

How to Begin Researching a Music Topic

The two things I would like you to try here are both located at the Crane Music Library website: please pull this up to use these guidelines

<http://library.potsdam.edu/music>

How to Find **Articles** on Subjects/People/Concepts:

- You'll notice alongside the left side of this web page (<http://library.potsdam.edu/music>) a tab entitled "articles." Please click on this.

You will now see **three** different databases listed under the heading "Music Articles"

- Music Periodicals Database (formerly International Index to Music Periodicals)
- Music Index
- RILM Abstracts of Music Literature

Please, in turn, click on **each** of these three databases and search by keyword for articles related to your topic.

What kinds of keywords should you use? Trying to be specific is always helpful: if you know you're looking for information on a specific piece by a specific person, look using those two keywords. Or you could try something more abstract to see if you can find things on your topic (such as the words: jazz migration 1920s)—you may want to try several different options of keywords.

Now, skim the titles/descriptions of the articles which come up. A lot of it won't be what you're looking for, but some of these titles will absolutely be helpful.

See an article you find interesting? Look underneath the article title and see if you see the words "**Full text - PDF.**" If so, click on that, a PDF will download and you've got a source!

How to Find **Reference Book** Information on Subjects/People/Concepts:

- Please go back to <http://library.potsdam.edu/music>
- You'll notice alongside the left side of this web page a tab entitled "reference." Please click on this.

You will now see **two** different databases listed under the heading "Music Reference"—I would like you to click on the one called "**Oxford Music Online**" (this is the most complete music

encyclopedia in English—access to it is super expensive, so you should use it while the school is paying for your access code!)

Once you've clicked on this encyclopedia, you can search for people, concepts, and other keywords in the search box in the righthand corner. Again, I would look up words such as a composer's name, a style of music, a country. Most composers and performers have entries in this encyclopedia and they can be extremely useful.

If you do these things, you'll have a great start to researching your project!