Music Research

Practical Advice
Where should I start?
Oxford Music Online containing:

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians
The New Grove Dictionary of Opera
The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz
The Oxford Companion to Music
The Oxford Dictionary of Music
Oxford Music Online ... containing
New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians

- 29 volumes
- Long, scholarly articles – can be 40 pages long
- Extensive bibliographies
- Also available in print – REF ML100.N48 2001
The New Grove Dictionary of Opera

- 4 Volumes
- Scholarly
- Extensive bibliographies
- 3,900 composers
- 2,800 operas.
- Also available in print – REF ML102.O6 N5 1998
The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz

- 3 Volumes
- Scholarly
- Extensive bibliographies
- Also available in print - REF ML102.J3 N48 1994
Encyclopedia of Popular Music

- Eight volumes
- Scholarly
- Extensive bibliographies
- Covering popular music of all genres and periods from 1900 to the present day.
- Also available in print – REF ML102.P66 G84 1998
Oxford Dictionary of Music

- 12,500 entries on musical subjects of all kinds
- Authoritative
- Accessible
- Covers composers, performers, conductors, musical terms and forms, instruments, works, venues, etc.
Guides to Music Research

- THE authoritative research guide for music.
- 3,500 sources are listed and described.
- Also available in Print - REF ML113.D83 1997
Guides to Music Research

- **MENC handbook of research methodologies (eBook)**
  - An excellent starting point.
  - An up-to-date reference guide for experienced researchers.
  - Also available in print - MT1.M42 2006
Advanced Assignments

- Advanced assignments cannot be completed solely with one library’s resources.
- Sometimes you will need to visit other libraries, preferably university libraries.
- You may also order materials through Interlibrary Loan.
Interlibrary Loan

- Interlibrary Loan (ILL) takes three to seven days - books are slower than articles.
- No charge.
- There are several search engines at the ILL Page for finding materials.
- The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians has wonderful, scholarly bibliographies.
  - WARNING! - Many of the sources cited there will be in a foreign language.
Keep Track of Your Research

• Research is an experimental process where you explore many avenues of inquiry.
• Write each source you look in, even if it is a dead end.
• This will save you time in the long run.
Beware Alternative Spellings

- Beatriz de Dia – SEE Dia, Comtess de
- Leoninus - SEE Leonin
- Mario, E.A. - SEE Gaeta, Giovanni
- Prokofief, Sergei - SEE Prokoviev, Sergey
- Rachmaninov, Sergie - SEE Rachmaninoff, Serge
Beware Alternative Titles

- Barber of Seville vs. Il Barbier di Siviglia
- Streichquartet vs. String Quartet
- Moonlight Sonata vs. Sonata No.14 in C Sharp Minor, Op.27, No.2
Use the Library’s LibGuides

- LibGuides are annotated bibliographies describing useful resources – both in the library and online – along with useful research strategies.
Get Help From a Librarian

- “Did I ever tell you about the student who complained we didn’t have any books on “Shakesphee”?
- He wasn’t a very good speller, but he was very wise. Because he asked for help – he got it.
- Every student eventually reaches the limit of their knowledge. If you don’t ask for help, there will always be more you didn’t find.
Don’t Give Up!

- Don’t give up
  Keep on trying
  You’re gonna make it
  I ain't lying
  Don’t give up, don’t ever quit
  Try and try and you can do it
  Don’t give up, yeah

  - Bruno Mars