



Photos by Maryna Chernyavska

Those attending the SIEF2025 Congress in Aberdeen may be interested to know that our host institution, the Elphinstone Institute, has its own tradition archives. For a wee preview, listen to the traditional legend of 'Aul Cruvie', as told by celebrated Traveler storyteller, ballad singer, and piper, Stanley Robertson.



# Working Group on Archives

TRADITION ARCHIVES LOOKING TO THE FUTURE!

Tradition archives developed out of and alongside ethnographic disciplines such as folkloristics, ethnology and cultural anthropology. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many folklore archives were founded based on large 19<sup>th</sup> century collections. As these archives celebrate their centennials, archivists are facing a time of change. Tradition archives serve as a crucial part of the world's social memory and cultural heritage, but their task is to look ahead!



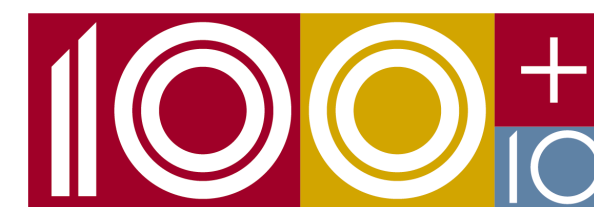
Aberdeen, Scotland  
June 3–6 2025

[WWW.SIEFHOMES.ORG/WG/ARCH/](http://WWW.SIEFHOMES.ORG/WG/ARCH/)



Working Group on Archives at the SIEF2023 16<sup>th</sup> Congress in Brno, Czech Republic

The SIEF Working Group on Archives is a network between ethnographic archives, between scholars working in these archives, and scholars working on them.



**ARCHIVES OF  
TRADITIONAL CULTURE:  
100 + 10**

International Conference | Riga, Latvia | October 29-31, 2024

The interim conference for the SIEF Working Group on Archives was hosted by the Archives of Latvian Folklore in Riga October 2024. This event marked both the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the archives and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Digital Archives of Latvian Folklore, *garamantas.lv*.



Maryna Chernyavska emphasized key practices of the folklore archivist in her keynote presentation, "Listening Deeply, Holding Plurality, Unfolding Relationships"

## PRESERVING STORIES FOR THE FUTURE



Cliona O'Carroll presenting experiences from oral history projects at the Cork Folklore Project

Archive material comes in many formats. Folklore collections often go beyond the written word. Stories might be preserved in drawings or photographs, or as often is the case with oral history and story-telling – in sound recordings.

## CROWDSOURCING - CITIZEN SCIENCE - PARTICIPATORY ARCHIVING

Archives of traditional culture have always been relying on community participation. Today, new forms of collaborations and participatory projects are being explored by many folklore archives.



Sanita Reinsone, in the second keynote lecture, "Digital Dynamics in Folklore Archives: Charting Community Engagement Patterns", presented several innovative digital collaboration projects, including the ten-year experience of the Archives of Latvian Folklore

## GOING DIGITAL!

The rapid digitalization of the world has drastically changed the archivist's work. Increasingly, archive material is born-digital or digitalized. Records of the digital archive can be processed, accessed and disseminated in unprecedented ways. Moreover, digital solutions open new possibilities for archival collaboration across national and linguistic borders.



Digital Humanities makes it possible to ask new questions about large collections. Liina Saarlo and Helina Härend (Estonian Folklore Archives) presenting a project applying computational measurements on the database of Baltic-Finnic runosongs

Photos by Guntis Pakalns