Facilitating Discovery of Historic Sound Recordings: Classroom and Research Strategies

JENNY DOCTOR
DIRECTOR OF THE BELFER AUDIO ARCHIVE, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

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, Musics, 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.
Guide for researching sound recordings

Librarian for Writing

Patrick Williams

Contact Info
210 E.S. Bird Library
222 Waverly Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13244
315-443-9229
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
rfoxvon@syr.edu
Send Email

Links:
Profile & Guides

Subjects:
Dance, Music, Musical Theater

Comments (0)
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.
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: 08032404277
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: 9781564664438
Publication Date: 2006-06-30

Sound Targets: American Soldiers and Music in the Iraq War - Jonathan Pieleski
Call Number: ML3477 .P54 2009
ISBN: 078025363238
Publication Date: 2009-04-01
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

Billboard
HOT 100

ALLMUSIC

The Green Book of Songs by Subject
The Thematic Guide to Popular Music
By Jeff Green

Foreword by Robert K. Oermann
Websites, Charts, Discographies
Music Reference

- Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World
- The Grove Dictionary of American Music
- The Encyclopedia of Popular Music
- Oxford Music Online
History Sources

Advanced Search

Search: Vietnam war as a phrase within Subject (keyword)

AND

music and the war as a phrase within Subject (keyword)

AND

any of these within Keyword Anywhere
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
Music Reference

- Soundscape 1? Yes
- Soundscape 2? Not as much
- Used music titles within Credo Reference
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
  jrdoctor@syr.edu

- Rachel Fox Von Swearingen
  rsfoxvon@syr.edu