Research tool: RILM ➡ How & Why to use it

WHAT IS RILM?

This research tool (called the Rèpertoire International de Littèrature Musicale) is an online database of abstracts and citations for materials on a wide variety of types of music literature. It also provides full-text access.

WHAT CAN I FIND WITH RILM?

- The database entries include citations and abstracts for: scholarly articles and books, reviews, Festschriften, discographies, bibliographies, conference papers, dissertations pedagogical manuals, concert reviews, recording notes, obituaries, and correspondence.
- The database gives access to full-text content from 240 key periodicals from 50 countries in many different languages.
- Coverage includes materials published from the early 20th century to the present.

WHEN SHOULD I NOT USE RILM?

Don't use it to:
- Look up a fact
- Find a recording
- Find a musical score
- Find a musician's biography

→ *find a more suitable research tool at guides.library.ubc.ca/music*

HOW CAN I ACCESS RILM?

UBC Libraries Homepage (www.library.ubc.ca): In Summon, choose the "Indexes and Databases" heading, and search for "rilm."
UBC Music Resource Guide page (guides.library.ubc.ca/music)
Scroll down to Key Resources to find rilm.

→ **click Connect to Resource** → **login through your UBC CWL**
Why do I have to login with my CWL? Because RILM is not a free resource, UBC Library has to pay for students' access to use it. (Reminder: you will not have access to RILM after you graduate).

I don't see why we have to take this class and spend so much effort learning to do research better and using RILM. I'm not going to need this when I'm a professional musician.

Tip: Learning to do research at a more advanced level isn't easy, but research is relevant for professional performers, and composers, conductors, and music educators, too.
→ *"No creative work exists in isolation. In order to fully appreciate its meaning, your audience, whether funding agencies, casual listeners, other performers, etc., need to view your work within a context that you define"* (Conor, 2016, p. 16).

HOW CAN I SEARCH?

Choose advanced search → enter one or more search terms in the boxes.
– Set the index field (to the right of the search term)
> *Useful index choices:*
>> subject ("official" terms used to label the subjects of a article, book, etc.)
>> author
>> abstract (looks for your term just in the abstract)
>> major topic (broad category, e.g. genre – find the topic number in advanced
>> search → limit your results → major topic)
> Use AND to narrow your search; use OR to broaden it
– Limit your search (scroll down under Search Options)
> *Useful ways to limit:*
>> Full Text
>> Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals
>> Language of Item   Document type
>>   Publication date

CAN I SEARCH ANOTHER WAY?

Yes! there are multiple ways to search. If you want to search by just entering some text, e.g. a sentence, a string of words, or even a paragraph you can:
– Go to advanced search → search modes → SmartText Searching

CAN I WATCH A VIDEO ON SEARCHING RILM?

Yes! www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Aw1wqn1Ckc

I'D LIKE MORE ADVANCED INFO ON SEARCHING RILM

That's great! The music librarian at the University of Maryland has created detailed RILM guides on finding articles, subject headings, index browsing, and major topics: lib.guides.umd.edu/RILM

CAN I GET HELP FROM A LIBRARIAN?

Yes! You can get help with your music research by visiting the reference desk at the UBC Music, Art, and Architecture Library. You can also email the UBC Music Librarian Kevin Madill at kevin.madill@ubc.ca.

You can also chat online with a librarian using AskAway Live Chat. Go to the Research Help page to get started: help.library.ubc.ca/

I entered my terms and selected the index choice "subject", but got almost no results. I guess RILM doesn't have much on my topic. I'd better change my topic.

Tip: Don't give up on your topic. Try RILM's subject list to search for terms the database will find. Go to "Subjects" in the top navigation and use the search bar to find different terms to use.
Tip2: Have you found one useful article or book in RILM? View its record in the database and find its subjects. Try searching with those terms to find more resources.

I'm okay at using Boolean search and finding terms that get results, but I waste so much time because I can't remember what searches I've tried.

Tip: Even the most genius searcher cannot remember everything. Try to be more organized and systematic in your searching by keeping track of the searches you try. Create a simple spreadsheet in excel to keep track.

References

Barnett, R. (2016, November 7). *RILM tutorial.* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Aw1wqn1Ckc

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Group Red

Your Teaching Assignment:

Explore RILM using your group's research project topic idea. Make sure you can explain the features listed in the "Peer Teach" section below.

Teach members from another group how to effectively use the database by showing them how to use the features in the Peer Teach section.

> Research Project Topic Idea
>
> Recent trends in computer game music
>   - interested in classical music used in games and the music's function in game play

Explore!
- Connect to RILM and make sure you are at *Advanced Search*.
- Choose a keyword and enter it in the first search box. Experiment with adding an additional keyword in the second, and perhaps third, search box.
- Experiment with the dropdowns "Select a Field"
- Discuss each of the items below and be prepared to teach them to your fellow students.

Peer Teach!

Include all of the following items when you teach:
- Demonstrate advanced search and explain the difference between using AND and OR
- Explain how to narrow results by date.
- Demonstrate how to narrow your search by abstract (AB) and explain why you might want to do this.
- Demonstrate how to use the database record of a resource you've found to find relevant subjects. Demonstrate how to use these subjects in a search.
- Feel free to share anything else you think other students might find useful.

Group Blue

Your Teaching Assignment:
1. Explore RILM using your group's research project topic idea.
2. Make sure you can explain the features listed in the "Peer Teach" section below.
3. Teach members from another group how to effectively use the database by showing them how to use the features in the Peer Teach section.

> **Research Project Topic Idea**
>
> The composer Kaija Saariaho's electronic music and her use of different technologies in her compositions

Explore!
- Connect to RILM and make sure you are at *Advanced Search*.
- Choose a keyword and enter it in the first search box. Experiment with adding an additional keyword in the second, and perhaps third, search box.
- Experiment with the dropdowns "Select a Field"
- Discuss each of the items below and be prepared to teach them to your fellow students.

Peer Teach!
Include all of the following items when you teach:
- Demonstrate advanced search and how to use * to truncate terms (e.g. electro* retrieves electronic, electronics, electronique, etc.)
- Explain how to narrow results by language.
- Demonstrate how to find the Names lists. Demonstrate searching for your topic's composer (saariaho, k)
  - Explain [Explode] versus [Expand] and why you might use them.
- Feel free to share anything else you think other students might find useful.

Group Purple

Your Teaching Assignment:

1. Explore RILM using your group's research project topic idea.
2. Make sure you can explain the features listed in the "Peer Teach" section below.
3. Teach members from another group how to effectively use the database by showing them how to use the features in the Peer Teach section.

> **Research Project Topic Idea**
>
> Indigenous popular music and cultural revitalization in Canada.
> - Focus on music from last 20 years?

Explore!
- Connect to RILM and make sure you are at *Advanced Search*.
- Choose a keyword and enter it in the first search box. Experiment with adding an additional keyword in the second, and perhaps third, search box.
- Experiment with the dropdowns "Select a Field"
- Discuss each of the items below and be prepared to teach them to your fellow students.

Peer Teach!
Include all of the following items when you teach:
- Demonstrate advanced search and explain the difference between using AND and OR
- Explain how to narrow results by Place Published/Produced (suggestion: try Canada).
- Demonstrate how to use SmartText Searching (find this under Search Options > Search Modes and Expanders. Explain how this may or may not be helpful and efficient.
- Feel free to share anything else you think other students might find useful.

Group Gold

Your Teaching Assignment:

1. Explore RILM using your group's research project topic idea.
2. Make sure you can explain the features listed in the "Peer Teach" section below.
3. Teach members from another group how to effectively use the database by showing them how to use the features in the Peer Teach section.

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Research Project Topic Idea

Black musicians in European classical music history (pre twentieth century)
→ interested in researching Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-Georges or George Bridgetower
→ might focus on their fame during their lifetime

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Explore!
- Connect to RILM and make sure you are at *Advanced Search*.
- Choose a keyword and enter it in the first search box. Experiment with adding an additional keyword in the second, and perhaps third, search box.
- Experiment with the dropdowns "Select a Field"
- Discuss each of the items below and be prepared to teach them to your fellow students.

Peer Teach!
Include all of the following items when you teach:
- Demonstrate advanced search and how to use NOT. Explain how this could help do searches on your topic.
- Demonstrate how to use * to truncate terms (e.g. europ* retrieves European, Europe, Europeans)
- Demonstrate how to find the Names lists. Demonstrate searching for one of your topic's musicians (Saint-Georges, Joseph Boulogne; Bridgetower, George)
  - Explain [Explode] versus [Expand] and why you might use them.

References

Association of College & Research Libraries. (n.d.). *Characteristics of programs of information literacy that illustrate best practices: A guideline*. Retrieved 7 February 2020, from http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/characteristics

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