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» Frontera Collection, 1900-1950

A digital archive containing more than 41,000 recordings of Spanish-language songs produced between the early 1900s and 1950s became available online today though the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

The Arhoolie Foundation's Strachwitz Frontera Collection of Mexican and Mexican-American Recordings is the largest digital archive of its kind, according to the university.

"The Frontera Collection will be an invaluable resource for students, scholars and the public seeking to learn more about the Spanish-language musical heritage of North America," said Chon Noriega, director of the Chicano Studies Research Center.

Full-length versions of the songs may be accessed from computers on the UCLA campus or by students and faculty accessing the university's network through a proxy server.

Because of copyright restrictions, only the first 50 seconds of each song will be accessible from off-campus computers.

The online archive -- made possible by a \$500,000 donation from the Los Tigres del Norte Foundation -- contains 30,000 recordings made between 1905 and 1955, and additional songs from 1955 to the 1990s continue to be digitized and added to the collection.

Joining UCLA in making the announcement was Los Tigres del Norte, a Grammy Award-winning norteno group and major funders of the digitization of the Frontera



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Collection's 78 rpm recordings.

"This collection will provide the next generation of Mexican and Mexican-American music artists with previously unimaginable access to our rich cultural history and, in doing so, will help them expand the appreciation of Spanish-language music even further in the future," said Los Tigres del Norte bandleader Jorge Hernandez.

The recordings can be accessed by logging onto <http://frontera.library.ucla.edu>.

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