Library Resources and Research Techniques for MUHL 263

Learning Outcomes: By the end of your library class you will be able to locate books and articles on your topic using the library catalog and periodical databases. You will also be familiar with subject-related encyclopedias.

Tips to Make Your Research Go Faster, Easier . . . and Better

- Start with the Library’s research guides
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Research” click on “Subject Guides”
  - Click on “Music” from the menu in the left column
- Remember that you can combine terms in the Library’s catalog while looking for books
- Use the databases in the subject guides to find magazine and journal articles
- Consult the Journal Finder for online full-text holdings of periodicals
  - From the Library’s home page, click on “Journal Finder” under “Research”
- Analyze the bibliographies and end / footnotes that authors consider significant to their research
- Take advantage of the UMW help guide on Citing Resources
  - Go to the Library’s home page: http://libraries.umw.edu
  - Under “Research” click on “Subject Guides”
  - Click on “Citing Resources” from the menu in the right column

Electronic Books

- Provides synopsis, characters, commentary, analysis, and discography.
- Also furnishes a glossary of terms and libretto.

- Provides synopsis, characters, commentary, and analysis.
- Also furnishes a glossary of terms, libretto, and biographical information about Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte.

Web Resources


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Online Periodical Databases

Here are just a few of the many databases to which the libraries subscribe. Links to them and other resources that provide abstracts of articles (summaries) and full-text articles are available in the “Locating Articles” section of the UMW Libraries Music subject guide (http://libguides.umw.edu/muhl). For an alphabetical list of databases, go to the UMW Libraries home page (http://libraries.umw.edu) and click on “Databases A – Z” under “Research.” If you need discipline-specific resources, click on “Subject Guides.”

*Academic Search Complete* (coverage varies; as far back as the 1880s to date)
- Includes thousands of full-text academic journals, periodicals, books, and reports in a wide variety of disciplines.
- Can click on “Choose Databases” to add additional databases, such as *Historical Abstracts, Humanities International Complete, Humanities Full Text, Humanities and Social Sciences Retrospective, MasterFILE Premier*, and *OmniFile*.

*Oxford Music Online* (coverage varies)

*RILM Abstracts of Music Literature* (1967 to date)
- A comprehensive index to writings on music, including works of criticism, musicology, ethnomusicology, instruments, pop and jazz, theory, and performance.
- Covers books, journals, conference proceedings, catalogues, dissertations, recordings, & reviews.
- Click on “Locate Article” to see if a periodical cited in *RILM Abstracts* is available full-text in another database or is in the library’s collection.

*ProQuest Historical Newspapers* (coverage varies)
- Provides full-text and full-image articles for the *New York Times* (1851 to within the last several years) the *Washington Post* (1877 to 1991), and the *Chicago Tribune* (1849-1987).

Database Search Tips

- Use subject headings to focus your search.
- If a thesaurus is available, use it to find subject headings (as well as synonyms, which you can use in an OR search).
- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase (e.g., “American hard-boiled detective fiction”).
- Use AND to narrow your search (e.g., Shakespeare and Hamlet).
- Use OR to broaden your search (e.g., crime fiction or detective fiction).
- Use truncation (*) to obtain all words beginning with your keyword (e.g., philosoph* will retrieve works with philosophy or philosophical in them).
- Click on the full-text link (such as “Locate Journal Article”) to see if a periodical article not full text is available in another database or is in the Library’s collection.