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Facilitating Discovery of Historic Sound Recordings: Classroom and Research Strategies

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Facilitating Discovery of Historic Sound Recordings: Classroom and Research Strategies

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RACHEL FOX VON SWEARINGEN

SUBJECT LIBRARIAN FOR MUSIC, DANCE & MUSICAL THEATER, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

IAML-IMS JOINT CONGRESS, NEW YORK, NY, JUNE 23, 2015

Belfer Audio Archive



Diane and Arthur B. Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive

TRF 530 Radio, Music, and Audio Cultures

- ▶ Objective: to teach communications and audio arts students about music's dissemination through radio and audio cultures today
- ▶ Communication students:
 - strong musical interests, but no formal musical training
 - little or no experience with audio recording or audio editing



Soundscape No. 1



- ▶ Illustrate some aspect of music or sound in the world today using the sounds from recordings of nearly a century ago
- ▶ Focus on 2+ pre-1940 recordings
- ▶ Prepare a script, including researched information and original thoughts
- ▶ Learn to use a recording studio to record voice-over narrative
- ▶ Create a 2-3 minute audio essay. Submissions include a "time-chart" and a resource list with full citations.

Belfer Cylinders Digital Connection

<http://library.syr.edu/splash/cylinders/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying library.syr.edu/splash/cylinders/. The browser's toolbar includes icons for various applications and a search bar. The website header features the text "SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Digital Library Collections" and a navigation menu with links to "Apps", "Web Slice Gallery", "Save As Plus", "Google Docs", "Advanced Search ...", and "MA".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a photograph of three vintage Edison cylinders with labels "EDISON AMBEROL RECORD" and "EDISON RED WAX RECORD". Below the photo is the "ABOUT" section, which states: "The Belfer Cylinders Digital Connection provides online access to digital audio files of cylinders in the Belfer Audio Archive. Belfer's cylinder collection includes over 22,000 cylinders, 12,000 of which are unique titles. With initial funding from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Syracuse University Libraries have been able to digitize over 1,400 cylinders. Work is ongoing, so please check back regularly for newly added titles. The digital recordings, provided in both MP3".

The right column features a "By Subject / Genre ..." dropdown menu. The menu is open, showing a list of categories including "Accordion and piano music", "Accordion music", "Agriculture", "Aircraft accidents", "Airplanes", "American wit and humor" (which is highlighted in blue), "Animals", "Argentina", "Arrangements", "Australia", "Automobiles", "Balalaika music", "Ballads", "Ballets", "Ballets, Excerpts", "Ballets, Excerpts, Arranged", "Band music", and "Band music, Arranged". Below the menu is a "BROWSE" button. To the right of the menu is a "Statement" section with links to "Belfer Audio Archive", "Special Collections Research Center", and "Syracuse University Libraries".

Guide for researching sound recordings

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES Subject Guides

Library » Subject Guides » Sound Beat Class Partnership

[Admin](#) [Sign In](#)

Sound Beat Class Partnership

URL: <http://syr.v1.libguides.com/SoundBeat> [Print Guide](#) [RSS Updates](#)

[Home](#)

[Writing For Sound Beat](#)

[Artist Biographies & Discographies](#)

[Historical Research](#)

[Lyrics and Liner Notes](#)

Librarian for Writing



Patrick Williams

Contact Info

210 E.S. Bird Library
222 Waverly Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13244
315-443-9520
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

English, Communication & Rhetorical
Studies, Linguistics, Writing, Composition
and Cultural Rhetoric, Drama

Comments (0)

Using this Guide

The guide is organized into the following set of pages, able to be navigated using the tabs above.

- ▶ **Writing for Sound Beat** features information from Sound Beat producer Jim O'Connor, including example Sound Beat episodes and date tools for choosing themed episodes.
- ▶ **Artist Biographies & Discographies** features links to both print and online reference sources for performer biographies.
- ▶ **Historical Research** features links to selected library databases as well as some background on the history of recorded sound.
- ▶ **Lyrics and Liner Notes** provides links to many useful free historic sheet music collections online as well as instructions for locating recordings and liner notes in SU Libraries' circulating collections.

Audio Selections



Explore the
Belfer Digital Cylinders Collection

Music Librarian



Rachel Fox von Swearingen

Contact Info

Bird Library, second floor, room 200
315-443-9779
rsfoxvon@syr.edu
[Send Email](#)

Links:

[Profile & Guides](#)

Subjects:

Dance, Music, Musical Theater

Comments (0)

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Soundscape No. 2

Illustrate some aspect of music dissemination via radio as it occurred and achieved influence during war



- ▶ Focus on 3+ sound tracks, one of which is derived from radio
- ▶ Research the topic and the music, consulting as many authoritative, signed resources as unsigned resources
- ▶ Conduct an oral history interview with a veteran
- ▶ Prepare a script, including researched information and original thoughts
- ▶ Create a 5 minute audio essay. Submissions include a "time-chart" and a resource list with full citations.

TRF 530 - Radio, Music, and Audio Cultures, Spring 2015

URL: <http://syr.v1.libguides.com/musicradio>

[Print Guide](#) [RSS Updates](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Selecting Music](#)
- [Understanding Music Genres](#)
- [Researching Musicians](#)
- [More About Music: Journal Articles & Reviews](#)
- [Locating Lyrics and Liner Notes](#)
- [Researching People, Events, Wars](#)
- [Intersection of Music, Radio, War](#)
- [Researching Radio Shows & Playlists](#)

NAVIGATION

[Home](#)

[Selecting Music](#)

[Understanding Music Genres](#)

[Researching Musicians](#)

- ▶ Early Recordings, 1880-1930
- ▶ Popular Music, 1920-1950
- ▶ Rock & Pop, 1950-present
- ▶ Jazz, Blues & Gospel
- ▶ Folk & Country
- ▶ Classical

[More About Music: Journal Articles & Reviews](#)

[Locating Lyrics and Liner Notes](#)

[Researching People, Events, Wars](#)

[Intersection of Music, Radio, War](#)

[Researching Radio Shows & Playlists](#)

About This Guide

This guide provides both library and free internet resources for researching music and sound recordings for Soundscape No. 2.

Library research is a wide, wonderful, and overwhelming experience, so have fun! If you find a cool resource that you want to share with others, leave it in the comments below, and I will add it to the guide.

Research well, and if you have questions, ask me!

—Rachel rsfoxvon@syr.edu

Comments (0)

Music During Wars: Selected Books



The Vietnam War: Its History, Literature and Music - Kenton J. Clymer (Editor)
Call Number: DS557.3 .V53 1998
ISBN: 9780874042771
Publication Date: 1999-01-01



The Songs That Fought the War: Popular Music and the Home Front, 1939-1945 - John Bush Jones
Call Number: ML3477 .J68 2006
ISBN: 9781584654438
Publication Date: 2006-09-30



Sound Targets: American Soldiers and Music in the Iraq War - Jonathan Pieslak
Call Number: ML3477 .P54 2009
ISBN: 9780253353238
Publication Date: 2009-04-01

Ask Your Librarian!



Rachel Fox VonSwearingen

Contact Info

Bird Library, second floor, room 200
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[Dance, Music, Musical Theater](#)

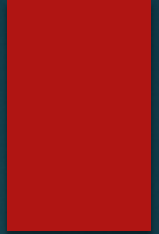
Activity-Based Library Guide Tabs

- ▶ Selecting Music
- ▶ Understanding Music Genres
- ▶ Researching Musicians
- ▶ Researching People, Events, and Wars
- ▶ Researching Radio Shows & Playlists

Instructional Goals

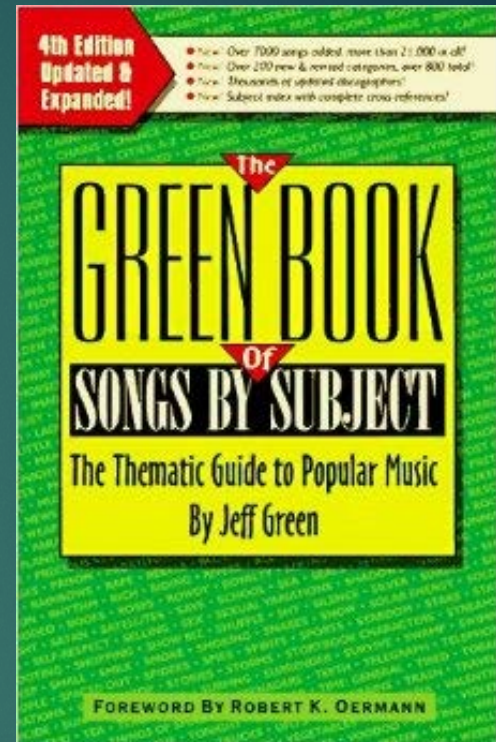
- ▶ Demonstrate tools for browsing and discovering unfamiliar music
- ▶ Familiarize students with how to research a piece of music
- ▶ Introduce sources for researching popular culture, history, and radio

Source Selection

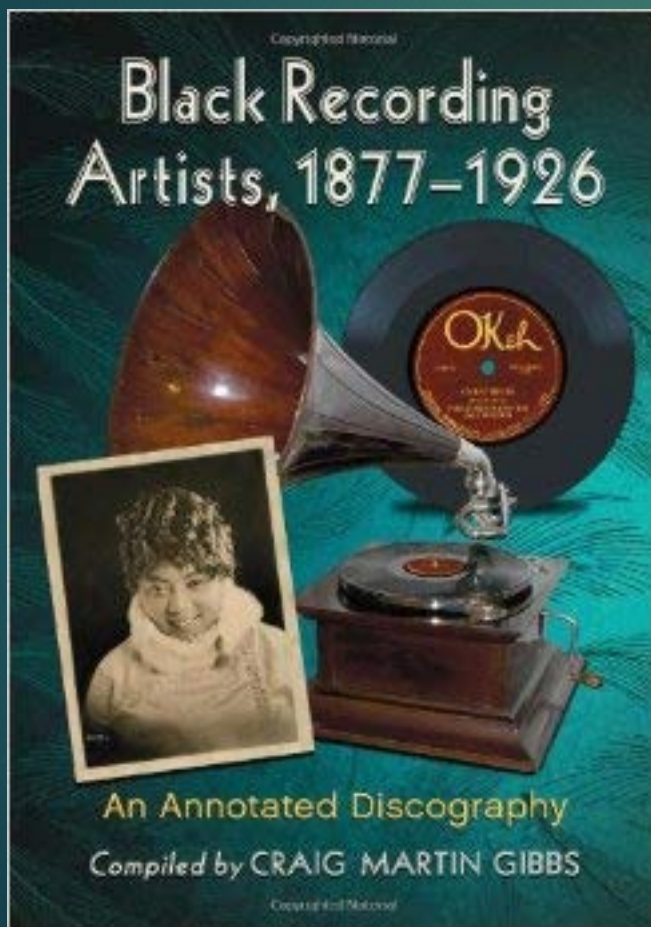


- ▶ Quality of content
- ▶ Online availability
- ▶ Breadth of coverage
- ▶ Accessible to non-musicians

Websites, Charts, Discographies



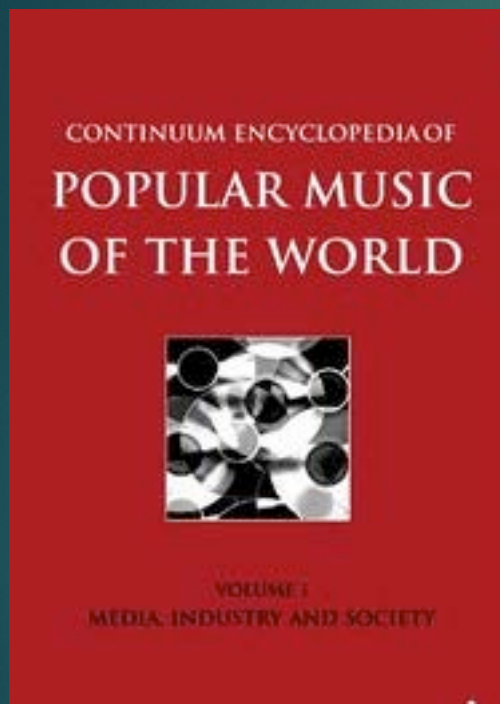
Websites, Charts, Discographies



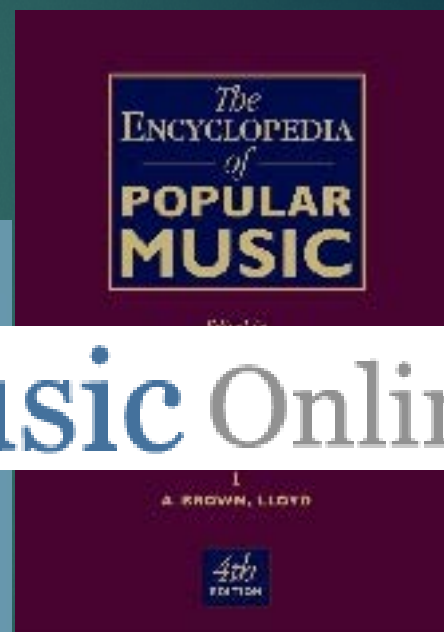
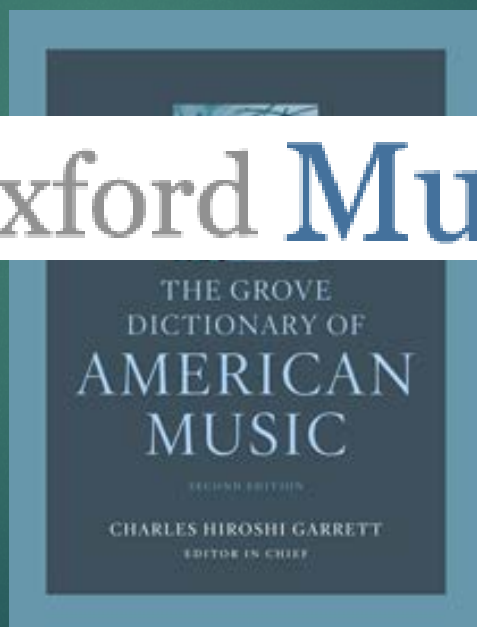
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

DiscogsTM

Music Reference



Oxford Music Online



History Sources



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES Classic Catalog

[Summon](#) | [Syracuse University Libraries](#) | [Syracuse University College of Law Library](#) | [M.L. King Library](#) | [SUNY-ESF Library](#)

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Advanced Search

Basic Search

Advanced Search

Subject

Name

Course Reserve

New Titles

Search:

as a phrase

within

AND

as a phrase

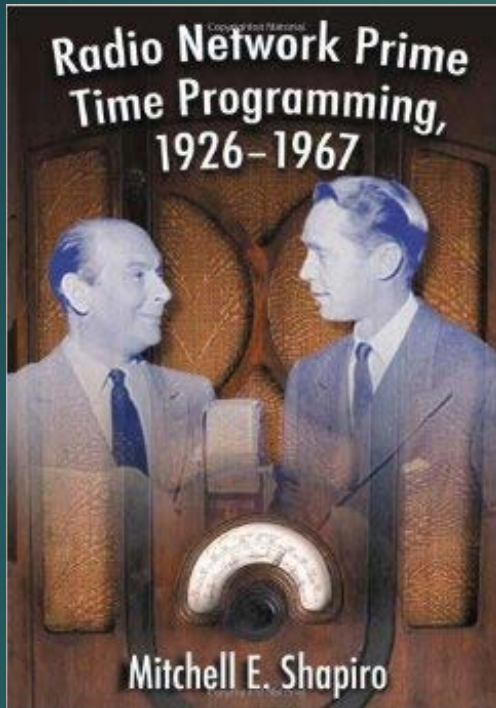
within

AND

any of these

within

Radio Sources



AmericanRadioHistory.com

Three million pages of AM FM & TV Broadcasting history online



Article Indexes

- ▶ Music: IIMP, RILM
- ▶ American History & Life Full Text
- ▶ Communication Source
- ▶ ProQuest Newspaper Archive
- ▶ Popular Journalism:
 - ▶ Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive
 - ▶ Rock's Backpages

What the students produced ...

- ▶ Five students interviewed veterans of the Vietnam War
 - music: Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan
The Guess Who and Creedence Clearwater Revival
Bobby Bare and The Beatles
Marvin Gaye and Dion
Country Joe & the Fish and The Hollies
- ▶ One student focused on World War II
 - music: Doris Day, Vera Lynn, Dinah Shore, and Bing Crosby
- ▶ One student focused on a period between wars
 - music: Run DMC, and Common and John Legend

Soundscape No. 2

Illustrate some aspect of music dissemination via radio as it occurred and achieved influence during war



- ▶ Focus on 3+ sound tracks, one of which is derived from radio
 - ▶ Research the topic and the music, consulting as many authoritative, signed resources as unsigned resources
 - ▶ Conduct an oral history interview with a veteran
 - ▶ Create a 5 minute audio essay
-
- ▶ Soundscape No. 2 (excerpt)
by Jordan Robinson

Assessing Source Use

- ▶ Student feedback session
- ▶ Review of both soundscapes, including sources cited

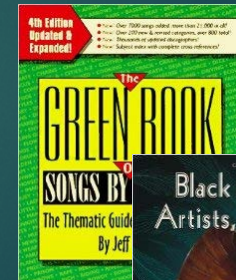


Websites, Charts, Discographies

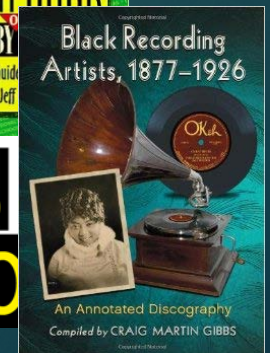
- ▶ All tools were used ... plus others
- ▶ Combined multiple approaches
- ▶ YouTube recommended videos
- ▶ Unexpected use of music journalism



DiscogsTM

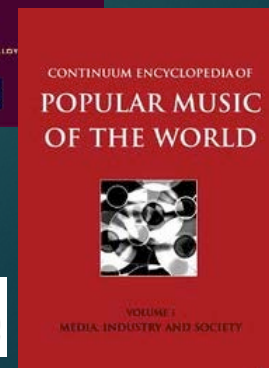
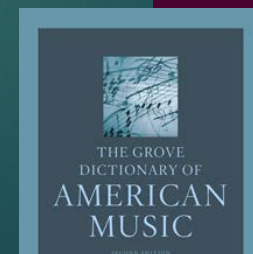
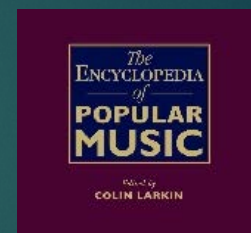


Billboard
HOT 100



Music Reference

- ▶ Soundscape 1? Yes
- ▶ Soundscape 2? Not as much
- ▶ Used music titles within Credo Reference



Oxford Music Online

Article Indexes



- ▶ Not used:
 - ▶ Scholarly journal indexes in all disciplines
 - ▶ Newspaper indexes
- ▶ Used somewhat:
 - ▶ Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive

Other Sources

- ▶ Used heavily:
 - ▶ Credo Reference
 - ▶ Pre-filled library catalog searches



- ▶ Not used:
 - ▶ Radio logs and lists



Sources for Next Time

- ▶ More online browsing by theme
- ▶ Curated list of websites for spoken word recordings
- ▶ Online dictionary of music terms

Questions?

- ▶ Jenny Doctor
jrdactor@syr.edu
- ▶ Rachel Fox Von Swearingen
rsfoxvon@syr.edu