Finding academic sources for jazz history

Tips on better use of “Search” and databases to find sources for essays

Step 1
Preliminary reading on your topic; essential to understand the contextual background of your topic and focus on the reading list. Include Oxford Music Online to check definitions. For example if you are using a term such as Improvisation or Hard-Bop, define it using an authorised source.

Step 2
Beyond the reading list
- Library books (online/print), dvds/videos, and some journal articles
- “Google like” - it allows you to put in relevant terms and refine your list of results
- Automatically places AND between key terms
- Requires quotation marks for phrase searching
- Phrase search: “modal jazz” OR “hard-bop”
- Sign in and use favorites
- Truncation: music* to search for records that contain strings, such as music, musical, and musician. Use improvi* for records that contain improvisation, improvising etc.
- Look at the sources that authors of the readings have used: bibliographies, Cited works etc.
- Look at subject headings of a relevant book, then look at other books on the same subject (see below)

Search terms: Miles Davis Cool Jazz
Refine by selecting the Resource type: Books or Peer Reviewed Journals

To find a particular article in a journal such as Journal of Jazz Studies use Advanced Search
Select journal as the material type

Not all journals are available online:

**Step 3** Once you have more key terms, you can also look beyond *Search*.

Library guides by subject also contain a Databases tab with subject-specific databases: or [http://guides.lib.monash.edu/music/databases](http://guides.lib.monash.edu/music/databases) or [http://guides.lib.monash.edu/music/jazz-history](http://guides.lib.monash.edu/music/jazz-history)

Try *Music Periodicals Database (Proquest)*

Some links will take you to a journal page where you need to navigate to the year, volume and pages of the journal article to find the pdf. Other links go directly to the journal article:

Why would you use databases?
- Greater precision in entering key words
- Search limits e.g. limit to Scholarly journals or Peer Reviewed
- Previews allow quick scanning of abstracts to evaluate content
Selection of Jazz Journals in *Music Periodicals Database (Proquest)*

Searching *Oxford Music Online*:
One way to search *Oxford Music Online* is to type terms into the Quick Search box:

Select the item/s with Grove music Online as its source:

Scroll down to the bibliography for the article which will lead you to further books and articles on the topic.

- Lewis, A. *Power, Strength, and Ideology* (Chicago: 2008) [Check for full text](#)
- Pellet, B. *Race, Community, and Conflict in the Jazz Composers Guild* (Jazz Perspectives, vol. 3 (2009), 191–217) [Check for full text](#)
- Munson, I. *Freedom Sounds: Civil Rights Call Out to Jazz and Africa* (New York: 2010) [Check for full text](#)

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Is sometimes useful for finding content in books when our catalogue records do not have contents or chapter headings.

Searching for the exact phrase is useful. The search above retrieves a few related books.

Now search for the book in the Monash University Library

**Gershwin, Rhapsody in blue - Page 25**

David Schiff - 1997 - 128 pages - Preview

Its morphology varies depending on whether it is played as a piano solo, a piece for jazz band, or as a piano concerto, and has also changed with the evolution of recording technology. The present-day orthodoxy of playing the piece in...

Interpretations may be a useful keyword


Note the lib.monash.edu.au in the URL

Useful for tracking down some hard to find materials and will give you links to the full text paid for by Monash University Library
Ideas for you as the Researcher

1. Try Rock's BackPages
   
   Rock's backpages includes writings on Jazz artists

2. Visit Special Collections to request Australian jazz journals. For example: includes
   
   1. Australian jazz quarterly.
      Rare Books holds: no.1 (May 1946) to no.24 (1954) 1946-1957
      Described as 'a magazine for the Connoisseur of Hot Music' it was 'devoted purely to jazz essays, criticism, biographies and similar features. It catered particularly for Australian fans'. It ran until 1965. AJQ was edited and published by William H Miller, a Melbourne lawyer.

   2. Jazz notes.
      Rare Books holds no.61 (Feb. 1946) to no.113 (Dec. 1962)
      From Jan. 1946 has subtitle: Australia's magazine for the lover of hot jazz.

   3. Jazz notes and blue rhythm. quarterly. 1946-1957
      Rare Books holds no. 39 (Apr. 1944) to no. 59 (Dec. 1945)

   4. Jazz Down Under Camden, N.S.W. : Rare Books holds 1974-1978

   There are also early issues journals from UK and USA
   For example:

   Jazz Journal (UK)

   The Jazz Record (Art Hodes and Dale Curran. NY)
   Rare Books holds: Dec (1945) ; Feb-Apr, Jun (1946) only.

   The following Search retrieves 23 Jazz titles in Special Collections

   Visit the Australian Jazz Museum

   The Australian Jazz Museum, incorporating the Victorian Jazz Archive, is located in Wantirna
   Open Tuesday and Friday, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.
   
   - recordings of Australian jazz, sheet music, charts, and band arrangements
   - oral histories of and by Australian jazz greats
   - archive of the annual Australian Jazz Convention 1946- , the longest running festival of this type
   - significant collections of overseas jazz recordings and materials
   - library of books, magazines, periodicals and materials about Australian and International Jazz