

## RESEARCH STRATEGIES

### I. Define a Topic in Music

1. Search for Ideas
2. Narrow or Broaden Your Topic as Needed
3. State Your Topic as a Question
4. Identify the Type of Information Needed

### II. Gather Background Information

1. Encyclopedias
2. Dictionaries
3. Almanacs and Yearbooks
4. Handbooks and Bibliographies
5. Dissertations, Theses and Senior Projects
6. Current Research

### III. Search Databases for Journal Articles, Technical Reports, Conference Proceedings and Standards

#### 1. What are Databases?

##### a. Structure

##### b. Type

- 1) Bibliographic
- 2) Full-Text
- 3) Numeric
- 4) Image
- 5) Audio

##### c. Coverage

- 1) Subject Area
- 2) Type of Publication

##### d. Attributes

#### 2. Searching Databases

##### a. Database Selection/Search Strategies

##### b. Use of TSU Database Subscriptions in Music

EBSCOhost (Academic Search Premier)

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center)  
Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians Online  
InfoTrac (Expanded Academic Index)  
International Index to Music Periodicals  
International Index to Performing Arts  
WilsonWeb (Education and/or Humanities Full-Text)

### 3. Locating Print and Electronic Journal Articles

## IV. Searching TSU Online Catalog for Books and Other Resources

### 1. How to use TSU Online Catalog

- a. Keyword Search
- b. Subject Search
- c. Author Search
- d. Title Search
- e. Search Commands
  - 1) Boolean operators (and, or, not)
  - 2) Search Qualifiers
  - 3) Tips

### 2. Location of Materials

### 3. Classification Systems

- a. Library of Congress
- b. Dewey Decimal
- c. Superintendent of Documents (U.S. Government Publications)

### 4. Definition and Use of Call Numbers

### 5. How to Read Call Numbers

### 6. Electronic Book Systems/Services

- a. netLibrary
- b. Books 24x7
- c. Safari (Technical books online)

## V. Internet Resources

### 1. Structures and Attributes of the Internet

### 2. Search Tools for the Internet

- a. Google
- b. AllThe.com
- c. Yahoo
- d. AltaVista

- e. Ask Jeeves
- f. HotBot
- g. Dogpile

### 3. Search Engine Tips

### 4. Types of Web Sites

### 5. Categories of Information on the Internet

- a. Free Web Sites with Quality/Valuable Information
- b. Current Business/Corporate/Industry Information
- c. Current Events or Topics
- d. State and U.S. Government Information
- e. Information About and From Associations

### 6. Links to Internet Resources from TSU Library

- a. Virtual Reference
- b. Tennessee Resources
- c. Government Resources

### 7. Web Sites in Music

## VI. Evaluate Research Materials

### 1. Criteria to Evaluate Research Materials in Music

### 2. Criteria to Evaluate Web Resources

## VII. Write the Research Paper

### 1. Organization of Information

### 2. Citing Sources and Ethical Issues

### 3. Guidebooks on Research

## VIII. Cite Your Sources

### 1. Style Manuals