

MUSIC RESEARCH

PRACTICAL ADVICE

1. A. Start with [Oxford Music Online](#), containing the full text of the 29 vol. New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians and several other scholarly titles. Lots of cross indexing to related articles. This will let you get to know your topic before you do any further research. There are lots of lengthy bibliographies to scholarly sources. While no library could be expected to own all these sources (many are quite rare) you can get most of them through Interlibrary Loan.
B. Also available in print is the actual New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (ML100 .N48 2001).
 - a. **NOTE:** Instead of looking your topic up alphabetically, look it up in the index, vol.29. The index will not only direct you to the main article, but also to related articles which you would otherwise miss.
 - b. **NOTE:** This may be the single most useful reference source in music.
2. There are several guides to music research available in the library containing both advice and descriptions of useful resources. One good one is *Music Reference and Research Materials: An Annotated Bibliography*, by Duckles. (ML113 .D83 1988) Another is [MENC handbook of research methodologies, 2006](#) [electronic resource] / edited by Richard Colwell.
3. Advanced assignments cannot be completed solely with one library's resources. Sometimes you will need to either visit other libraries, preferably university libraries with a graduate music program, or utilize ILL (Interlibrary Loan). ILL through PASCAL Delivers takes about 3 days and is free. You may order ILLs at the library's [home page](#). Also available there are search engines for finding materials to order and ILL FAQ's.
4. Keep track of your research. Write down each source you look in, even if it is a dead end. This will save you time in the long run.
5. Be aware of possible multiple spellings, especially when dealing with foreign languages. Example: For some online searches, "Barber of Seville" would not find "Il Barbiere di Siviglia."
6. [Research Guides](#) (located on the library's Home Page) – Research Guides are annotated bibliographies describing useful resources – both in the library and online – along with useful research strategies.
7. Get help from a librarian.
8. Don't give up!

SOURCES OF BOOKS

1. [Library Catalog](#) - Search by composer's name or a key word within title of composition.

NOTE: The library will not have books on every composer. You may need to use a book that discusses multiple composers.

Use the faceted search box to limit your search to such things as books, music (scores), sound recordings (cds), eBooks, DVD, etc.

Other Search Tools -

2. [WorldCat](#) - The WorldCat search engine contains 1.2 billion titles and covers 10,000 libraries worldwide. It contains citations to books, ebooks, videos, music and music scores, dissertations, and even some articles. No full text is available, only citations! You can create an account in WorldCat, if you wish, by setting up a user name and password. but you do not have to have one to conduct searches. However, account holders can create and name lists, share lists, print lists, view other people's lists, and compose notes to describe your lists. Also, WorldCat generates citations in APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, and Turabian styles. You can also sign up for a RSS feed.
3. [PASCALCAT](#) - A service provided by PASCAL (Palmetto Association of South Carolina's Academic Libraries) to academic colleges and universities in the state. PASCALCAT is a union catalog of the library collections of the universities and colleges in South Carolina. Items can be searched, saved, and emailed to yourself. You can email the bibliographic information to the Thrift Library as an Interlibrary Loan request. You must also submit a form to the library with your name, email address, or home number.

BROWSING THE SHELVES

Library of Congress System – The [Library of Congress System](#) arranges books (as well as scores and audio visuals) on the shelf according to subject. Music materials are stored in the M's. There are three main categories.

M –Scores

ML – Literature on music

MT – Musical Instruction and Study

These main categories are then divided into major and minor topics.

Example:

MT 1-960 Instruction and study

MT 1 General works

MT 2.5 Music study abroad

MT 3-5 History

MT 5.5-7 Music theory

MT 9-15 Printed pedagogical aids

MT 9 Examinations, exercises, etc.

MT 10 Teachers' and supervisors'

You can browse for materials on a like topic by starting with the appropriate Library of Congress number.

- Scores are found in the M's.
- Biographies of composers are found in ML 410, and are arranged alphabetically by composer.
- Criticisms are found in MT 2 - MT 5, but can be included in Dictionaries and Encyclopedias (ML 100- 110), History and Criticism (ML 159-189) and specific forms of music.
- Check the indexes in the back of books. Even if the book is not about your topic, it might have a chapter or portion of a chapter on it.
- Most scholarly books have extensive bibliographies, either at the end of the book or at the end of each chapter.
- Most scholarly articles have extensive bibliographies.

SOURCES OF E-BOOKS

1. [OneSearch](#) – This search engine finds most of the library's eBooks.
2. [ProQuest Ebook Central](#) – Contains 160,000 eBooks on all topics. Search this database separately from OneSearch.
3. [Credo Reference](#) – Contains hundreds of electronic Reference Books (Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Handbooks, etc.) including:
 - *Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World*
 - *The Faber Companion to 20th Century Popular Music*
 - *The Harvard Biographical Dictionary of Music*
 - *The Harvard Dictionary of Music*
 - *The New Penguin Dictionary of Music*
4. [Oxford Music Online](#)
5. [Garland Encyclopedia of World Music](#)

SOURCES OF ARTICLES - The following Thrift Library databases are good sources for articles on music.

MUSIC SPECIFIC

Music Index Online

RILM Abstracts of Music Literature

RIPM Retrospective Index to Music Periodicals

RISM Series A/II: Music Manuscripts after 1600

SUPPORTING

Biography in Context

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses

NOTE: Each of these databases either contain full text articles or link out to full text articles in other databases. If, however, full text is not available, you can still check the [A-Z Title List](#) to determine if a particular title is available in full text somewhere else.

SEARCHING MULTIPLE DATABASES AT ONE TIME

[OneSearch](#) also allows searching across multiple databases at one time. Conduct a search and limit your results to music.

WHEN DO I USE ONESEARCH AND WHEN DO I USE THE LIBRARY CATALOG?

Use OneSearch when searching for online resources

Use the Library Catalog when searching for physical resources - books, DVDs, CDs, etc.

SOURCES OF REVIEWS

1. OneSearch is the best source for reviews. Search for the composer as a subject search. Choose appropriate subheadings. Typical subheadings include “Criticism and Interpretation”, “Influence”, “Research”, “Works”, etc.
2. If you want reviews, combine the composer’s name with the word *review*.
Example: “Vivaldi and reviews”. (Be sure to include *and*.)

You can narrow this even more by adding the type of review. Examples:

- “Vivaldi and reviews and book”
- “Vivaldi and reviews and sound recording”
- “Vivaldi and reviews and opera”

Once you have identified a review, you can

1. Read it online if available in Full Text
2. Order it through Interlibrary Loan

SOUND RECORDINGS (In House - CDs)

Use the Library Catalog to find music recordings.

Additionally, the [Music Holdings Notebooks](#), stored at the Front Desk, provides additional information such as cut-by-cut descriptions. They allow the user to browse a list of recordings arranged by Composition, Composer/Composition, or Singer (alphabetical within tenor, bass, baritone, alto, soprano, mezzo-soprano categories.)

You may listen to music in the Library at any library computer or check out CDs for three days.

\$1.00 Fine with no grace period!

Headphones are available upon request.

SOUND RECORDINGS (ONLINE)

- [NAXOS Musical Library](#) (NLM) – Containing over 65,000 cds and a track count of almost a million., primarily dealing with classical music, but also some jazz, folk, blues, world, pop, rock, gospel, etc.
- [NAXOS Musical Library –Jazz](#) – Containing primarily jazz, but also some folk, rock, and world music.

PERIODICALS

Research your topic using OneSearch. Some articles will be in full text.

Check the [A-Z Title List](#) on the library’s web page to determine what we have online AND what we have in house – stored offsite.

If not available, either online or in house, use [Interlibrary Loan](#). This is where the library obtains the article from another library. ILL via PASCAL Delivers takes about a three days and there is no charge.

VIDEOS

- More than 100 DVD's are available in house on musical periods (classical, baroque, etc.), biographies, ethnomusicology, and individual performances of operas, ballets, etc. Also musical theatre.
- [NAXOS Video Library](#) – Containing over 2,800 online videos of classical music performances, opera, ballet, live concerts, and documentaries. Watch the world's greatest opera houses, ballet companies, orchestras, and performances on demand.

SCORES –

- Thousands of scores and sheet music located in the M's are available for three-week check out. Check the Library Catalog.
- The library subscribes to [Library Music Source](#) containing over 300,000 pages of Western Classical sheet music from over 35,000 works for orchestra, chamber ensemble, piano, organ, voice, chorus, strings, winds, percussion and guitar, which may be viewed online, downloaded, and/or printed.

CAUTION: Titles may be in a different language than anticipated for instance, German instead of English, or English instead of German – *Die Zauberflote* vs. *The Magic Flute*. Titles may be under the popular title, i.e. *Moonlight Sonata*, or the actual title, *Sonata Opus 27, No.2*.

[RECOMMENDED WEB SITES](#) - More than 100 web sites are bookmarked for a number of music related categories. These include sites on Composers, Compositions, Lyrics, Translations, History, Theory, Music Forms (Opera, Lieder, Hymns, etc.)

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 1) The notes included with CDs are sometimes good sources of information.

CITING SOURCES

Most databases generate citations. Be careful though. Computer generated citations are often incomplete or fail to use capitalization, periods, spaces, commas, and colons correctly. Use the computer to generate a citation to save time, and then correct it using a style guide.

Music majors use the Chicago/Turabian style. You can use the library's [Citing Sources Guide](#) for online help or purchase or check out the latest style manual:

The Chicago Manual of Style / 16th ed. Call Number: Z253 .U69 2010

Note when using online databases found in OneSearch, you do not cite OneSearch, you cite the individual database.

Hints for converting database generated citations:

- Last name first, then first name first.
- Title of article is in quotes with major words capitalized.
- Journal capitalized.
- Vol. and no. included.
- Date of publication arranged by day, month, year.
- Pages include start and end page.
- Title of journal is in italics with major words capitalized.
- DOI preferred. Use url if no doi. Note: You may have to search the full text article for the DOI. Usually found at beginning or end of article. May be found in the database's record. Click on the title for the record.
- If using hyperlink instead of the DOI, do not use the link at top of screen. Instead click on Permalink.
- Do not note EBSCOHost or OneSearch or ProQuest in citation. Just the database.
- Date of access is optional.

