

Music 41 Research Worksheet

Name: _____

The purpose of this worksheet is twofold: to help you learn to select, research, and narrow your topic to a thesis statement and to introduce you to many of the resources available for music research. It will be extremely helpful (and time-saving) if you have made a “final” decision on your topic before you begin working on this worksheet.

Remember to keep a full record of the resources you find so that you will not have to re-trace your steps.

Select or state your topic

- State your topic, what interests you about it, and what questions you would like to answer.

- Brainstorm as many keywords, names, works, or concepts as you can to help you focus as you do your research.

- Which citation style will you use? Do not use parenthetical citations – use a note format. (circle one)

Turabian Chicago Bellman Wingell MLA

Gather broad information - Encyclopedia

- Look up your topic in [New Grove](#), either online or in print. Write in your chosen citation format one item from the bibliography will be useful to you. **Note that publication information might be incomplete.** You will need to find complete information in other ways, like by using [WorldCat](#).

Does the music library have it? If so, write the call number.

Gather less broad information - Identify books

- Use [Alcuin](#) to find a subject heading (and sub-heading if applicable) that applies to your topic.

What heading(s) and sub-headings did you choose? (Remember that you may/should include your composer as a subject heading when you actually do the search.)

Find two items to look most helpful. Write in your chosen format the citation and provide the complete call number.

1.

2.

- Look up that same subject in [WorldCat](#).

Write in your chosen format the citation for one item not at Furman that looks helpful.

Submit an interlibrary loan request for the item if you would like to use it. Be judicious in this. Request only those items you will use.

Identify scores and recordings

- Check [Alcuin](#) for a score and recording of your works.

Identify Work One (composer/title): _____

Call number for a score: _____

Call number for a recording: _____

Identify Work Two (composer/title): _____

Call number for a score: _____

Call number for a recording: _____

- Check [Classical Music Library](#) for a recording of your works. It is easiest to browse by composer last name, and then locate the work.

Static URL for work: _____

- If you couldn't find one or both works in score and recording at Furman, check WorldCat. Fill in the search screen for what you need. Remember to limit by type.

The screenshot shows the WorldCat search interface. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below that, the search database is set to 'WorldCat' (updated 2004-09-17), described as the 'OCLC catalog of books and other materials in libraries worldwide'. There are three search input fields with 'and' dropdowns between them. Below the search fields are filter options: 'Year' (format: YYYY-YYYY), 'Language' (set to 'All', with a 'Show all languages...' link), and 'Number of Libraries' (set to 'All'). At the bottom, there is a 'Limit type to:' section with the instruction 'match any of the following' and a grid of checkboxes for material types: Books, Visual Materials, Computer Files, Internet Resources, Serial Publications, Sound Recordings, Archival Materials, Articles, Musical Scores, and Maps.

Did you find it? Yes No

Did you submit an ILL request? Yes No

Gather more focused information: Journal articles



Articles not available full-text online may be available for electronic delivery through interlibrary loan, as a special service for students studying abroad. Please specify in your ILL request that you will need an electronic version.

IIMP Search - Fill in the boxes with exactly what you used for your search. Remember that using subject terms will increase the relevance of your search. It can be useful to combine a subject search with one or two keywords. The "Browse" button will help you identify the subject terms, document types, and other controlled vocabulary IIMP recognizes.

Enter your search terms...

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Keyword | <input type="text"/> |
| Title | <input type="text"/> |
| Author | <input type="text"/> |
| Subject Categories* | <input type="text"/> |
| Subject Terms* | <input type="text"/> |
| Document Type | <input type="text"/> |
| Publication | <input type="text"/> |
| Language | <input type="text"/> |
| Country of Publication | <input type="text"/> |
| Publication Date | From <input type="text" value="1874"/> to <input type="text" value="2004"/> |
| ISSN | <input type="text"/> |
| IIMP Citation Number | <input type="text"/> |

- Write in your chosen format one citation that will be useful for your paper.

- What does this article contribute to your knowledge of the topic?

- Is this article available in print or microfiche at Furman, online, or only through ILL?

Music Index Search

- Fill in the boxes with exactly what you used for your search.

Remember that using subject terms will increase the relevance of your search. It can be useful to combine a subject search with one or two keywords.

Key Word Fields

Word Form Options

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Full Citation: | <input type="text"/> | Boolean <input type="button" value="v"/> |
| Title: | <input type="text"/> | Boolean <input type="button" value="v"/> |
| Author: | <input type="text"/> | Boolean <input type="button" value="v"/> |
| Subject: | <input type="text"/> | Boolean <input type="button" value="v"/> |
| Periodical: | <input type="text"/> | Boolean <input type="button" value="v"/> |

Search Options

Sort Options

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Years: | <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> | Primary: | <input type="text"/> |
| Document Type: | all <input type="button" value="v"/> | Secondary: | <input type="text"/> |
| Language: | all <input type="button" value="v"/> | Tertiary: | <input type="text"/> |
| Special Features: | all <input type="button" value="v"/> | | |
| Periodical Classification: | all <input type="button" value="v"/> | | |
| Periodical Country: | all <input type="button" value="v"/> | | |

- Write in your chosen format one citation that will be useful for your paper.

- What does this article contribute to your knowledge of the topic?

- Is this article available in print or microfiche at Furman, online, or only through ILL?

- **RILM Search** - *Fill in the boxes with exactly what you used for your search.* Remember that using subject terms will increase the relevance of your search. It can be useful to combine a subject search with one or two keywords. Remember to fill in the “Index” box to indicate which fields you asked RILM to search, and fill in the connector boxes on the left with the Boolean operators you used.

The screenshot shows the RILM search interface. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below that, the search database is identified as 'RILM_Music_Abstracts' (Updated: 2004-02-17) and 'RILM Abstracts of Music Literature'. The 'Search for:' section contains three rows of input boxes with dropdown menus and search icons. The 'Limit to:' section includes a 'Year' field (format: YYYY-YYYY), 'Document Type' set to 'All', and 'Language Phrase' set to 'All'. The 'Limit availability to:' section has a checkbox for 'Subscriptions held by my library (A12, &holdinginstname;)' and a 'Library Code' field with a 'Find codes...' link. At the bottom, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.

- Write in proper MLA format one citation that will be useful for your paper.
- What does this article contribute to your knowledge of the topic?
- Is this article available in print or microfiche at Furman, online, or only through ILL?

Having written citations on this worksheet for IIMP, RILM, and Music Index, it is expected that you will include journal articles on your bibliography and refer to them in your paper. If you found none that are helpful, please ask for help from the music librarian.

Write a thesis statement and evaluate your research

- Having done this research to learn more about your topic and focus your inquiry, write a working thesis statement that in one sentence defines your topic and the questions you plan to answer. See the MLA Handbook section 1.9.2, for appropriate phrasing of a thesis statement.

- For what aspects of your inquiry do you still need more information?

- What questions do you still need to answer in order to cover the topic thoroughly and to thoroughly answer the inquiry?

What kinds (types) of resources do you need to consult in order to find the answers? (i.e. an encyclopedia or dictionary, books or essays, articles, score or recording, etc.)?

Scholarly Websites

Scholarly music websites on the web can span from composer-specific information to societies devoted to the performance of a particular style. More than anything, they provide a contemporary context to the information found in the books and articles you have already pursued.

Websites are mentioned at this stage for a reason – the best use of them is to fill in gaps and provide additional information, not as the major focus of your research.

The sites listed on these pages were evaluated at one point, but you should still evaluate them to make sure they are acceptable sources.

Worldwide Internet Music Resources, maintained by Indiana University Music Library
http://library.music.indiana.edu/music_resources/

For more information on evaluating websites, please go to
<http://library.furman.edu/resources/type/web/isearchev.htm>

Other Databases

Depending on your topic, you might find useful information in journal articles indexed in other databases. All of these are available on the all databases page of the main library site: <http://library.furman.edu/resources/databases/alldatabases.htm>

Academic Search Premier, Humanities Full Text and M.L.A –interdisciplinary databases; useful when composer or his/her work had influence on humanities in general – art, education, psychology

America: History & Life – indispensable database if researching American composers; lists articles, books, and dissertations focusing on issues in American history

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts – biological and medical sciences; useful if composer or work had medical or psychological elements, or has been used in therapy

Dissertation Abstracts – often has more specific information on composers or specific works; all dissertations have to be requested through interlibrary loan – some may incur a cost of \$10, but the interlibrary loan department will inform you if this is the case.

(As you can imagine, this list is not comprehensive. Take a look at the all databases page and see if anything is appropriate for what you hope to write about!)

Writing the Paper

The best resource for your paper is this book, on reserve in the music library:

Bellman, Jonathan D. *A Short Guide to Writing About Music*. 2nd ed. New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2007.

We also have style guides for Chicago, MLA, and Turabian. Some [online style guides](#) are available through the library web site.

If you are having difficulty locating more information, please ask for help from your professor or Jenny Colvin (jenny.colvin@furman.edu)