MUS 503 Library Session

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the online videos and the in-person library session, you should be able to

- navigate the Music Library Research Guide
- refine search keywords or strategy to improve results
- differentiate between relevant databases and be able to navigate within them
- find discipline-related peer-reviewed journal articles and dissertations
- use database tools as starting point for citing resources
- determine how to get access to the full-text of an article

Task 1

In this task you and one or more fellow students will investigate one of the following databases on the Start Here page of the Music Library Research Guide: Music Index, Music Periodicals Database, JSTOR or Google Scholar (scroll down to Other Useful Databases for Google Scholar).

Use the following search in your investigation: “film music” and composer*

Fill in the table below using your observations from your search and answer the critical thinking questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database name</th>
<th>Number of results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In what order are your results displayed? Can you change the order?

How can you refine your search results?

Can you limit to peer-reviewed articles only? If so, how?

What kind of documents are in your results and how do you know that?

Can you exclude different types of documents? How?

Task 1 continues on next page
For the first article (not a book) in your results,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can you tell how many times this article has been cited? If so, how many times?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the database give you options to cite using different citation styles?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you get the full text of the article without having to pay a fee? How?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical thinking questions

a. What would you do to find out if an article is peer-reviewed and the database doesn’t tell you if it is?

b. What tip would you give your fellow students about this database?

STOP

Task 2

Now you will have time to start searching for an article on the topic you will be using for your final research paper.

1. Write down the search you are going to use. Combine your concepts using the Boolean operators AND and/or OR and using asterisks for stemming.
   Examples: child* AND music
             "music therapy" AND (teen* OR adolescent*)

2. Go to the Music Subject Guide (guides.boisestate.edu/music) and select one of the following databases that you didn’t investigate in task 1: Music Index, Music Periodicals Database, JSTOR or Google Scholar.

3. Enter your search string into the search box and use the database’s refining options to find an article on your topic.

Task 2 continues on next page
4. Click on one of the titles on the first page of your results list.
   
a. What subject terms do you see that are synonyms for your concepts that you didn't use in your search? Write down one for each concept.
   
b. How might you change your search to improve your results? Try it and see if it improves your results.

5. If there is time, try your search string in a different database. Did you find different articles that would be useful?
   
You can download the article, email it to yourself or send it to one of the library's printers and use your Boise State ID to print it out.