

Inventory of the

**WNIU-FM / WNIJ-FM**

Records

in the

Northern Illinois University Archives

**UA 13**

## INTRODUCTION

Material from the WNIC and WNIU-FM radio stations came to the University Archives in several installments beginning in the 1970's. Material from WNIJ-FM was added beginning in 1994. There are no restrictions on access to these records.

3 boxes  
1.75 linear feet  
1947-2012

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials relating to the WNIC, WNIU-FM and WNIJ-FM radio stations. Histories of WNIC, WNIU and WNIJ are located in box one. The majority of this collection consists of WNIC and WNIU program guides, dating from 1947 to 1982. The guides contain program schedules and content notes on shows and series. Box two contains the WNIU and WNIJ program guides. The third box contains information on WNIJ-FM's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 28, 2011, as well as a commemorative t-shirt, signed by many of the staff at the radio station.

Tapes of various WNIU news broadcasts and music programs from 1964 to 1974 complete the collection, but are filed with the UA 11 - Audio-Visual Collection.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Northern Illinois University began airing radio programs in 1947. At that time, the University had no broadcasting facilities, but used those at WLBK, the DeKalb radio station. Seven years later, in December 1952, Swen Parson Library opened with a room set aside for a broadcasting booth. A radio club had been formed two years earlier and equipment was eventually purchased to set up a radio station. In 1954 the University began to broadcast from the campus under the call letters WNIC-FM. The station boosted its power in 1964 and changed its frequency from 91.1 to 89.1 megacycles. Originally, the radio station was part of the University's Regional Services Division until 1967 when it was reassigned to the Communications Services Division. In 1968 it received permission to change its call letters to WNIU-FM and its frequency to 89.5 megacycles.

WNIU-FM became a charter member of National Public Radio in 1971. In 1973 WNIU was made part of the Information and Public Affairs Department of Northern Illinois University under the Office of the President. The station went public in 1977 and a Public Advisory Committee consisting of eleven "community consultants" was formed. NIRIS (Northern Illinois Radio Information Service) began broadcasting programming for the blind in 1979.

An auxiliary station built in Rockford in 1990 enabled WNIU's news reporting to relocate. In December 1990, WNIU and NIRIS joined WKDI [a NIU student operated radio station] at the new Broadcast Center at 801 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street in DeKalb. The move out of the overcrowded Kishwaukee Hall allowed for a change in structural format, and WNIJ-FM [at 90.5 megacycles]

was added in 1991. The addition of WNIJ allowed WNIU to concentrate solely on classical music and simulcasts, while WNIJ provided news and entertainment programming, as well as jazz music in the evening, and NIRiS continued with programming for the blind. Together, the three stations make up Northern Public Radio which reports to the Office of the Vice President for Development and University Relations. In 1998 WNIU and WNIJ “swapped” frequencies” with WNIU moving to 90.5 and WNIJ to 89.5 FM.

### COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1a	WNIC Station History, 1954-1967
	1b	“A Report on Student-Produced Broadcasting at Northern Illinois University,” by Dr. Robert M. Miller, May 2012
	2	WNIU and WNIJ Station Histories, 1968-2010
	3	Mary Rita Jacobsen, WNIU’s Office Manager, 1969-1990 [includes photo of WNIU staff and students, ca. 1975]
	4	WNIC Policies and Procedures, (1954-1957)
	5	WNIC Annual Reports, (1954-1967)
	6-9	WNIC Program Lists/Notes/Schedules/Guides, (1947-1968)
2	1-7	WNIU Program Guides, (1968-1979)
	8	WNIU Discover/Program Guide, July 1979-February 1982, and March 1990
	9	WNIU/WNIJ Program Guides, 1994 & 2011
	10	Northern Public Radio [WNIU, WNIJ & NIRiS], Annual Reports: FY 2008, 2010, 2011
	11	WNIJ/WNIU e-mail news, 2012-
3	1	WNIJ-FM 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, April 28, 2011 One blue “89.5 WNIJ - 20 years” t-shirt, signed by radio station staff

TAPES (NOTE: Reel to Reel Recordings are filed with the UA 11 - Audio-Visual Collection)

News Programs:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1 reel  | WNIC-FM First Broadcasting Day, October 5, 1964           |
| 1 reel  | Smith Inauguration Highlights, May 26, 1968               |
| 1 reel  | Viet Nam War Moratorium, May 8, 1970                      |
| 4 reels | Northern Newsline, September 1968 - August 1970           |
| 2 reels | Kent State Disorders, May 7, 1971                         |
| 1 reel  | East-West Tollway Luncheon, August 26, 1971               |
| 3 reels | Mayoral Candidates Interview, April 15, 1973              |
| 2 reels | NIU 75th Anniversary Official Opening, September 12, 1973 |
| 1 reel  | Mark Keller Speech, November 2, 1973                      |
| 1 reel  | NIU 75th Anniversary Dinner, April 3, 1974                |
| 1 reel  | NIU 75th Anniversary Luncheon, April 20, 1974             |
| 2 reels | Commencement Exercises, May 11, 1974                      |

Music Programs:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 4 reels | The Baroque Organ, Robert Reeves, Organist, n.d.             |
| 4 reels | The Art of Robert Reeves, n.d.                               |
| 2 reels | Edna Williams and William Moffat Recital, November 4, 1970   |
| 1 reel  | NIU Percussion Ensemble, November 12, 1970                   |
| 2 reels | Concert Choir, November 13, 1970                             |
| 1 reel  | Group for New Music and Electric Steriopticon, Nov. 15, 1970 |
| 2 reels | NIU Brass Quintet, February 3, 1971                          |
| 2 reels | Donald Walker Recital, February 5, 1971                      |
| 2 reels | Edna Garabedian-George Mezzo-Soprano Recital, April 14, 1971 |
| 2 reels | NIU Jazz Ensemble, April 17, 1971                            |
| 1 reel  | Lawrence Rast Harpsichord Recital, April 21, 1971            |
| 1 reel  | Madrigal Singers, April 23, 1971                             |
| 2 reels | Robert Reeves Organ Recital, May 2, 1971                     |