

WRITING 50: AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC AND CULTURE

Background and finding a topic

Roy Shuker. *Key Concepts in Popular Music*. 2d ed. New York: Routledge, 2005. Ref ML102 .P66 S58 2005. Brief articles, **with bibliographies**, summarizing scholarly treatment of issues, concepts, terms, genres etc. in the study of popular music.

Bruce Horner and Thomas Swiss, eds. *Key Terms in Popular Music and Culture*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 1999. Eighteen essays, each presenting varied perspectives on basic concepts of popular music; each has a short **bibliography**.

Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World. New York: Continuum, 2003-. 7 vols. to date. Ref ML102 .P66 C66 2003. See "Arrangement of the Material" in front pages of vols. 1 (p. xxv), 2. (p. xxv). See especially vol. 1, part 1, "Social and Cultural Dimensions." Vols. 3-7 cover geographical regions. Articles include **bibliographies**.

Books on reserve for Writing 50 – Arts Library Reserves Desk. Check the **bibliographical references** for further materials.

Browsing: in the Arts Library, books on popular music are located under call numbers ML3470 – ML3541. For specific call numbers see the [Popular Music and Jazz](#) research guide. Check tables of contents, indexes, bibliographies.

Starting your research

Keywords

What is your topic (broad, narrower)?

What are the main concepts?

What are some alternative / related terms? General, specific terms?

Search strategies

Depending on your initial search results, you will often need to use strategies to narrow or broaden your search:

--Increasing the number of different concepts narrows your search (AND)

--Searching for alternative terms broadens your search (OR)

--Truncation broadens (searching on word stems): **feminis*** = **feminist, feminism**

--Searching on fulltext broadens your search; searching on citations only (titles, abstracts, subject headings) helps narrow your search

--Specific terms narrow; broader terms broaden

--Limiting (by year, language, etc.) narrows

Finding books

Pegasus: UCSB's library catalog

Start with a keyword search; modify using your search strategies. Check subject headings of relevant catalog records.

Use the handout [Library Locations](#) to locate books in the library.

Melvyl: Combined catalog of all UC libraries

Allow enough time to request books from other campuses (4-5 days). You may request books that UCSB has but are checked out.

Finding articles

UCSB Library homepage > Research > [Article Indexes & Databases](#)

Truncation = **feminis*** in all databases except Music Index Online (**feminis\$**)

Expanded Academic ASAP (1980-)	Articles from magazines and scholarly jrnls, all subjects; some <u>fulltext</u>
RILM Abstracts of Music Literature (1967-)	Scholarly literature on music – articles, books, book chapters
Music Index Online (1978-)	Articles on music from magazines and scholarly journals
International Index to Music Periodicals	Articles on music from magazines, scholarly journals; some <u>fulltext</u>
America: History and Life	Scholarly articles on history of US
JSTOR (up to latest 3-5 years)	<u>Fulltext</u> scholarly articles in all subject areas