories.

Why have you not put all the songs from the cd's on the computer ?

It has been decided to limit the songs from artists and Cd's to a representation of that artist or that classic cd so as to allow for further additions to the computer. What you won't be aware of is that in the new year a copyright bill which will become law in the spring will mean that all songs held on computers by hospital radio stations will be liable for a fee to the PPL. In our case a library of 12,000 records means that we might have to find £4000.

How did you decide what category a song will appear in ?

All songs which made the British pop charts will be a 99% be included in the decade in which it was a hit. Additional songs from an artist which would be classed as Heatherwood listeners choice will end up in the miscellaneous category (Say middle of the road) orchestra's and bands and Traditional. Other songs like Country and western are easy to define. The children's category is in fact all those comedy favorites from over the years.

Eva Cassidy for instance will have her chart hits in the 2000 category but because of her popularity a number of her songs will appear in Miscellaneous.

1940's Category

Be aware the 1940's can include items which were actually hit's before the forties.

All other decade categories have had their songs checked and with confidence you should be able to rely on the fact that it is a 50's.60's.70's.etc hit.

Films and Shows can actually include hits from a decade as well as being a hit from a film. If the song is recognizable as the film theme etc it will be in films and shows and not the decade it was chart hit.

What do I do if I find a song that doesn't play or sounds noisy etc ?

As you can imagine we don't have the time to listen to every song all the way through after it was converted. we only listen to the first part of the intro and the end of the song. If you select an item and it sounds a problem, mark it on your playlists and leave a note in my tray and I will investigate.

Wavecart Startup & Stacks

The stacks you might have created are still part of the startup of the machines but be aware:- Songs or items you included in your stacks may no longer be there so check each one plays before you use it.

When you launch wave cart it now has a much bigger library to look out so searches may seem slow but be patient. The program will take longer to settle down once opened.

When you intend to use the computer in the studio turn it on and launch wave cart long before you sit down to start transmitting don't leave it to the last minute as you will find the operations are sluggish until it get's up to speed.

The rhstart 1 stack has been slightly changed and will load all ten decks and pull items from the entire range of jingles etc.

New carts made which start AZ take all of the four section carts i.e. "AF", "GL", "MR", "SZ" and will select items on a random basis from the four sections. So for example if you load AZMC1960.krt into a deck, everytime it plays and reloads it will pull a song up from any one of the four sections giving you access to all 1400 1960's songs on one deck. In the previous library you would have needed four decks.

When will Rhapsody Be Broadcasting the new library ?

Before we can ask Rhapsody to play from the new songs we have to construct the new daily playlists geared around our program schedule. These are not ready yet, I am working on them and the six week rotational schedule will I hope be ready for an upload during the second week of November. The new daily playlists will consist of 70% of fixed material every time the show airs the balance will change every time. Anyone who was unfortunate enough to be here beyond 6 weeks would still find it hard to detect that we were repeating an output.

The Rhapsody part of the update has had an enormous amount of time spent on it to change the way the items are delivered. The launch program was very much a manual operation with any changes to the output having to be changed individually.

Any material which is produced by staff can be entered into a cart and will immediately appear in all programs which might choose that kart. This is vitally important if we are to improve on our local events and news sections.

The further development of the program output on Rhapsody and the move to voice tracked programs in total is very much dependant on individuals training and development.

I hope you find the new library useful and I would like to thank all those who continue to make Radio Heatherwood what it is :

A friend at the bedside for all patients no matter what their age!!!.

Regards

Peter J Davidson-Smith

Radio Heatherwood & League of Friends

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