A Research Guide for

Music

A research guide is an introduction to researching a topic. It lists the best introductory sources to help you start your research, but it is not a comprehensive bibliography of the topic. Please ask a reference worker for further help.

Scope

This guide provides sources useful for researching music. It includes reference works that provide information about musical styles and periods, biographies of musicians and composers, and technical information about musical notation. It also includes help for finding books about music that you can check out, as well as lists of databases and websites.

This guide includes only sources available in the Mack Library, but many other sources are available in the music library, located in the Gustafson Fine Arts Center. Resources in the music library include recordings, periodicals, scores, analytical works, and general reference works related to music.

Reference Works

Reference works include encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and almanacs. They are available in the reference section.


This resource provides definitions, short biographies, and brief descriptions of compositions. It is an excellent starting point in research.


This book provides quotations related to music. Some quotations are from musicians, while others are literary references to music.


This large set is a valuable resource for in-depth information about any aspect of music: musical pieces, musical notation, musicians, music history, and music theory.


This source gives an overview of the history of Western music. It includes musical examples and detailed information on the development of music, with highlights of various composers and pieces throughout the series.


This dictionary provides brief biographies of significant American classical composers.


This set focuses on opera, with information about composers, performers, specific operas, publishing companies, and other topics.
**Call Numbers and Subject Headings**

*Call numbers are places to check in the library. Go to that location, and browse the shelves for books on that topic. Subject headings are suggested terms to use when searching the library catalog. Search for them by “subject,” not by “keyword.”*

264.23 — Hymns/church music  
372.87 — Music in education  
780 — General music  
   780.9 — Music history  
   781 — General principles and musical form  
   782 — Vocal music  
   783 — Music for single voices  
   784 — Instruments and instrumental ensembles  
   785 — Ensembles with only one instrument per part  
   786 — Keyboard, mechanical, electrophonic, percussion instruments  
   787 — Stringed instruments  
   788 — Wind instruments  

Arrangement (music)  
Composition (music)  
Concerts  
Instrumental music  
Music  
Music—(See specific centuries)  
Music—(See specific countries, regions, and ethnicities)  
Music—Acoustics and physics  
Music—Bibliography  
Music appreciation  
Music by women composers  
Music history  
Music philosophy  
Musical form  
Patriotic music  
Popular music  
Sacred music  
School music  
Singing  
(See specific instruments)  
(See specific styles)

**Electronic Resources**

Electronic resources are subscription databases available from a link on the library’s website. Visit [http://www.bju.edu/library/resources/alphabetical.html](http://www.bju.edu/library/resources/alphabetical.html).

**JSTOR Music Collection**

The JSTOR Music Collection contains the complete back runs of thirty-two journals dedicated to scholarly research and theory in the field of music.

**Music Index Online**

Topics concerned with every aspect of the classical and popular world of music are thoroughly categorized and organized according to the framework of an internal Subject List which includes both Subject and Geographic headings. Covering all styles and genres of music, *The Music Index* cites book reviews, obituaries, new periodicals, and news articles about music, musicians, and the music industry.

**Oxford Music Online**

This resource allows the user to search *The Oxford Dictionary of Music*, *Grove Music Online*, and *The Oxford Companion to Music*. It also includes the *Encyclopedia of Popular Music*, an exhaustive reference source focused exclusively on popular music.
Websites
Websites are recommended sources available free online.

Librarian’s Index to the Internet: Music. http://lii.org/pub/topic/music

A list of websites about music reviewed and indexed by librarians.

http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/research/srg/mus2.html

OSU has compiled a list of excellent websites for researching music. Topics included on their list are subject directories (directories which provide links to yet more websites), song lyrics, copyright, sheet music, and Internet databases.

Worldwide Internet Music Resources: Research and Study. Indiana University.
http://library.music.indiana.edu/music_resources/res.html

The William and Gayle Cook Music Library at Indiana University offers this extensive list of websites for research. Nearly three dozen general topics are covered, with additional links under each topic.