

II. Gather Background Information

A brief background information in your topic would enable you to focus on a theme and an outline effectively. As you peruse the background information make note of relevant issues within your topic, differing issues and definitions of key concepts. Appropriate sources for locating background information include encyclopedias, almanacs and yearbooks, and handbooks and bibliographies. In order to find information on musical improvisation, you need to look for background resources in Music and Performing Arts. You can locate these resources by:

- 1) searching the Library's online catalog under the subject heading Encyclopedias and Dictionaries. From the entries retrieved, you may choose the relevant ones.
- 2) noting the appropriate classification numbers for general and specific resources in the subject area and locate them in the appropriate reference section.
- 3) using advanced search options via keyword and combining words in general areas such as music, performing arts with such words as encyclopedia, dictionary, etc.

Resources that provide background information include:

1. Encyclopedias –

General-

Britannica Online
<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database/htm#B>

Encyclopedia Americana
Ref. AE 5 .E333 1996

Subject-

Encyclopedia of Popular Music
Ref. ML 102 .P66 G84 1998

Garland Encyclopedia of World Music
Ref. ML 100 .G16 1998

Illustrated Encyclopedia of Musical Instruments
Ref. ML 102 .I5 I5 1996

International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians
Ref. ML 100 .T47 1975

New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*

(20 vol. music encyclopedia, despite the title)

Ref. ML 100 .N48 1995
<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database.htm>
(links to <http://www.grovemusic.com>)

2. Dictionaries-

General-

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
Ref. PE 1628 .M36 2000

Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary
Ref. PE 1625 .R3 2001

Subject-

Baker's Dictionary of Opera
Ref. ML 102 .O6 B26 2000

International Dictionary of Black Composers
Ref. ML 105 .I5 1999

New Grove Dictionary of Jazz
Ref. ML 102 .J3 N48 1994

3. Almanacs and Yearbooks-

Infoplease.com (electronic resource)

<http://www.infoplease.com/>

4. Handbooks and Bibliographies

American Music Handbook
Ref. ML 13 .P39

Handbook of Research on Music Teaching and Learning
Ref. MT 1 .H138 1992

Music Business Handbook
Ref. ML 3795 .B33 1995
The Music Industry
Ref. ML 3795 .F497 2000

Music Reference and Research Materials: an
Annotated Bibliography
Ref. ML 113 .D83 1997